

Missionary

HERALD

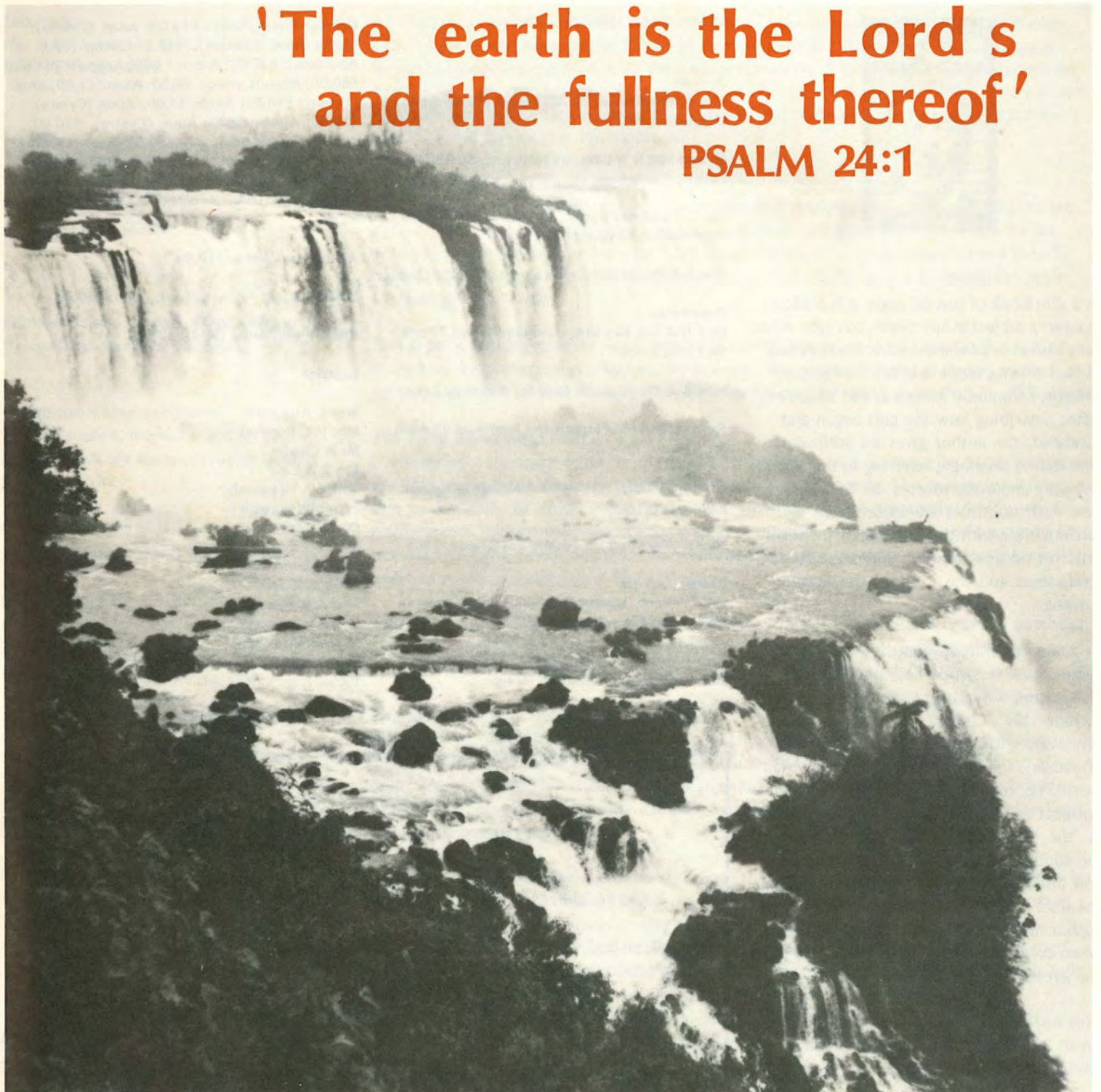
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**'The earth is the Lord's
and the fullness thereof'
PSALM 24:1**



Iguaçu Falls, Paraná, Brazil

BOOK REVIEW

THE RISING OF THE MOON

by John Allan

Published by Inter-Varsity Press £0.60



In a slim book of just 60 pages it is difficult to cover a subject in any depth, but John Allan here makes a comprehensive examination of Sun Myung Moon and his Unification Church, commonly known as the 'Moonies'. After describing how the cult began and escalated, the author gives an outline of Unification theology, referring to the *Divine Principle* and other sources. He then shows how such doctrines are inconsistent and incompatible with the teaching of the Bible, referring particularly to belief about the fall, God, Jesus and the Lord of the Second Advent.

In a chapter entitled 'Beneath the Surface' some of the less appealing aspects of the Unification Church are discussed. These include the Church's deception and lovelessness (despite a superficial show of affection), its connection with the spirit world, its money-making activities and political ambitions. Another chapter looks at the Church's various and dubious techniques, often referred to by the press and distressed parents as 'brainwashing'. In the final chapter, 'For Christians only', the author makes suggestions about how to react when confronted by a Moon missionary on the street.

This small book is a very useful contribution on an important subject about which every Christian should be informed.

JMB

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretaries acknowledge with grateful thanks the following legacies and gifts sent anonymously or without address.

(11 April-27 May 1980)

MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

Arrivals

Miss S. Headlam on 22 April from Chandraghona, Bangladesh.

Mr and Mrs R W Case and family on 27 April from Barisal, Bangladesh.

Rev J A and Mrs Watson and family on 30 April from Barisal, Bangladesh.

Miss G E MacKenzie on 13 May from Bolobo, Zaire.

Departures

Dr S D R and Mrs Green and family on 17 April for Pimu, Zaire.

Miss R R Harris on 20 April for Kimpese, Zaire.

Rev D C and Mrs Norkett and family on 29 April for Yakusu, Zaire.

Miss P E Gilbert on 4 May for Mbanza-Ngungu, Zaire.

Mr J F Norwood on 16 May for Tondo, Zaire.

Births

On 21 April, at Chandraghona, Bangladesh, to Mr and Mrs C Laver, a son, Matthew.

On 11 May, at Port of Spain, Trinidad, to Rev N and Mrs Walker, a daughter, Naomi.

General Work: Anon: £10.00; Anon (Cymro): £5.00; Anon (Stamps): £48.25; Anon (FAE Aberdeen): £10.00; Anon: £3.00; Anon (W & EF): £80.00; Anon (Cymro): £7.00; Anon: £1.00; Anon (Luton): £10.00; Anon: £5.00; Anon (Cymro): £10.00; Anon: £2.00; Anon (Cymro): £10.00; Anon (Friend in Scotland): £50.00; Anon (Cymro): £11.00; Anon (Whitsuntide gift): £2.00; Anon: £30.00; Anon (India): £50.00; Anon (Cymro): £8.00; Anon (FAE Aberdeen): £10.00; Anon: £5.00.

Agriculture: Anon: £10.00.

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

Relief Fund: Anon (SBB): £25.00.

Legacies

	£	p
Miss L Atcherley	50.00	
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Mr W Charles	986.26	
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Mr W F Shackell	260.11	
Miss B Shaw	17,397.06	
Victor Rose Innes Suhr	613.39	

NOTES TO USE WITH YOUR PRAYER GUIDE

Laura Hinchin (8 August) now starting literacy work in Cuiabá, Mato Grosso.

Boyd and Patricia Williams (28 August) awaiting visa to return to Brazil. Please pray for this.

Miss A M Pearson (9 August) has passed into the presence of her Lord.

Secretaries

Rev A S Clement
Rev H F Drake, OBE

Editor

Rev A E Easter

Enquiries about service to:

Rev (Mrs) A W Thomas

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

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

We share in the work of the Church in:

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

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All must be aware of the stresses which exist among the members of the Common Market with regard to the Agricultural Policy of that community. The French refuse to allow imports of English lamb for fear of the damage it may do to their farmers' living standards. The British protest about the influx of French golden delicious apples to this country which threatens the English Cox's orange pippin trade, and there are disagreements with other countries over this or that commodity.

The West looks for financial profit

This arises because in the West we are concerned with market economy farming. Farms are an industry in which capital is invested for which those providing the money look for an adequate return for their investment. Each farm, therefore, tends to specialize in a specific number of products which it believes it can produce efficiently and at a competitive price so securing a ready sale.

This type of farming requires large reserves of capital, and is subject to market fluctuation, as we have seen in recent years when, for example, the bottom fell out of the pig market, as we say, and many farmers engaged in raising pigs for market found themselves in difficulties.

The Third World seeks food

In countries overseas, however, this type of farming is very rare. In those countries where the BMS works there is mostly, what is called, subsistence farming. This means, by definition, that each family or small group grows just what they need to supply their own food requirements, with perhaps an occasional small surplus. Such farming may, of course, be at risk from drought, floods or other natural disasters, but for the most part it does sustain life which is so much at risk in the Third World.

There are those who feel that market economy farming with its increased financial potential is the way forward for the Third World but few developing countries have available the investment capital needed for such methods or the expertise to operate such schemes.

Improvement rather than change

Development, therefore, in agriculture in countries with which we are associated has been relatively slow and geared to the local needs. Our agricultural missionaries have aimed at improving the quality of farming rather than changing the style of it; of easing the burden of the farmer by introducing simple implements without dispensing with manpower and so creating unemployment problems.

Great efforts have also been made to encourage the production of protein foods in one form or another since so much illness and suffering is occasioned by the lack of protein in most of the diets. Our missionaries have also been active in suggesting better and more reliable ways of irrigation so that the effects of drought can be overcome. The importance of their work cannot be over emphasized in these countries where rapid population growth demands greater food supplies.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AT TONDO

by Michael Putnam, treasurer of Operation Agri

The planning and development of an agricultural project in conjunction with a mission station in an underprivileged area of the world is far from straightforward. It is never possible to take a package of farming practices from technologically advanced agricultural countries like Britain and establish them in an underdeveloped, primitive economy such as Zaire. Even if such methods of farming were feasible they would be of little benefit to the local people because they would be unable to adapt to them.

Three basic questions

When a local church union, in conjunction with mission staff, decides to establish an agricultural project and makes some farm land available on or near the mission station, a missionary with agricultural training is appointed, commissioned and sent out by the Society. When he arrives and has completed his language study, he has to decide how best to use the land and develop the project. Three very fundamental investigations will guide his decisions. Firstly,

what do the local people eat i.e. what crops are grown for food, what animals kept for meat and what else could be beneficially and easily added to their diets without risk of prejudice or taboo? Secondly, what are the local farming methods and climatic restrictions? Thirdly, what is the motive power used by local farmers — are they labour extensive with everything done by hand-tool; are oxen used; or are they familiar with machinery and able to repair and maintain it?

It is essential that any agricultural project must begin from where the farmer is. If the staple diet of the people is rice then there is little point developing a project growing tropical varieties of bread wheat. And if all the field cultivations are by an army of people with hand-tools, then the introduction of a tractor and three-furrow plough would take away the income and means of livelihood of a large number of families and increase rather than decrease the hunger problem. Each missionary agricultural development must seek to improve what is already familiar

rather than introduce, in the early stages, crops and practices which are completely foreign.

A salutary experience

Last November, I had the privilege of visiting the agricultural project at Tondo, in the equatorial forest area of Zaire. The purpose of the visit was to learn at first hand of the problems and prospects of agricultural development in this region and to make suggestions and recommendations for possible future development. Unfortunately I was limited to only a week away from work so it was necessary to travel out, visit the station and return, all in eight days. Although I cannot say that all the travel plans worked smoothly, I achieved all the basic objectives. The travel story is a saga in its own right which is published in the Baptist Men's Movement magazine, *World Outlook* — October 1980 issue. I would record my thanks to all those who made the journey possible, particularly Andrew North in Kinshasa who took care of the travel arrangements in Zaire and collected me



Field beans



John Mellor sorting eggs for the incubator



from, and delivered me to, the airport for the various flights, and most particularly to John Mellor, the agricultural missionary at Tondo, who drove over the forest 'roads' to Mbandaka on two occasions to collect and deliver me to and from the internal flights.

During my visit I stayed with John and Rena Mellor in Tondo village. Mark Pitkethly, who is working in Zaire for a year, was also staying at the house. A few days spent in such a village in the heart of Africa is a salutary experience and should be mandatory for all of us who are so used to the amenities of 'civilization' that we take them for granted. There is no electricity in Tondo so paraffin lamps are lit when night falls; there is no running water so the rain is collected in a large tank and a tubful is kept in the 'bathroom' — a bath is either a few inches of water in a tin bath or a dip in the lake at sundown; there are no shops, public transport, petrol station nor industrial employment nearer than Mbandaka, 80 miles away.

Tapioca and maggots

The staple diet of the local people is manioc. This is a root which looks rather like a dahlia tuber and is also called cassava or tapioca. It can be cooked just as a root, when it has the consistency (and flavour) of indiarubber, or grated and mixed into a dough before cooking like a scone. As a vegetable it is served with fish and garnished with cooked manioc leaves. It is also served with stewed goat or sheep mutton, or with chicken, when these are available. During certain months of the year numbers of juicy maggots hatch out and start climbing the trees. When cooked these are regarded as a delicacy. Though they keep chickens, the local people do not eat eggs. In common with many other African tribes, they believe that eating eggs will prevent them from having children and it is difficult to persuade them otherwise.

Tondo is about 80 miles south of the equator.

It has a high rainfall of about 70 inches a year, and a very short dry season lasting no more than a month in June/July. It may rain heavily at any time of the year, followed, within minutes sometimes, by equatorial sunshine. The rain washes all the plant foods out of the upper soil layers and the sun burns away all the organic matter, leaving the soil surface like a desert. The local farming system is to cut down and burn part of the forest and grow manioc for three or four years between the stumps. Then they cut down some more forest for cultivation and allow the piece they have cropped to revert back. This has been the only way they have been able to maintain soil fertility but it is an inefficient use of land and manpower.

'Don't count your chickens . . .'

How can one plan an agricultural development project under these conditions? The major dietary problem is a lack of protein from meat or milk, particularly for the children, and the main restriction on agriculture is the difficulty of maintaining soil fertility in exposed land. John Mellor, who has worked at Tondo as a missionary for ten years, decided that the production of poultry was the best way of meeting the local protein needs and that crops grown on ridges are most likely to avoid soil erosion. Both plans have had some limited success and the time has now come to see whether they can be revised and stepped up in any way.

The original intention of the poultry project was to provide improved chickens to lay eggs for hatching into many more meat

chicks than the local hens produce. The native Zairian chicken is very small and lays only about 30 eggs a year. There are obvious advantages in developing flocks of the British birds. Unfortunately the local people have taken a very short-sighted view of this. They have accepted or bought birds hatched by John Mellor but, rather than keeping them for future breeding, have eaten them straightaway. No flocks of British birds have been developed. It also seems likely that there will not be any change of heart or lifestyle of these people. The poultry project must therefore be adapted to produce many more birds for eating directly. It must take on the entire breeding responsibility for the poultry requirements for the whole village and district, until such time as the local people are prepared to breed their own poultry.

' . . . before they're hatched'

An output of, say 1,000 birds a month seems to be a reasonable target. A number of other problems have to be resolved before such an output can be achieved satisfactorily. A thousand birds a month result from about 1200 eggs set in incubators. This requires a flock of about 100 breeding birds including about 20 cockerels. These must be fed throughout the year and the resulting chicks fed for a few weeks until they are mature enough to be sold or given to the local people. A total of at least 50 tonnes of poultry food would be needed of which about 40 tonnes would be locally grown

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HEALING THROUGH PLANTS

Written up by Gwen Hunter from a conference given on 9 February by Dr Mwimba.

It is common knowledge that there are three kinds of illness here in Lower Zaire. There are those diseases for which one goes directly to the doctor, such as malaria, tuberculosis and sleeping sickness, those needing to be treated by a herbalist and those which need the intervention of the family conference.* In the latter cases it might well be that in the end the doctor's help is sought, but in the early stages of the illness this is often not the procedure.

In 1975 we became interested in the plants that the herbalist uses and determined to discover for ourselves their real usefulness. Firstly, we wanted to take away the mystical element in the treatment with plants and show that they can be used by anyone if understood properly. We were eager to put the relation of the doctor and the illness on its proper footing and we wanted to use as cheap a source of useful drugs as possible to treat illness. These plants are abundant in our area whereas modern medicines are not. Even in Kinshasa medicines are very difficult to obtain and are usually highly priced.

Autopsy saves life!

We approached several herbalists for information about their plants but each man wanted to keep his secrets and we were making virtually no progress. Then one day on arrival at Luozi I was sent back on the route to do an autopsy on a man who had been treated by a herbalist and who had died. The herbalist was in prison because of the death. Some little while after this event, a herbalist presented himself at the hospital and thanked me warmly for saving his life.

* a family discussion to try and discover who, rather than what, is responsible for the illness.

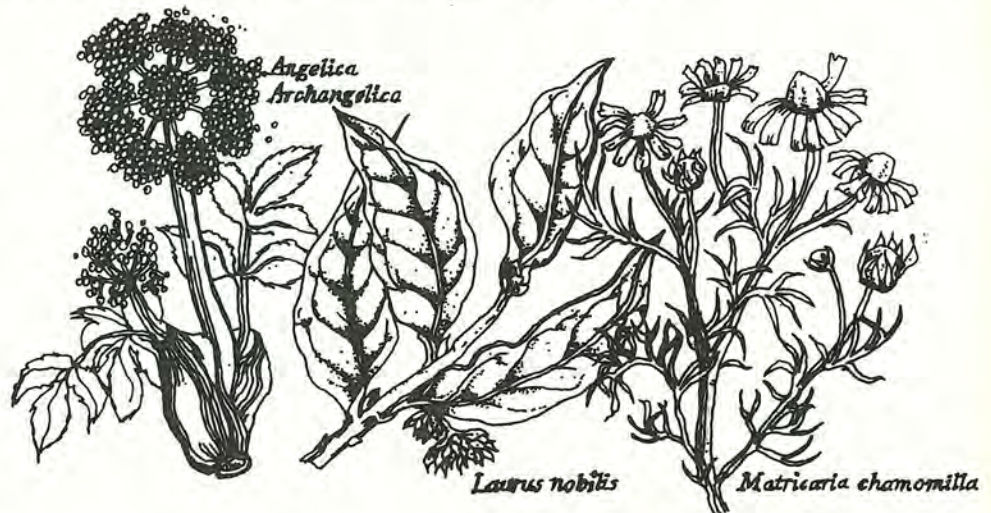
I did not understand for as far as I knew I had not seen him before. He explained that he was the one who had given the plant extract to the man who had died. The autopsy result had saved him. He was a very methodical man and always recorded all the plant doses he dispensed. This particular plant was dangerous with alcohol and he always warned his patients. Knowing that the sick man was an alcoholic he had refused to treat him but the man had finally sent another member of the family to obtain the draught. The autopsy showed a necrotic liver being the cause of the death.

So my new friend came to bring me some samples of the plants he uses. He told me that he always administered the doses in public and always swallowed some himself to show that it was not poisonous! After that, other herbalists started to come and each wanted something in exchange. So many came that we just could not afford the payment so we had to stop them, but that started us off on an examination of more than 800 plants that the various herbalists use. We collect them ourselves — we have a small band of helpers to do this — then they are often dried and sometimes powdered for preservation purposes. Some we find more active if used fresh, with others it does

not matter. We experiment with the plants on ourselves, one of my first guinea-pigs being my wife, and on willing volunteers. Out of the 800 plants examined we have rejected 500 as having no medicinal value and have classified more than 300 along with their dose (usually according to fistful to be extracted and made up into liquid) and usage.

Putting colour in the blood

To cite an example of plants we rejected: there are a number of plants which are either red themselves or give a red extract and nearly all have been said to be good for treating anaemia — being red they are supposed to build up the blood! In classification we also do simple chemical tests and botanical descriptions. We test the acidity/alkalinity of the plant extract and juices and we weigh the fresh sample picked, again after drying and yet again after powdering. We have also done some controlled testing to distinguish the psychological effect from the real effect. We have been in touch with analytical laboratories in Sweden to examine the active compounds and we have friends in the university in Kinshasa who have given us the botanical names for the plants and made helpful suggestions.



AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AT TONDO

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We have, as yet, made no real headway into finding out the optimum dose but proper dose regimes would be associated with our analytical studies. Nevertheless we have found many plants to be valuable in treatment and have introduced them into our hospital practice either as a liquid extract or in capsules (after powdering) and also on occasions as a piece of plant to be chewed or sucked. In fact some of our patients actually prefer this treatment and if a piece of a plant or a liquid concoction is not given, they ask for one.

It seems that many plants treat stomach pains and diarrhoea. Some we have used for their sedative effect and for treating asthmatic attacks and coughing. There are several for rheumatism and lumbago or any sort of muscle pain. We have found the juices of certain small fruits useful for treating eye infections and a leaf extract helpful in cases of threatened abortion. Other leaves give an antiseptic extract for cleaning wounds and a bark extract gives a good result when used to treat amoebic dysentery. And so we could continue for we have made many useful discoveries for treatment in making use of the nature that God created round about us.

'I have given you every plant'

This study which is still continuing has proved and will continue to prove useful to our presentation of the gospel. Jesus is for the whole man and there is nothing new in the world. These plants have been with us since nature began, used firstly by the herbalist and now tapped by doctors for the benefit of mankind. Here on our doorstep we have a means of healing which can cut down the cost of treatment for various illnesses. God gave us these things for our use and we will use them. Thank the Lord with us for Christian medical personnel who use to the full His gifts for the healing of body, mind and soul.

cereal grains and 10 tonnes of vegetable or animal protein meals. These amounts are not available at the moment.

Then the project would require large, reliable incubators and chick brooders. It would need a larger feed grinding and mixing unit. And it would require two or three full-time trained people.

The most suitable answer to the food problem would be to grow suitable crops on the project itself. In order to achieve these production levels, the problem of soil fertility under these climatic conditions has to be solved — and experts have been trying to do this for years. A start has been made by trying different crops to see which can produce satisfactory yields under these conditions — maize, okra, groundnuts, soya beans, winged beans and field beans are being tried this season.

A new type of incubator using solar energy has been designed by Jack Norwood of Southend and built with the help of friends in the Southend churches (featured in August 1979 *Missionary Herald*). If it works under the local conditions it will solve one of

the problems which has been to control paraffin-heated incubators within fine limits of temperature and humidity, to ensure a good hatch of viable chicks.

The plan has been made. The problems have been isolated. Now John Mellor seeks practical answers so that the project can develop along the proposed lines.

Advisory committee

Perhaps this account of the planning and problems of an agricultural project has illustrated the range of decisions that have to be taken on the spot according to local conditions and requirements. Shortly an agricultural advisory committee is to be established by the BMS to assist agricultural missionaries by providing the expert help of specialists with experience of overseas agriculture. Such advice is very necessary in the long term planning of agricultural development and extension. Some of the members of this new committee will be drawn from the Committee of the Baptist Men's Movement Operation Agri project. It will also provide a bridge between the BMS discussions of project policy and the Operation Agri project-funding decisions.



Mark Pitkethly, preparing the ground at Tondo

THE ITAIPU STORY

by Derek Punchard

Itaipu has been described as one of the greatest evangelistic opportunities in Brazil today. This has come about through the decision of the Brazilian and Paraguayan governments to utilize the potential of the River Paraná, one of the seven largest in the world, to build the world's largest hydro-electric dam, 12,600,000 kilowatts in generating capacity, near to Foz do Iguaçu.

Work began at the end of 1975 with the excavation in rock of a diversion canal. This was opened in October 1978, and the construction of the concrete dam across the river begun. This is planned to be completed in October 1982, when the reservoir will be filled, forming a lake of 1,400 square kilometres. During the following six years, the 18 turbines of 700,000 kW each, will be installed according to the increase in demand from the industrial area of great São Paulo/Rio de Janeiro, which will absorb most of the energy.

Derek Punchard baptizing at Foz do Iguaçu



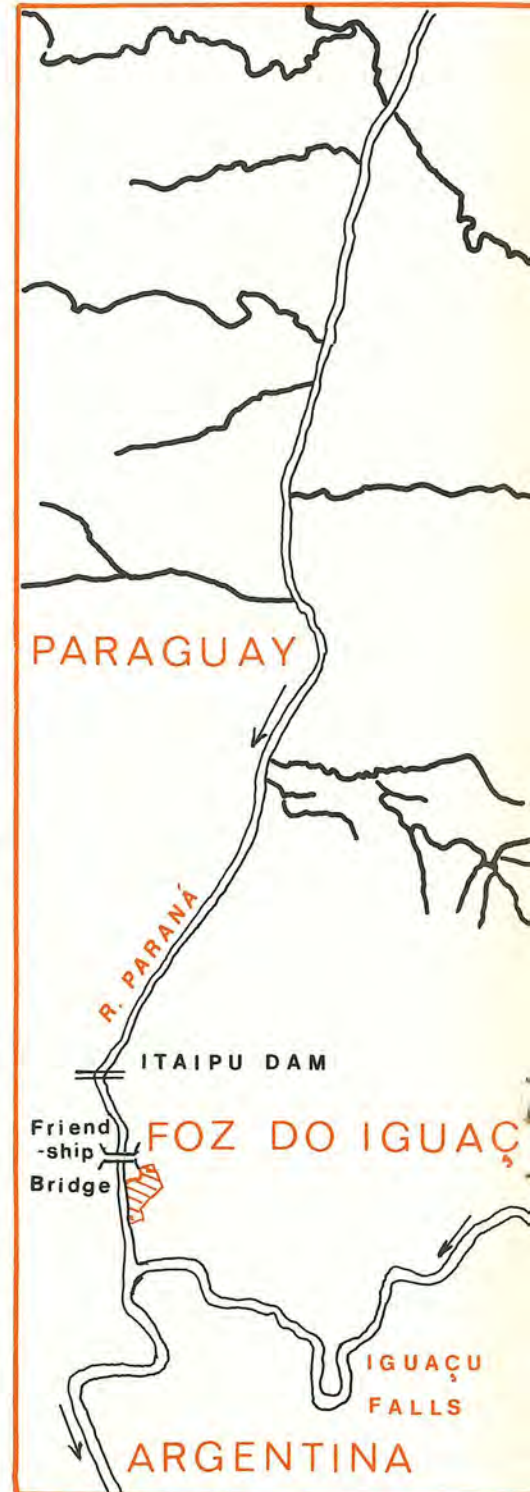
Beginnings

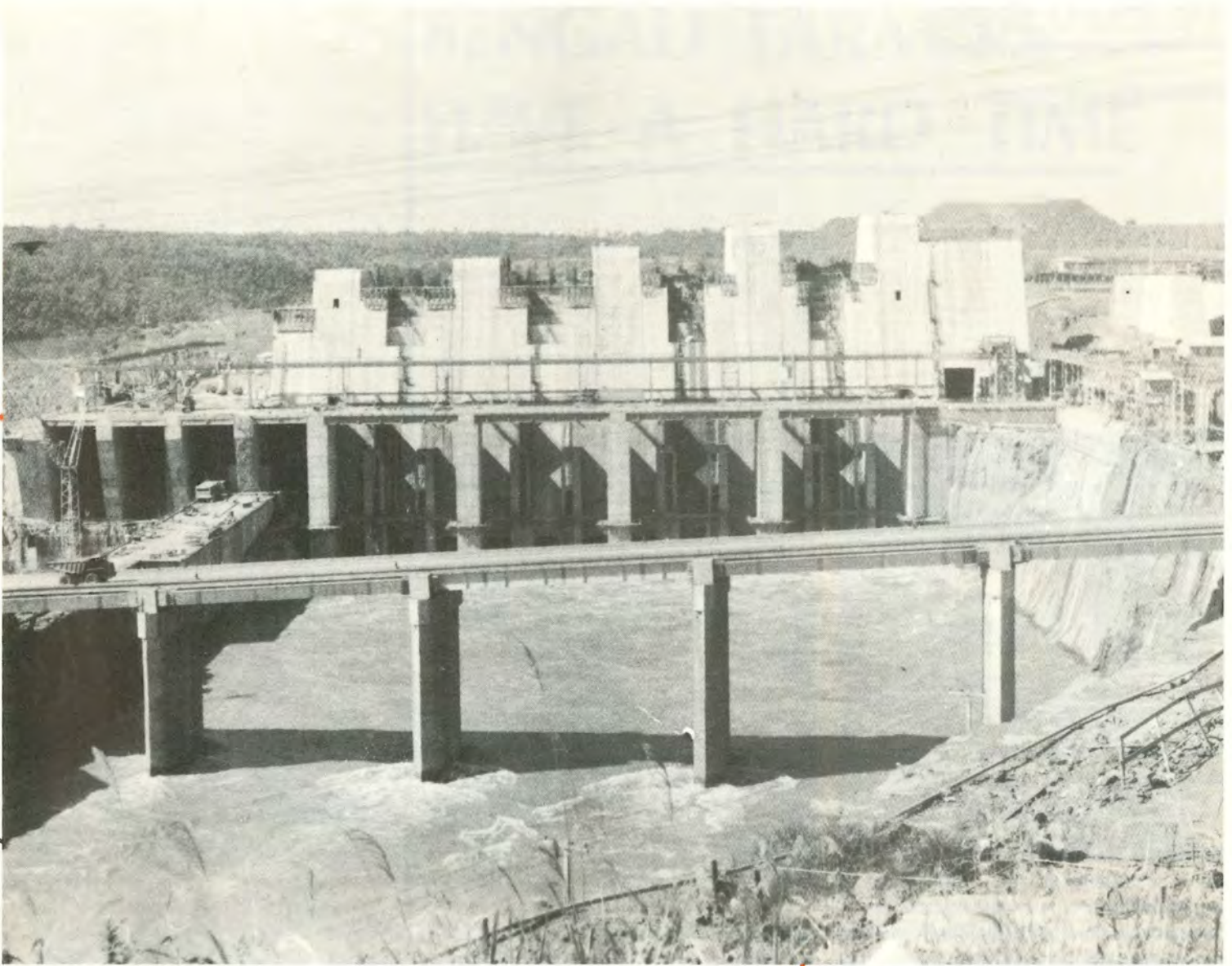
The development of Baptist work in the state of Paraná, where BMS missionaries have been co-operating for the past 25 years or so, has accompanied the population movement into the state. Where Baptist immigrants came from the states of Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo, their evangelistic zeal has created some of the strongest churches today, principally in the west, northwest and north of Paraná, whilst the south, southwest and far west was occupied by predominantly Catholic immigrants from the south of Brazil, and Baptist growth has been much slower.

Foz do Iguaçu, though a municipality for over 65 years, remained a dusty frontier town on the borders of Paraguay and Argentina. Its life has been maintained by the presence of the Frontier Battalion and the slowly developing tourist industry around the famous Iguaçu Falls. These are now the number two attraction after Rio de Janeiro. It was not until 1967 that a small Baptist congregation was formed in Foz with a few families who had arrived in the town. By November 1974 the church was organized with 88 members and a lay pastor.

Growth all round

From that time the town began to boom, with the stimulus of Itaipu, and in five years the population grew from 18,000 to its present strength of over 130,000, with an accompanying transformation in the whole infrastructure of the town. We arrived here with the first of the construction workers in March 1976. After the then pastor moved to Rondonia, the church invited me to the pastorate in July of that year. By the end of that first year the number of members had risen to 188, and we began plans to build a new church at the side of the hall we were then using.





Part of the ITAIPU dam

PARANÁ, BRAZIL



At the same time we began holding services in the first of the residential estates built by the Itaipu company, at that time with 829 houses completed. We met in the houses of church members, and later in a school on the edge of the estate. It soon became obvious that the work of constantly integrating new members into the church, the building work on the new church which I supervised and administered, the pastoral oversight of two rural congregations, and the rapidly growing evangelistic opportunities of the Itaipu Estate 'A', growing to 2,500 houses with a further projected estate of 2,900 houses, was not feasible for one pastor and a church still in formation and not capable of promoting the necessary expansion of the work.

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THE ITAIPU STORY

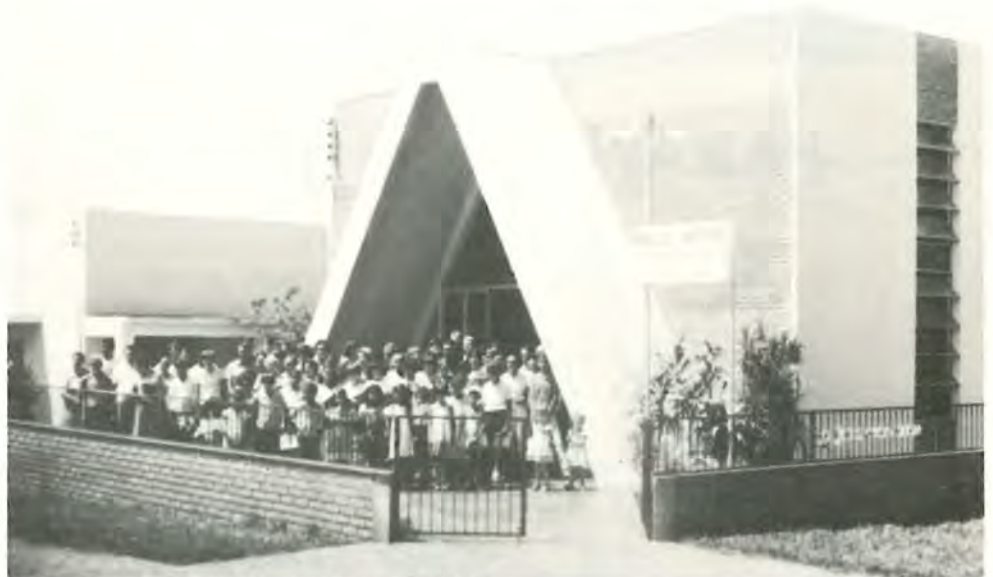
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New projects

So it was that I requested at the Annual State Convention in July 1977, that the Brazilian Baptist Home Missions Board should be invited to conduct an evangelistic campaign in the two residential estates built by Itaipu. In December 1978, after months of planning and preparation, 30 mixed seminary students arrived in Foz to begin Operation Transitaipu 1. After intense house to house visitation, literature distribution, home Bible studies for those interested, meetings for children in the open spaces, and services and rallies in homes and halls, a good group of interested and converted people were meeting regularly.

The next phase of the operation was that of consolidating the work. Two pastor-missionaries and three itinerant workers were nominated by the Mission Board, who support them, house them and provide a car, with the help of State Missions. A meeting place had long been a problem, and the subject of much prayer. For two years I had been writing letters and insisting on a place to meet inside the area of the estate. Now at the exact moment when we had a pastor to lead the work, I was called to the Itaipu offices to receive the keys of the 'Blue Hut', freshly painted for us too! This provides the main hall, several rooms and bathroom to house the new congregation in Vila 'A'. Not long afterwards we were offered a site in Vila 'C', with some abandoned buildings, which were rebuilt with a tremendous effort by the members and the other pastor, Xavier dos Santos, then responsible for that congregation. Encouraged by these results, I then asked for the use of one of the houses as a manse, but that has not been forthcoming as yet!

During the year the work grew, and 60 new members were baptized in the four congregations in which the church now gathers in Foz. The fourth congregation was opened two years ago on a new estate in



(top) The 'Blue Hut' congregation at Vila 'A'

(bottom) The new church building at Foz do Iguaçu

another part of the town. It meets in a wooden building moved to the town from a farming area from which all the members had moved away. For two years the church supported a lay evangelist in the leadership of this congregation, who moved last year to Rondonia.

Building with bricks

Meanwhile, work on the new church building had been continuing slowly, as funds came in from local giving. As the church grew in numbers, the giving increased by leaps and bounds, so much so that a new budget was needed each six months! In 1977, the

BENGALI FARMERS HAVE A HARD TIME

by Colin Foulkes (home after serving in Bangladesh)

foundations and basement were completed, and before our furlough in 1978, the walls were up and the roof on. On our return in September, we began the phase of completing the basic structure, with window and door frames, plastering inside and out, and electrical and hydraulic installations. By the beginning of 1979, we were able to programme the completion of the work with flooring, ceilings, windows, painting and furnishings. Finally, on the outside, we planned the landscaping, paths, walls, pavement and gardens. Praise the Lord, on 3 November, the church's fifth anniversary, we were able to open the finished building virtually free of debt.

Looking ahead

Today, with the baptism of a further 21 candidates on 2 March, the whole church has grown to almost 400 members. Plans are being made to organize the two Itaipu congregations into a second church under the leadership of Pastor Jim Moon. What of the future? All the churches in Brazil are participating in the Second National Evangelization Campaign, where the emphasis is on the daily testimony of each member of the church, combined with the use of a gospel leaflet. Our members here are beginning to dedicate themselves to this ministry, and we are seeing new faces in the congregation. This daily witness is being backed up with other forms of evangelization such as visitation, house meetings, use of the local radio, and a series of special services in May. The future of the work in Itaipu still depends on the lease of a piece of land, the building of a small church there, and the teaching and building up in the faith of the new Christians.

We continue, as until now, to look to the Lord for His provision of all our needs, and to the prayers of His people to sustain us through His Holy Spirit.

Ordered, yet natural beauty. Tall, evenly spaced umbrella trees beneath which grew palms, and between these, exotic shrubs of various shades of green, some with flowers, tall grasses and hanging creepers covering every inch of space. The whole mass of vegetation which was competitive, yet sharing ground and sunlight efficiently, gave me an overwhelming feeling of discovery.

I stopped the boatman, and we sat in the canoe that hot afternoon, gazing at the great swamp forest and feeling the rocking motion of the river. The silence was broken only by the slap of the waves. We had come south into the Sunderbon (*Sunder* = beautiful, *bon* = forest) leaving the last inhabited region ten miles behind. We had entered this vast nature reserve of Bangladesh, about which we had heard many stories. Reputed to live here were giant snakes and crocodiles, the notorious Bengal Tiger (a swimmer and jumper of legendary prowess), ghosts and fierce bandits. I looked the other way to take in the vista of the huge river, two miles to the opposite side, running to the horizon behind us and to a huge bend in front. The silence and the beauty were a fascinating combination, brilliantly lit by the hot sun, the trees unmoved by any breeze. Was it like this a million years ago? A primitive, untouched world. Was it possible that only a few hours' paddling away began a land of human misery, where millions waged a daily war against extinction?

Unprepared for the shock

But it was true. After three years in Bangladesh I was as familiar as anyone with all the unpleasant details, which would fill many pages. The once-proud Bengal of rich organized kingdoms, overcrowded by nearly 100 million of their thin ragged descendants, has become the bankrupt disorganized Bangladesh of today. Cleared of the extensive tropical forests that once offered abundant timber and food, for an agriculture which



cannot support its exploding population. A country whose condition issues a warning about a future world where the population will outstrip food resources, has presented itself as a study-case for world experts who in turn have produced statistics on almost every aspect of human existence. No amount of reading, however, had prepared me for the shock of a personal encounter with Bangladesh, even though subsequent conversations revealed that I knew more about their country than most Bangladeshis. I realized that the absence of the subject from our television screens did not mean that life in Bangladesh had graduated much from the horrific.

So it was that I had come 15 miles further south, at the start of yet another personal encounter with farmers living in Christian villages by the edge of the Sunderbon. This was to be a mini adventure in itself, beginning when I volunteered to interpret for a photographer hoping to get shots of tiger and crocodile, and ending in a day-long canoe dash, everyone paddling, to get a critically ill Australian explorer to the

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BENGALI FARMERS HAVE A HARD TIME

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Catholic bush hospital. During visits to villages 20-40 miles south of Khulna where we lived, the hazardous passenger launch and slow, rickety country boat (both usually overcrowded) had become familiar forms of transport for my wife Doreen and me, travelling through an area as big as Sussex, interlaced with waterways but no roads.

Scratching together a living

During the time we were squashed in with schoolmasters, *moulvis* (teachers of Islamics), policemen and students, the hours offered endless opportunities for conversation. Their main topic was always the state of the country, their personal or collective solutions and justification of their role. The knowledge that I wanted to help the farmers always resulted in the 'educated' assuring me that the laziness of the farmers was the cause of the food shortages. A little later I would be in the fields with some of the 'lazy' farmers, who, bodies emaciated with labour and under-nourishment, were farming with their bare hands or small tools that merely extended and sharpened those hands. We talked with wives and their 10-12 year old children, doing hard farm work because the farmer had been sick for weeks. No one knew what was wrong or when he would get better, as they had no money with which to call the doctor or buy medicine. In a region where ignorance and non-availability of a balanced diet prevailed, it was easy to guess the reason for his illness.

I recall how my tears broke through my 'emotional bracing' during a meeting with a poor farmer whose rice crop had failed. He had sold his only cow and was buying relief wheat from the USA because it was cheaper than his neighbour's rice. His family had been living on one meal of wheat-gruel a day and he was by then too weak to walk much. He was pleased to see me, and as I left he insisted on giving me one of the best of the few melons he was growing in order to earn

some extra money.

Goats reap the benefits

We visited the villages staying a few nights in the *bari* (family house). Here was a collection of huts facing a courtyard, served by the nearby pond from which water could be carried, and an open latrine, far enough away to dispense the smell. Around the *bari* grow shading groups of date and coconut palms and banana, beneath which are big taro plants producing large starchy roots. Each palm produces 50-100 nuts a year and a bunch of bananas mature in nine months, but thieves operate continually carrying off much of the villagers' produce at night.

These food plants are fairly resistant to the ever present wandering goats who present a big obstacle to improving village food production. The ravages of goats were the people's constant excuse for not making vegetable gardens, and using the free seeds we offered them sent out by Operation Agri. Some built fences and grew thorn bushes around their gardens. I gave them seeds, advice and instruction. They raised seedlings, protected and nurtured them. All should have been well and certainly the results encouraged them to do more, but the goats won nearly every time. Able to jump, climb and attack the fences, they got into the garden and in ten minutes destroyed hours of hard labour, plus the farmer's enthusiasm for growing nutritious vegetables for his family. It is said the goats belong to influential men in the village against whom it is best not to say anything. They wander at will through *baris*, fields and bazaars snatching mouthfuls of this and that. The goat is well adapted to life in Bangladesh, giving as much milk as most cows, able to live on anything vegetative and looks fit and healthy.

Draught animals are too weak

The cows on the other hand look thin and unhappy. We were always trying to encourage farmers to feed their cattle better and introduce improver bulls. I feel very strongly that the future of Bangladesh depends on stronger draught animals. Machines cannot be generally introduced into agriculture yet. The weakness of the present draught animals is the main factor holding back agri-development. The lack of power to the farmer's hand prevents new methods and implements being introduced, causes poor work rates and skimpy cultivation. Farmers agreed with me that a diet of rice straw and a little wild grass is inadequate to build and energize their animals. However they only agreed reluctantly to plant the fodder grass I gave them, arguing (validly) that the goats would get it first, which they probably did as the idea turned out to be a complete failure. Our friends still have to be convinced that average milk yields (cows two pints, buffaloes four pints a day) and pulling power, can be increased up to five times by the introduction of good strains and new types such as Red Sindhi, and Friesian crossed with Haryana.

Another aspect of this subject about which they are very concerned is animal health. They talk about regular and heavy losses of cattle from disease, which strikes suddenly and sometimes sweeps uncontrolled through their small herds. This is one of the main causes of poverty and hardship among them. The only protection they give is washing the animals in the river to keep off blood suckers. The diseases they describe can be controlled by vaccines and medicines, and such control would be an essential part of the cattle improvement programme we envisage. Vaccinating cattle on a spasmodic basis presents various problems, which prevented

The tank at Khulna, used for irrigation, for breeding fish and by the Bengalis for washing

ONE MAN AND HIS CHICKENS

by Frank Gouthwaite

us from doing it, and would entail liaison with government agricultural officers in the future.

Chicken meat and eggs are in great demand, and the farmers deplore the poor condition and production of their flocks. Village chickens usually expend most of their energy searching for food, and lay their eggs in any comfortable place. Most of what has been said about cattle applies here too. Improvement of feed, breed and care is badly needed.

Struggling for most of the year

The Baptist villagers of Khulna would invite us to stay with them in the cold season for then life is easy and pleasant. They were not pleased when against their advice we went at other times. We needed to see how the farmers coped all the year round. The hot season was not the time for long walks when we attempted to gather first-hand information, 100°F being the average temperature on one visit. We could see the soil being baked and depleted of its fertility under hot sun, and men and animals suffering from the saline drinking water. Visiting during the monsoon entailed exhausting walks through deep mud, finding the farmers waist deep in water building flood barriers, and thirdly, living in wet clothes. In this way we shared for a few days the hard, inescapable lives the Bangladeshi villagers lead for most of the year. Yet their faith in Christ has much to teach and encourage us in its completeness and simplicity. Through sharing practical and spiritual things with them we received much blessing.

The Bangladeshis are proud of their hard-worn independence and those in the Baptist Church want to grasp new opportunities to witness for Christ. We pray that the work we do with them, in their green and beautiful land, will add to their harvest, both material and spiritual.

CEBADER (created from the Portuguese, *Centro Batiste de Desenvolvimento Rural*) was inaugurated on 1 May 1979. It is the rural development centre of the association of Baptist churches of the coastal strip of Paraná, Brazil's third most southerly state. Peggy and I went to Brazil in February 1976, at the invitation of the association, and see the establishment of CEBADER as the main achievement of our four year term. We hope, in the Lord, to return at the beginning of 1981 to build on the foundation that has been laid, and increase the scope of CEBADER so that many more people in the region can be benefited.

Our first term has been mainly occupied with the establishment of CEBADER and of the demonstration farm which is our proof that the methods we advocate are viable in the conditions prevalent in the region. These demonstrations currently include cows, pigs, chickens, passion fruit and citrus. The whole work is so new that few people have greatly benefited as yet, but here is the story of one man.

Meet José

José is about 42 years old and is the vice-moderator of the church in Potinga. As the small churches are often without an ordained minister to conduct the services, each church elects one of its members to be the one in charge when there is no pastor present, and that person is called the vice-moderator. José and his wife, Palmira, have three children, the eldest being Mariza, who is the teacher at the local school. José is quite well educated by local standards, having had about five years of schooling. His intelligence is seen in his ability as a carpenter, and also in music, having taught himself to sight-read, so that he now trains church choirs in the region to a very high standard.

Most of his schooling was done in Paranaguá, the port about 100 kilometres away. Just by itself that means that he has far more experience of the great wide world than do

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Entrance to the CEBADER project at Potinga, Brazil

ONE MAN AND HIS CHICKENS

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Chicks ready for vaccination

most of his fellows. But even with that experience, his knowledge of the world at large is very small by our standards. He has no television, no newspapers, no magazines, no access to books (apart from the Sunday School Study Guide), and no friends to whom he could write. His only regular contact with the world at large would be via his transistor radio. But he has never been very interested in the rest of the world anyway, so he only uses the radio to listen to evangelical programmes, which tend to stick very closely to evangelism and avoid any form of social comment.

José, like most of the families of the region, kept a few chickens — about 30, scratching around in the undergrowth all day, and being thrown a handful of maize morning and evening. These chickens would lay about 60 to 80 eggs in a year. But José also knew of the existence of high-laying poultry. He knew that with our 30 or 50 hens we always had eggs for sale, even when everyone else's birds had stopped laying, and he had even heard rumours of Japanese people keeping hens that laid two eggs per day. (If there is any truth in such rumours, please let me know!)



Natanael's fattening birds



A good buy?

So José was quite interested when a lorry came along the road, loaded up with day-old chicks of a special breed. The trader told him they were good layers and good for fattening, and that they were all females, which suited José down to the ground. He bought 100 for the equivalent of about 80p each, which he thought was rather expensive but might be worth it in the long run. The same trader went to all the farmsteads in our region, peddling his wares and telling the people whatever he thought they would like to hear. Some bought as many as 200, others as few as a dozen. Some paid about £1.50 each, some did a trade-in for an old chicken or two of their own. Many did not know how to look after them, let them get cold and wet, and lost up to 196 out of 200.

But José looked after his as best he could. He had them in a box indoors for the first few days to keep them warm and then continued to bring them in at night. He never let them out in the rain. He bought properly balanced ration for them. But he soon began to lose a few through diseases which they picked up by mixing with the common chickens. About 30 died, leaving him with 70.

When we returned from holiday and found out how much José had paid for these chicks (genuine female chicks of a high-laying breed were costing about £4.50 at the time!) we were fairly sure he had been tricked, and that what he had actually been sold were the reject males of a lightweight laying breed — no good for eggs and no good for meat. We explained this to him, and to the others who had been caught, saying that the best thing to do would be to cut their losses by

wringing the chicks' necks and having done with them. We knew no one would follow this advice, but we also felt that the suffering they would go through was something the Lord wanted to use in order to bless them eventually.

The necessary education

After about six weeks, José started complaining that his chicks were not growing very quickly. A little later he admitted that he thought they were all males. But he carried on buying ration, in the hope of salvaging something. When they got to three months old, without weighing half of what the common type weighs at that age, and he was sure they were all males, he gave them to his son, Gilberto, because he finally accepted that he was throwing good money away in trying to fatten animals that just would not fatten.

In the meantime I had given a few lessons on profitable poultry keeping. I talked about the different breeds — fattening, laying and dual purpose — which to choose and why, and the true cost of good quality chicks. Under feeding, I covered the value and ingredients of balanced rations, and how to feed for best growth. Then on the subject of health and hygiene, I gave instruction in warmth for young orphans, keeping poultry dry, the pros and cons of keeping birds indoors, vaccinations, medicines and when to call the vet. I then offered to order guaranteed female day-old chicks of a good laying breed for anyone who wanted to try out the real thing, emphasizing the need to count the full cost of bringing the birds to the point of lay (about 4½ months old) before placing an order. I promised to obtain the necessary vaccines and rations and be



General view of CEBADER showing pigsty on the left and cowshed on the right. Beyond the pigsty (to the right) is the sugar cane and beyond that still the passion fruit (the darker patch). In the foreground is napier grass

available with veterinary advice and a few medicines as required.

José ordered 30 chicks at first, and later cut this number down to 20. Fortunately, I was able to sell the extra ten to someone who had not had the foresight to order in advance. I had to go up to Curitiba (140 km away) the day before the chicks were due, and stay overnight in order to pick them up as soon as they arrived from São Paulo (400 km from Curitiba), at seven in the morning. I bought vaccines and ration concentrate, plus feeders and drinkers for those who had ordered them, and arrived in Potinga with 150 chicks at about eleven o'clock.

Conviction through experience

Peggy and I vaccinated them all, on the kitchen table, before delivering them, together with a bit of the ration Santino had mixed in the meantime: 20 to José, 10 to Mariza (his daughter), 20 to Santino, 30 to Beto, 20 to Nensa, 10 to Inez, 15 to Dídimo, 15 to Agenur, 10 to Alfredinho. José was ready with a box in which to put his chicks. At night he was going to put them near the family's wood-burning stove, which often stays alight all night. He had a tin ready to put the ration in and he filled up the drinker I had brought him from Curitiba, putting a little sugar in the water to help the chicks recover from their long journey.

He bought ration from us regularly, and I gave the other vaccinations as necessary, according to the recommendations for the area. They grew so well that before they even started laying José ordered another 20, and Gilberto ordered 20 for himself. The one family then had four separate lots

of chicks, each in its own little coop. When the first group reached 4½ months old, José collected his first eggs, and by six months he was getting 17-18 per day, every day.

By now José was convinced that our methods work, even in his hands, and he made plans to buy 100 chicks. That plan went by the board when he spent the money copying another of our innovations; a prerequisite for keeping animals on any scale, he put in a flexible plastic pipe to bring water from a spring to the house and chicken coops. This gives a much cleaner water supply, avoids an awful lot of hard work in carrying buckets to and from the river, and can also ensure that animals never go thirsty when the owner is not keeping a watchful eye on them. All very well, but the pipe did not pay for José's 100 chicks.

Going into business

As part of its drive to increase agricultural production, the Brazilian government has special programmes for those on a low income, such as José. Loans are available at fixed interests, about 20-30% lower than the inflation rate. The loans include a 1% contribution to an insurance scheme which will reimburse any loss he might incur as a result of unforeseen circumstances, provided he follows technical advice from an approved source. Usually the approved source is the local rural extension service, ACARPA, but this body does not yet have a poultry adviser in our area. However, CEBADER has now become sufficiently established to be given a trial run in this role of technical overseer.

After much persuasion José became convinced that he would neither be risking losing his land if his flock was wiped out,

nor would he be accepting charity by complying with government policies made possible by the taxes of which he paid his fair share. So he has now, with much trepidation, taken out a loan to buy, feed, house and vaccinate 100 birds.

In fact, he is diversifying a little, too, hoping to emulate the success of Natanael in Tagaçaba. With financial help from the pastor, David Brown, Natanael had just fattened 100 chicks for meat, having them ready for the table at about eight weeks of age, far quicker than the local norm.

We pray that José will be left with a profit after repaying the loan, and that this continued success will encourage others to try out the methods recommended by CEBADER. We hope that José will be able to increase his flock to 1,000 or even 5,000 birds in the next few years, with the help of government schemes, and that the increases in income will contribute to people's growth in the image of God – spiritual, educational, medical, cultural and material growth.

And to God be all the glory, honour and praise, for He took the work of Satan who sowed deception and transformed it in the lives of His people to produce the fruit of understanding and the hope of relative prosperity.



Sign of success – eggs for sale

THEY HEARD THE CALL

TO TRINIDAD

Neville and Joan Aubrey were born and raised in the Rhondda Valley, South Wales. Joan was brought up in the Pentecostal church whereas Neville's first link with the Christian faith came through the Church of England. They were married in 1968 and have two children, Anna aged 9 and Sarah, 5. Neville spent most of his theological training within the Anglican tradition, but was led through his studies to an appreciation of believer's baptism and ultimately to change

denomination. On leaving the South Wales Baptist College he took charge of a Cardiff church and from 1976 pastored Combe Martin Baptist Church.

Neville and Joan were happy in their situation and enjoyed the opportunity of meeting Christians from all over the world who holidayed at Combe Martin during the summer. Yet they felt the need to make some contribution to the wider Church and engage in a more specific teaching ministry. They have been accepted for work in Trinidad

and are due to leave at the end of this month to be based at Princes Town. Neville's hope is to reinforce the pastoral, preaching, teaching and administrative work on the island as he assists the churches of the Trinidad and Tobago Baptist Union. Neville and Joan go with some degree of 'fear and trembling' but confident that God will prepare the way and use them in His service as they seek obedience to His Son.

