

Missionary

# HERALD

The magazine of the Baptist Missionary Society



MAY 1982  
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1907-1982

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## NOTES FOR YOUR PRAYER GUIDE

**Robert and Miriam Young** (2 May) have now returned to this country.

**Christopher Green** has now joined Ann (11 May) at Vellore.

**Helen Drysdale** (19 May) is expecting her baby at the end of this month.

**Vivian Lewis** (27 May) has just held his first baptismal service.

**Clinton Bennett** (30 May) has now moved to Rangpur.

## General Secretary

Rev R G S Harvey

## Overseas Secretary

Rev A T MacNeill

## Editor

Rev D E Pountain

Enquiries about service to:

Rev (Mrs) A W Thomas

Films, slide sets, posters, maps, literature  
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Zaire

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In March the Rev David Pountain joined the Mission House Staff. He was appointed to assume responsibility for the literature of the Society and to release the Rev Alan Easter to devote his whole time to developing the Audio Visual Aid side of BMS publicity.

Mr David Pountain is a native of Derby where his family had long association with the Pear Tree Road Baptist Church and where his grandfather and later his father were elected deacons.

## They helped found a church

When David was about eleven years old the family moved to Wolverhampton where his parents were founder members of the Fordhouses church and where his father was Sunday school superintendent, treasurer and deacon. It was here that Mr Pountain came to commitment in Christ and was baptized. He felt called to full time service and entered Manchester Baptist College with the intention of offering for service on the mission field. He graduated Bachelor of Arts in Theology at Manchester University and on completion of his theological training received a call to the Mills Hill Baptist Church at Middleton, Manchester. This he accepted as his intention of going overseas came to nought. In 1963 he married Dorothy, a widow with two children and they also have a son of their own. During the six years he was at Mills Hill he became secretary of the Oldham Baptist Union and Missionary Auxiliary. An invitation then came to him to accept the pastorate of Blackley Baptist Church, Elland, Halifax and almost immediately he became the secretary of the Huddersfield Baptist District of the Yorkshire Association. David served on the Yorkshire Baptist Association General Committee and was chairman of the Social Responsibility Group. In 1977 he was called to the pastorate of Bourton-on-the-Water and was elected to the Committee of the Oxford and East Gloucester Committee subsequently becoming secretary of the Association.

## A common interest

Both David and Dorothy are pianists and singers, Dorothy having taken the lead in many operatic productions. David is also keenly interested in scuba diving and bee keeping.

We welcome him to the team at Mission House and know that he will bring a keen interest and wide ability to this work.

# LAZARUS IS STILL THERE

by Fred Stainthorpe



When we read the story of Dives and Lazarus we condemn the rich man. If we had been in his shoes, the beggar would not have starved. We would have kept him fed. We are keeping him fed nowadays through the work of Christian Aid, Tear Fund and other agencies. Governments, too, are joining in the task and our consciences have been altered to many beggars at our gates.

But not to them all. There are still many who are neglected. They may have food for their bodies but their minds and souls are starving. They want to read but have such little material. Like Dives of old we feast every day, unaware of how much Lazarus wants to pick up the scraps which we drop.

## The children are starved

An Anglican missionary and his wife one day visited a village in north-east Zaire. The wife threw away an empty packet of 'Daz', and immediately, a crowd of children dived to get hold of it. It was a precious piece of writing. No doubt they would have been just as keen had it been a pornographic tract or instructions on how to make a bomb. To them it was something to read in a society starved of literature.

Once, when my wife and I were in Zaire, a primary school teacher, Bobenga Ratisbonne, called to see me. He held in his hand some children's spelling cards which he had found in a school cupboard, and asked me, somewhat diffidently, if he could keep them for his small child. As I agreed, my heart smote me. I remembered the wealth of books enjoyed by my two small children. I remembered their regular supply of reading matter. A friend in England used to send them comics each week and they were never short of a book. Bobenga was glad to obtain a few spelling cards.

It is not only children who suffer from lack of books. Once an American organization, 'Lit-lit', sent us a complete set of all the religious books available in Lingala and offered to supply us with more sets for use by pastors. For some reason we did not follow up the offer until it was too late. Even so, the pocket library was pitifully small. A score of thin paperbacks would have comprised it all. Twenty years later I do not think the book supply has improved. It may well have grown worse. My own books filled cupboard after cupboard, and many more remained in England. Truly to him who has is more given.

## Many books are lost

What about him who has not? From him it is often taken away. In tropical countries termites and damp often do the damage inflicted by moth and rust in milder climates. People who are not used to owning books do not always exercise the care over them that we do. In times of political turmoil it is often the Bibles and other Christian books which are the first to be burned. Therefore, at least some of the high circulation figures for Bibles abroad represent replacements, rather than Bibles for new readers.

Yet it is often in these countries that the need is greatest. Churches grow and new converts need to understand their faith. Often, however, they lack funds and they have neither the paper nor printing presses to produce their own Bibles. These must be produced in the West.

## Dives feasts

However, the West is often too busy producing more and more Bibles for itself. In the last ten years many new translations in English have been produced. Much scholarship has gone into their production, much skill and expense has gone into their distribution and many copies have been bought. A good proportion of these have probably gone to people who own several versions already. Lazarus must be wondering when his turn will come.

In February 1980 a delegation from the Angola Evangelical Church visited villages in the Kwango area. In 18 villages they found no Bibles though they did come across parts of it, unrecognized as such by the villagers, being cut up and smoked like tobacco. None of the pastors who went on that expedition felt that he could bring back his own Bible. They left them all there so that people could read what they had preached.

None of those Angolan pastors was rich. They knew how Lazarus felt and were willing to share with him to the point of sacrifice. By contrast, we are well off. Let us not add to our store of Bibles while there are still millions who do not possess a single one. The money which our new version costs might supply a dozen new readers with Scriptures which could lead them to Christ. The added knowledge it would give them would be crucial. Too many of our resources are used for Dives. It is time we listened to the unspoken appeal of Lazarus.

# BY LAKE TUMBA

by Wilma Aitchison

When, over a year ago, I was first asked to write an article about the medical work at Tondo, I felt unable to do so. It was a time of changes and uncertainty, and much of my article could have been misleading or even incorrect by the time it was finally read. However, conditions are more stable now, and I am able at last to share with you some of the changes which have taken place and to encourage you to pray for the work and witness of the medical team at Tondo.

There is a Chinese proverb which says, 'Tell me and I'll forget  
Show me and I may remember,  
Involve me and I'll understand.'

In writing this article, therefore, it is my aim not only to tell you about our work, but also to involve you. I would like to help you to understand what we are doing, why we are doing it and what we are achieving.

### Questions which need answers

So many questions are being asked in missionary circles these days. Most of them have no clearcut answers and missionaries must give them their prayerful consideration if they are to maintain a healthy balanced attitude to their work. Some people doubt the need for the presence of missionaries in Zaire at all, while others are concerned by the

growing lack of long term missionaries and question the contribution of short term volunteers. Some ask whether we are achieving enough and wonder if our priorities are justified. Do we concentrate too much on medical work at the expense of church work? Do we rely overmuch on personal contact with local people for evangelism and not enough on mass rallies? Often, when we hear that work has suffered during a missionary's absence, people ask – was it worth it? Was there no other way? Was it right to create such a need?

At Tondo we have faced many such questions, as well as outright criticism, especially in relation to the feeding programme which was begun there a few years ago. As part of this programme, a daily diet supplement is provided for the children and a few adults, who have been brought to us in need of food. Orphans, children of one parent families, of broken marriages, or of problem families, and some adults who are unable to provide for themselves, have all been helped by the scheme. However, some people have even suggested that we should not feed children or old folk, as doing so creates other problems, like reliance on outside help. Others suggest that we should not feed malnourished children but rather we should educate the parents. But while the need for education is obvious, those of us who have taken part in this programme have been amazed at the witness which it has been to the villagers and even to some local government officials.

### The Lord is our example

We have only to look at our Lord Himself to see how we should live. He cared for people, not only spiritually, but in every way. His diverse ministry of



Preparing the ground at the agricultural project

*continued overleaf*

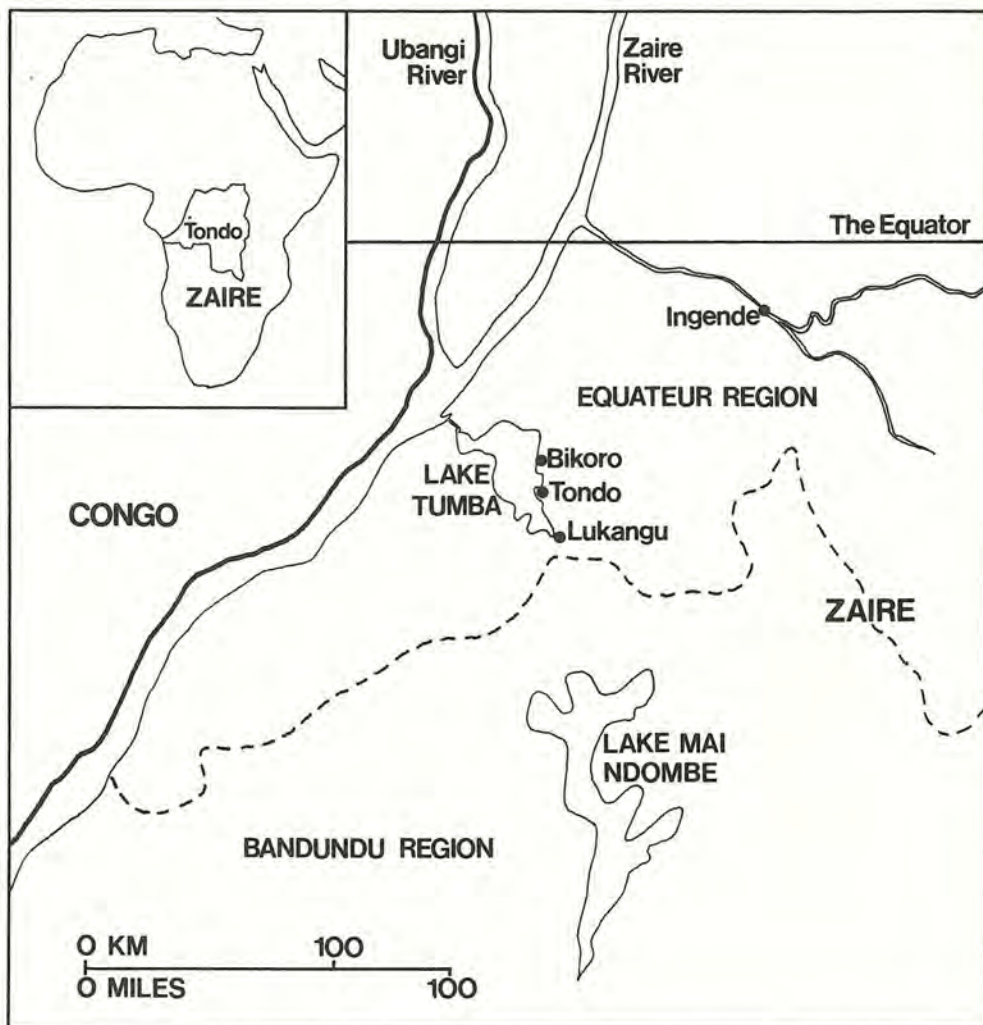
## BY LAKE TUMBA

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caring, healing, saving, teaching, feeding and loving is clearly an example we do well to follow. When Jesus fed the five thousand, many of them probably were not of strong religious persuasion, but He still ministered to them according to their need.

In our calling to be God's witnesses and to reach out to others in the Lord's name, we are called to represent Christ to the world. We are called to do what He did, to minister, to show God's love and most of all to 'be'. 'Doing' is not enough if we have no time to 'be'. Our responsibility to others is clearly shown in Matthew 25 where we read about the day when God will separate us as a shepherd separates goats and sheep. When in that story the wicked were condemned for rejecting Christ, by refusing Him water, food, care and shelter, they asked when it was that they failed to minister to His needs. The Lord answered that when they refused help to the poorest and humblest of people, they, in fact, refused it to Him. The love of God is so readily seen in the practical ministries and I believe they have a place in missionary work today.

Tondo, a village on the shore of Lake Tumba, not far south of the Equator, is the centre for much activity. As well as an agricultural project, there is church work, particularly among women and children, together with large primary and secondary schools and an extensive 'Habitat for Humanity' building programme. This last scheme, funded from America, includes not only the building of houses but also the development of social and cultural activity such as social help for old folk, sewing, reading and language courses. However, it is the medical work which I would like to share with you.



### Progressive changes

I have been involved in this work in and around Tondo for the past three and a half years. My tasks there have always been very varied and interesting and I am amazed at the speed with which the work has progressed during the past three or four years. The many recent changes have meant that my own role has also altered. Three years ago I spent most of my time in the hospital, on ward rounds, dealing with medical problems and working in the pharmacy and outpatient department. Now most of my time is spent encouraging and counselling our Zairian staff and improving their working conditions so that they can work more efficiently. Although I do less practical work in the hospital, I find myself busier than ever! It is so much easier to do a job oneself than to teach someone else to do it and supervise that person until he can manage it alone, yet I feel that is exactly what we should be aiming to do.

Four years ago Tondo Hospital only had the official status of a maternity dispensary unit, as we had no doctor and very limited facilities for surgery. The lack

of trained staff was so acute that public health trips, which took staff away from the hospital, had to be kept to the barest minimum. There were no first-aid posts or dispensaries connected with the hospital, although some *animateurs* (local volunteers), trained to administer basic medical care, were working in outlying villages.

### Improvement in natal care

Today the scene is very different. In 1977, a Zairian doctor, Dr Mpia-Bosenge was appointed as the Medical Director of the hospital, and his wife, who was trained in midwifery, was made responsible for the maternity department. Although Dr Mpia's arrival was welcomed by the village folk, it gave the hospital some new problems. For one thing, it meant upgrading the theatre rooms and obtaining suitable equipment for the doctor to begin surgery. Nevertheless, he had gradually built up the work of the hospital, freeing other staff to concentrate on public health.

Citoyen Ikoma, a medical assistant, who had worked previously with missionary



doctors in Tondo, retired from his government post and returned to Tondo for four months to help during the holiday period. We hope that he will be able to stay on as a permanent member of the medical staff and so continue to contribute to the work of the hospital.

The number of women delivering in the maternity department has increased, resulting in a shortage of beds and lack of facilities for the antenatal clinic and postnatal care. A new maternity unit is being built and when I left Tondo last November the roof was almost complete. We hope to open it later this year, and it will make such a difference to the maternity services. At the moment, women deliver in the same room in which the antenatal clinic is held. Sometimes the clinic is delayed while the delivery table is cleaned. However, we are now able to offer antenatal care in many villages as part of the public health programme and many expectant mothers only come to the hospital to be delivered. Four midwives have been trained to cope with normal deliveries in the villages.

#### **Village workers established**

Over the past few years, we have begun extended or developed various public health programmes and we now have a team of about five who visit over 20 villages, conducting child clinics, antenatal checks and other basic medical needs. Some visits are monthly, others bi-monthly and in a few cases, only once or twice a year. These visits afford an opportunity to become involved in the local church, with women's meetings, children's services and Sunday worship.

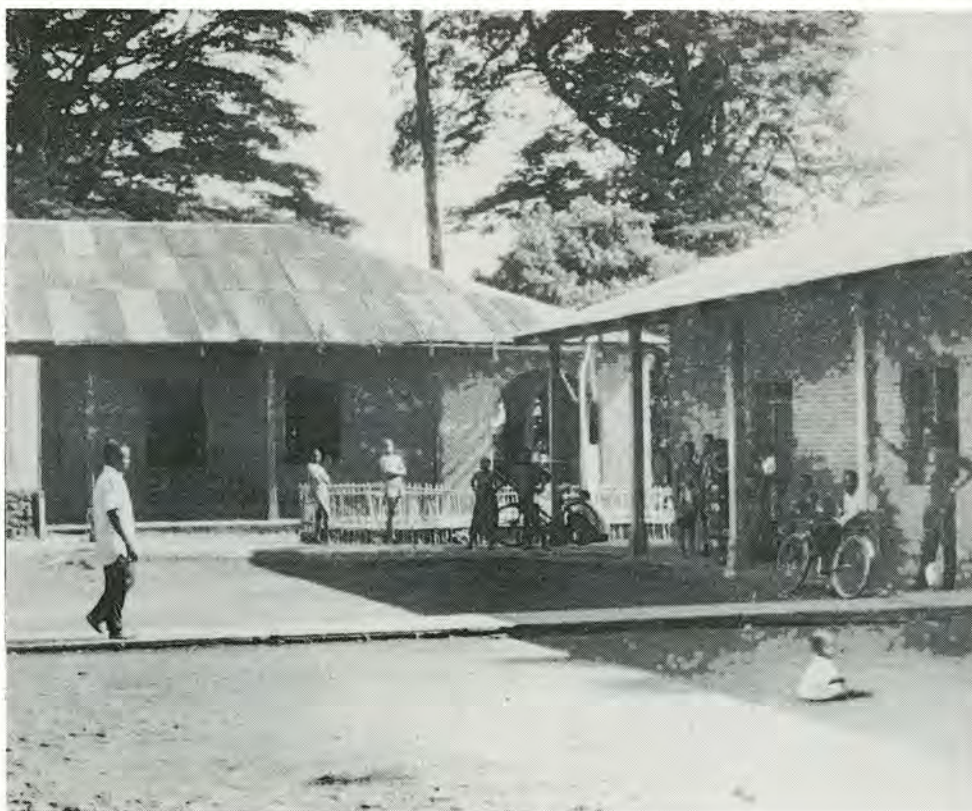
The *animateur* programme, begun in 1977, has seen some development. Although the number of *animateurs* has

been dramatically reduced, we still have a few, who contribute much to the medical care in many outlying villages. Some are responsible for first-aid posts which, it is hoped, will eventually become dispensaries. Although it has proved impossible to engage the *animateurs* totally in preventive medicine, as we had hoped, I feel that they have a rightful place in the medical team, especially as trained nurses are in such short supply. We have no training school for nurses in Tondo, although we do run classes from time to time for our untrained staff. We do aim to send one or two of our staff to proper training schools.

The Bikoro zone has been chosen for a government approved pilot scheme in

public health. The zone has been divided into five areas, each with one hospital, which is then responsible for all dispensaries and other public health work within the boundaries of its area. This replaces the system whereby each hospital was responsible for public health within the entire zone, but each dispensary was 'labelled' Protestant, Catholic or government controlled. With the old system, there was overlapping of care in some villages and a complete lack of it in others, but now public health efforts have been co-ordinated. The Tondo area includes eight dispensaries and seven first-aid posts.

*continued on page 78*



*The hospital at Tondo*

# THE CRY OF ANGUISH

by Vivian Lewis

Kinshasa is not typical of Zaire. Apart from the difference of the colour of the people's skins, a visitor might think himself to be in any rundown, overcrowded city in the Third World. Three months after our arrival in Zaire, however, Gwen, my wife, and I had not yet been outside the city of Kinshasa, and were looking forward to seeing something more representative of this country which is now our 'home'. An opportunity came, in fact, through an illness which Gwen contracted. We were advised to go to IME Hospital in

Kimpese, some 150 miles downriver.

The journey by car was pleasant, the only problem being the lorries which had broken down on the road. One such lorry had slewed right across the road and as there was a ditch on either side, I assumed that the hold-up would be a long one. Fortunately, a gang of men filled in the ditch on one side with earth and so we were able to go round the obstruction fairly quickly. We called in at Sona Bata, the American Baptist station and Mbanza Ngungu, where the BMS has

two missionaries, and we finally arrived at IME in the late afternoon.

Gwen was examined that evening and next morning began the numerous tests which were required. In the afternoon we were treated to a conducted tour of the hospital, and were able to see something of the work which you support through the BMS. IME is a large co-operative medical institution and at present the BMS staff comprises a doctor, nursing tutors and a pharmacist.

## It was a killer

Statistics — and those for IME are impressive — can give some idea of the care provided. It may interest you to know that, according to the last Annual Report, nearly 8,000 patients were admitted during that year, over 3,600 operations performed, 4,000 X-ray examinations made, 2,000 units of blood given and no fewer than 73,000 laboratory tests made. Also in that year, nearly 80,000 immunizations were given, and the results of that programme have been as dramatic as the figure suggests. Measles, for instance, is a killer disease among children, and for the first half of 1980, of the 270 children admitted to IME with measles, 84 died. After the vaccination campaign, the hospital has seen virtually no more cases of measles from their area.

However, by British NHS standards, the hospital is dirty and squalid. The floors and walls are bare cement, and old fashioned iron bedsteads are crowded together with only a grubby mattress on each. Sheets, blankets, towels and additional furniture are nowhere to be seen. Money is too precious to spend on such luxuries when there are lives to be saved.



Kinshasa market





Patients attending IME Kimpese

### Relatives under the bed

Unlike British hospitals, IME does not feed its patients, nor attend to any of their non-medical needs. That is considered to be the responsibility of family or friends. This means that each patient on admission has at least one other person in attendance to cook for, to feed and to look after him. But usually the whole family comes, and if they do not live nearby, they 'camp out' by the cooking area provided alongside each ward. One member of the family attends to the patient's needs during the night and the usual sleeping place for that person is on the floor under the patient's bed! Sometimes the staff have difficulty limiting the relatives on night duty to one.

The hospital is always overcrowded. Extra beds clutter the corridors and when there are no more beds, patients lie on mats on the floor. Understaffing is another problem. Three or four missionary doctors, all specialists, and half a dozen Zairian doctors cover the entire work of IME, the leprosy hospital, the training school for nurses and laboratory technicians and no less than

20 health centres. The nursing staff consists of only four missionary nursing instructors, 20 Zairian graduate nurses and 50 auxiliary nurses. Where are those whom the Lord would call to share in this mission of love?

### He arrived too late

One memory of our visit I cannot escape. As we walked through the children's ward, a distraught and screaming woman ran down the corridor, with two other people trying to restrain and calm her. The woman's child had just died. We looked into a small side room where the staff had fought to keep the boy alive, and saw a thin wasted body. The cause of death was malnutrition, the child having been brought to the hospital too late to be saved. Stephen Rigden Green (our BMS doctor) told me that cases of kwashiorkor, a form of malnutrition, had multiplied fourfold in those last few weeks. Such an increase was hard to understand as there had been no new influx of Angolan refugees, the rains had not failed and the harvest had been good.

The only explanation possible was the price of food. The cost of the staple foods had risen by something like 50% in those past weeks. For the poorest and weakest who, even before the increase, only just eked out an existence, it was the difference between living and dying. It will be a long time before I can shut from my mind that mother's cry.

*We are glad to report at the time of going to press that after the tests at Kimpese, there has been an improvement in Gwen's health.*



# THE SECRETARIAT

## The General Secretary

The Rev R G S Harvey, the new General Secretary of the Society, was born in Northampton in the heart of the Carey country. He was drawn into the Church through the Life Boys and the Boys' Brigade attached to the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church and was greatly influenced by the ministry of the Rev Hugh Reid.

He was educated at the 400 year old Northampton Grammar School and was awarded a State Scholarship and a place at Merton College Oxford to read

chemistry, but he felt called to the ministry and relinquished his place at Oxford and went instead to Manchester Baptist College to train for the pastorate. At the University of Manchester he came under instruction from the Rev H H Rowley the notable Old Testament Scholar and twice Chairman of the Baptist Missionary Society.

Mr Harvey graduated Bachelor of Arts in Theology at Manchester University and on completion of his college course he married Maire who was also a member

of the Mount Pleasant Church, Northampton. His first pastorate was at Marston Green, Birmingham, then after five-and-a-half years he was called to the pastorate of Northfield Baptist Church on the other side of Birmingham where he served for eight-and-a-half years. His last pastorate was at Rugby where he has been for nine years. During his time in the West Midlands Association he was elected Chairman of the Birmingham District and later President of the West Midlands Association.

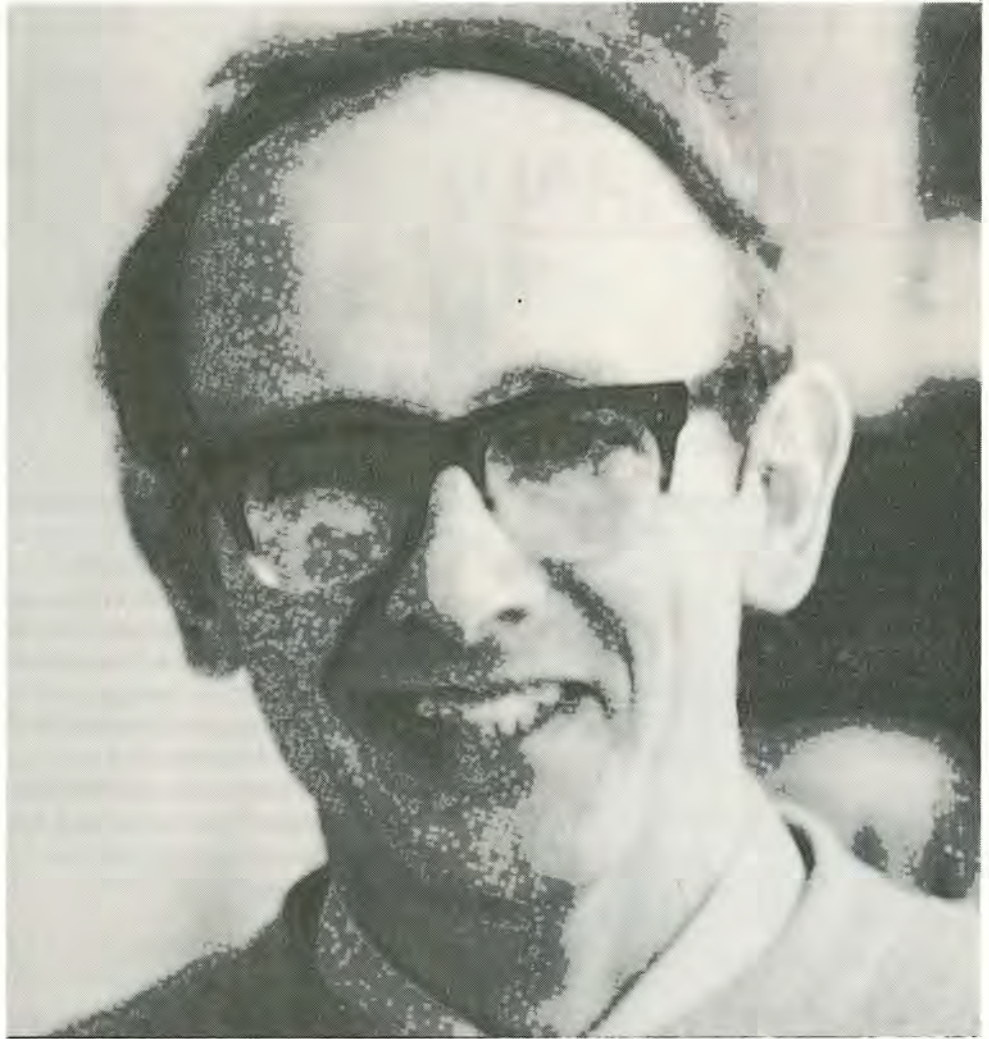
Mr Harvey preached his first sermon in Carey's Chapel at Moulton and his interest in missionary work was stimulated by the monthly missionary meetings at his home church. The Northfield pastorate brought him in close contact with the Selly Oak Colleges and gave opportunity to meet missionaries in training, the staff and former missionaries. During this pastorate also, three members of his church offered for service with the BMS and he himself was elected to the BMS General Committee. His ability was quickly recognized and he was subsequently elected to the Candidate Board and eventually became its Chairman. In 1979 he was elected Vice Chairman of the Society and during that year was asked to visit Bangladesh on a mission of pastoral encouragement to the missionaries in that country who were going through a difficult situation at the time.

Mr and Mrs Harvey have four children, Mark, Deborah, Jonathan and Sarah. At school Mr Harvey developed a love for Rugby football which he continued to play into the time he was in the pastorate, but a fracture of the leg sustained in play forced him to retire from active participation, though his love for the game continues.



*Rev Reginald Harvey*

## The Overseas Secretary



*Rev Angus MacNeill*

The Rev Angus T MacNeill the new Overseas Secretary was born the son of the manse and grew up in Aberdeen. Early in life he showed an interest in missionary work. He was educated at Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen and at Hillhead High School, Glasgow. He gained a place at Glasgow University to read English Language and Literature and graduated Master of Arts from that University.

While at Glasgow University he became President of the University Christian Union and led a number of children's seaside missions under the auspices of the CSSM. He also shared in Student Missions organised by the Inter Varsity Fellowship. On completing his University studies Angus entered the Scottish Baptist College to train for the ministry.

In 1959 he offered his services to the Baptist Missionary Society for work in Zaire. The General Committee of the Society appointed him a probationer missionary in 1960 and there followed a period of orientation and preparation at

St Andrew's Hall, Selly Oak, Birmingham. Mr MacNeill was the first missionary to be sent to Zaire after Independence and as the situation was somewhat uncertain he flew first to Paris, then to Brazzaville in the Congo Republic from where he entered Zaire. He was designated for Bolobo where he engaged in educational work because there was an urgent need to develop the secondary schools.

In 1962 Mr MacNeill returned to this country to marry Dr Carolyn Ritchie who had been accepted as a probationer missionary by the General Committee and had followed a course at Carey Hall, Selly Oak and had done a tropical medicine course.

After furlough Mr and Mrs MacNeill travelled to Zaire via Grenoble where they did approximately three months' language study. When they arrived at Bolobo Angus was appointed headmaster of the secondary school and Carolyn helped in the hospital. They were compelled to leave for a period in 1964 and for a longer period in 1965

because of rebel activity. Their second evacuation had to be hurried and they had to make an arduous journey of over twenty-four hours to the safety of Kinshasa. At this time their second daughter Kathryn was only five weeks old. They were not, in fact, able to return to Bolobo until 1967 when Angus became Director of the EBMF (Baptist Church of the Middle River) Bible School.

In March 1969 Mr MacNeill was appointed Zaire Field Secretary in succession to Leslie Moore and once again they moved to Kinshasa. He carried the responsibilities of this post in an exemplary way until 1972 by which time he had 'worked himself out of a job'. He returned to this country and accepted the call to the Kilmarnock church where he ministered until he was invited, on the nomination of the Baptist Union of Scotland, to become the BMS Scottish Representative in 1981.

Mr and Mrs MacNeill have three children, Morag, Kathryn and Malcolm — all of whom were born at Bolobo.

# LETTER FROM THE NEW CHAIRMAN

## Rev Donald Monkcom



There can be no other institutions quite like missionary societies. Let us take the BMS as a typical example.

We have over two hundred missionaries on the active list, serving across the world in a great variety of ways. They are a taskforce, subject to a discipline gently applied and loyally accepted. Behind them stands a 'support group' whose size can be estimated only roughly, if at all. Its core is the staff of the Mission House, and around these are tens of thousands of volunteer, part-time supporters, mostly members of Baptist churches and congregations, though not exclusively so, who supply the sinews of the Society by their prayers, work, and financial gifts.

There can be only one explanation of the cohesion of such an institution: it is a family centred in Christ and constantly renewed by His Spirit. Chairmen of the BMS count themselves greatly privileged in being able to serve such a family. My year as Vice-Chairman has given me an insight into the concern of our Secretaries for the welfare of our missionaries, their careful management of the Society's finances, and the constant

process of decision making in which they are engaged.

Last month, when the Revs A S Clement and H F Drake retired from their posts as secretaries of the Society, we expressed our appreciation of their distinguished service. We also welcomed the Revs R G S Harvey and A T MacNeill, and promised them our support in the tasks to which they have been called. We

commended all these, our brethren, to God, and I am sure that we shall continue to do so.

It was most fitting that during Assembly Week this year the Prayer Guide should have called the fellowship of the BMS to pray for widening vision and deepening commitment. Only as we possess these gifts of grace can we fulfil Christ's purpose for us in the years ahead.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretaries acknowledge with grateful thanks the following legacies and gifts sent anonymously. (1-28 January 1982)

Legacies	£	p
Mr E R Best	30,000.00	
Mrs E E C Boulding	1,000.00	
Miss J L Chappell	5,000.00	
Miss A R Cherrington	110.20	
Miss M A Craig	100.00	
Mrs E M Croker	200.00	
Hilda Dawson	2,000.00	
Mr H S Gay	100.00	
Mr J T W Green	12.42	
Miss B Griffin	200.00	
Mrs M K V Horne	440.00	
Mrs E H Inglis	100.00	
Mr A J Matthews	6.11	
Mrs E L Morley	1,000.00	
Mrs C Mort	1,794.04	
Dr G H Newell	93.43	
Miss G M Northmore	920.00	
Mr J W Turner	50.00	
P White Trust	3,254.47	
W J White Trust	85.77	
Miss E W Young	50.00	

**General Work:** Anon (In memory): £100.00; Anon (Cymro): £45.00; Anon: £10.00; Anon (Stamps): £36.35; Anon: £10.00; Anon: £5.00; Anon (FAE — Aberdeen): £10.00; Anon: £5.00.

**Medical Work:** In loving memory of Margaret and Arthur — MMF: £25.00.

**Widows, Orphans & Retired Missionaries:** Anon: £10.00.

### MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

#### Arrivals

**Mr and Mrs G Smith** and family on 13 January from Patan, Nepal

**Mr C Sugg** on 26 January from Kinshasa, Zaire

#### Departures

**Miss M Lacey** on 11 January for Chandraghona, Bangladesh

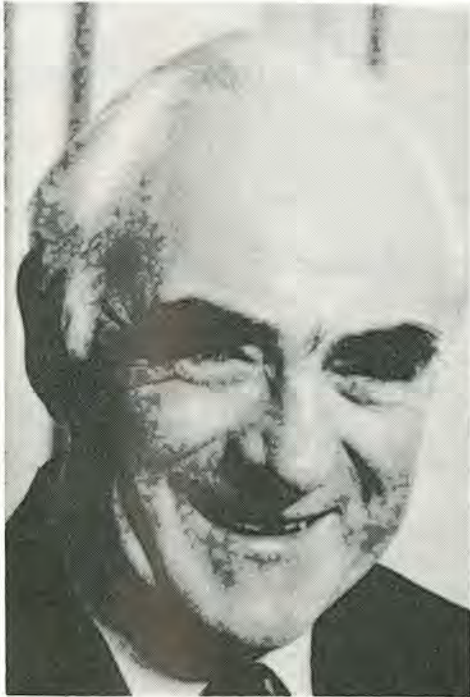
**Mr. and Mrs M Wheller** and family on 14 January for Kathmandu, Nepal

**Mr and Mrs G Phillips** and Simon on 25 January for Kathmandu, Nepal

#### Birth

On 17 January, in Yakusu, Zaire, to **Rev C and Mrs Spencer**, a daughter, Ruth Katherine

# NEW SCOTTISH REPRESENTATIVE



The Rev Ronald Armstrong, minister of the Viewfield Baptist Church, Dunfermline, has been appointed the Scottish Representative of the Baptist Missionary Society to succeed the Rev Angus MacNeill. He was the unanimous nomination of the Scottish Baptist Union.

Mr Armstrong was elected to the General Committee of the BMS in 1977 and has played a valuable part in its deliberations. He also serves on the General Purposes Committee of the Society. He has a close family connection with the work of the BMS in that his daughter Helen and her husband Douglas Drysdale, are both missionaries of the Society, working in Zaire. Maybe it is not without significance that his daughter's middle name is Carey.

Mr Armstrong has spent a total of 29

years in the ministry. He was trained at Spurgeon's College and undertook his initial pastoral charge at Reading before returning north to Glasgow and his native Scotland for seven fruitful years of ministry at Cathcart Baptist Church. Thereafter followed years spent at Dorking and Gateshead in the native England of his wife, Rita, until they went north of the border again in 1976 to the large and busy church at Viewfield, Dunfermline. He has also been Secretary of the Home Counties Association.

The position of the BMS Scottish Representative calls for administrative, pastoral and speaking abilities, coupled with a wide ranging interest in the world at large. With his proven qualities as a preacher, pastor and writer, Ronald Armstrong is a welcome addition to the BMS team. He expects to be based in Glasgow.

## USED SPECTACLES

There is a great need, on the mission field, for certain types of old spectacles in good condition. Especially useful are reading glasses which have been prescribed for ordinary long sight, and even if the wearer has been told there is a slight astigmatism, such spectacles can still be used. Also, spectacles prescribed after a cataract operation, and those up to medium power for the correction of short sight are required. Empty frames are also very useful if they are in good condition. Cases of the hard metal type are not wanted because of the high cost of postage, but the light-weight soft slip-in type of spectacle case is acceptable.

*Used spectacles can be sent direct to:*

Mr T Slade FSMC, The Palfreys  
12 Priory Way, Hitchin,  
Herts. SG4 9BH

# A NEW TEACHER IN ZAIRE

PHILIPPA CLARKE

Being the daughter of an Anglican vicar, the Church was always a way of life for Philippa. However, it was not until she joined the Christian Union when she was in her sixth form that she began to discover a new dimension to her faith. From school, she went to Liverpool University where she studied mathematics. During her three years there, her love and knowledge of Jesus grew as her Christian commitment deepened.



Even before she went to University, Philippa had thought about taking a year after her studies to do something different. As she prayed about what to do with this year, she felt the Lord leading her not to one, but to two years' service for Him. It was then that she contacted the BMS to see what possibilities were open to her. She went to Ngombe Lutete in Zaire earlier this year to teach maths and physics at the Secondary School. Her home is in Manchester where she was baptised last Easter.

## BY LAKE TUMBA

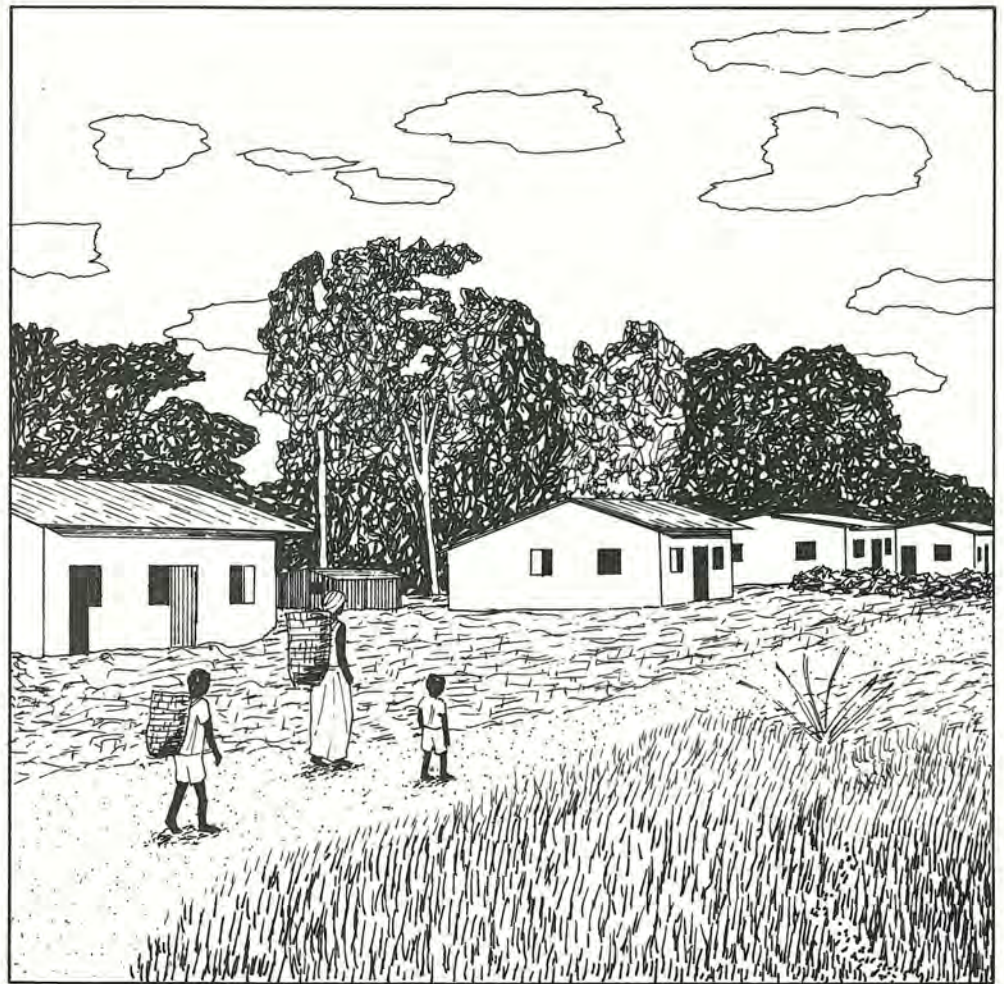
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This pilot scheme has the approval of FOMECO and UNICEF, who will be helping with medicines and equipment. Recently we received an outboard motor and a motor-bike and we hope to receive further help in the future. Thanks to a new allocation system set up by the Church, funds from the BMS can be made available to buy medicines for these dispensaries. An organization of the German government, GTER, has shown interest in public health work and has agreed to supply medicines at low cost.

### A programme for the children

One way of reaching children in need of medical care is through the schools. The Schools Inspection Programme, which aimed originally to provide basic medical care for Baptist pupils, as well as public health classes, has been expanded. Last year only Baptist schools were visited, but this year, the team expect to visit all the schools in our area, Protestant, Catholic and state schools alike. They also plan to visit Baptist schools outside the Bikoro zone but within the Church-set boundaries of the South Equator Region. They will, therefore, be responsible for over 1,500 students and pupils, probably many more, and over 300 teachers. Although an immensely simple programme, it has proved to be very successful, gaining the respect of parents and teachers, especially in areas where there are no other medical services available.

When the number of under-fives clinics increased, we uncovered a new problem which we felt we could not ignore — that of malnutrition. We saw one child of 15 months who weighed 8 lbs, and another of two months weighing a mere 3 lbs. One baby's mother had died and so the father came to us with the child,



who at nine months weighed 7 lbs. One mother died on the way to hospital and the newborn baby was given nothing to drink for two days before we realized that they had no means of providing for the child.

Gradually, we found ourselves providing food, and sometimes shelter, for these problem babies and their families. Women with tuberculosis needed help to feed their babies. Some mothers were unable to cope because they were mentally unstable — one had four children, all suffering from malnutrition, and was pregnant again. Normally, we provide food and shelter for up to two years, or until we feel that the family can cope on their own. We do not aim to provide constant care for the children as we have not the resources, but we can help in times of special need.

### The way forward

Recently I have been asked to become a member of the water supply committee for the Tondo area and in the year we hope to see a lot of progress in this field and a dramatic decrease in the incidence of waterborne diseases. The installation of pumps and the repair of the water

tanks has already begun. Jack Norwood and David Aubrey designed and installed a solar powered hot running water system for the operating theatre, which has been an immense help.

We have much for which to praise God, particularly the continued opportunity to witness to patients and staff through the medical work. Simple acts of kindness by the medical staff can do so much to witness to the unsaved. Your prayers are needed for this work, especially for the nurses and trained staff as they seek to show in a very practical way God's love for His people.

Our lack of personnel puts a tremendous strain on those already working at the hospital, and adversely affects the standard of care. Please pray that nurses will be trained, not only academically but also spiritually, for the dual task of caring for the sick and witnessing to the love of God. Pray too for us, the missionaries, that we may have all wisdom and discernment as we seek to improve the medical care. Many more nurses and doctors are needed to train, to work with, and to encourage our African colleagues.

## NEW 'BAPTIST-BASICS' SERIES NEW

- 1 THE BLESSING OF INFANTS AND THE DEDICATION OF PARENTS – by Bernard Green
- 2 THE MINISTRY OF DEACONS – by Paul Beasley-Murray
- 3 WHAT IS A BAPTIST CHURCH? – by Peter Wortley
- 4 THE CHURCH MEETING – WHAT IS IT? – by Roger Hayden
- 5 NOTES FOR VISITORS FOR APPLICANTS FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP – by Robert Mills
- 6 WHY BE BAPTISED AND WHY BECOME A CHURCH MEMBER? – by Paul Beasley-Murray
- 7 THE LORD'S SUPPER – by Paul Beasley-Murray

*One set of 7* .50  
*Ten sets of 7* £4.50  
*One leaflet* .10  
*25 leaflets (any kind)* £1.90  
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*Plus postage in every case*

**NEW** **IN JOURNEYINGS OFTEN** – by David Russell £1.25  
(Stories of his travels to other lands)

**TURNING THE TIDE** – by Paul Beasley-Murray £2.25  
(A book about Baptist Church growth)

**BAPTIST PUBLICATIONS**  
Baptist Church House  
4 Southampton Row  
London WC1B 4AB

## BRIEFLY...

# A HUNDRED YEARS OLD, ALIVE AND GROWING

'More and more young, capable workers are being called to missions,' reports the Rev Waldemiro Tymchak, executive secretary of the World Mission Board of the Brazilian Baptist Convention.

This year, as Brazil's Baptists prepare to celebrate 100 years of witness, he is hopeful that the Mission Board will be able to 'place missionaries in two new fields'. 'This,' he states, 'will bring our total to 70 missionaries in 14 different

countries.'

Inflation of 117% last year meant that Brazil's currency was devalued 35 times. Yet Baptists are confident that 'if God calls, He will also provide the means of sending, despite the inflation'.

There are now 548,000 Baptists in 2,950 churches and 5,933 preaching places in Brazil, who are affiliated with the Baptist World Alliance.

# SAYING THANK YOU A MILLION TIMES

This is the aim of the Australian Baptist Missionary Society. The ABMS are also celebrating 100 years of work in 1982. Their Centenary project aims to provide Bible Training for the ministry of the churches in all their fields. They have set their sights on a target figure of one million dollars.

# STICK YOUR NECK OUT

THERE IS STILL TIME TO  
BOOK A BMS HOLIDAY

The holidays are for young people of 14 years of age and over. (Penzance B will also cater for families and an all-age range.)

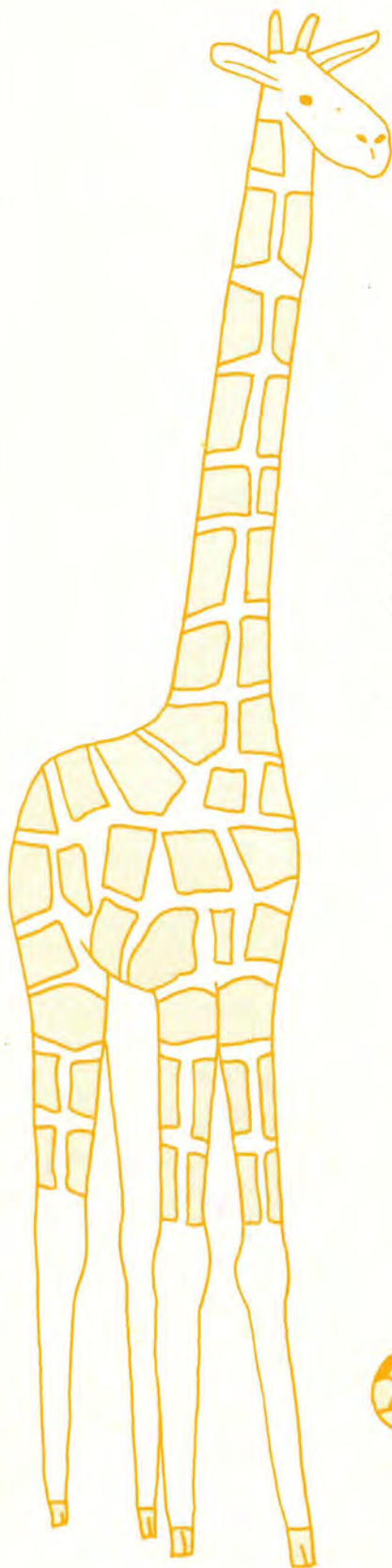
Fuller details of holidays, centres and travel arrangements can be obtained from the BMS Young People's Department.

- BIDEFORD 'A' & 'B'
- PENZANCE 'B'
- PITLOCHRY 31 July - 7 August

## DATES

'A' - 31 July - 14 August

'B' - 14 - 28 August



## APPLY NOW!

Send to: The Young People's Secretary, Baptist Missionary Society,  
93 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4AA.