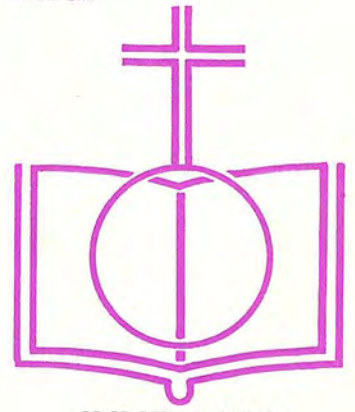


Missionary

HERALD

The magazine of the Baptist Missionary Society



JUNE 1982
PRICE 12p

FAREWELL TO SECRETARIES AT ANNUAL MEETING



Fred Drake responding



Alberic Clement receiving gift

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
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

Copyright material – not to be reproduced
without written permission.

Photoset and printed by
Stanley L Hunt (Printers) Ltd
Rushden, Northamptonshire

by **Reg Harvey**, the General Secretary

There was a need. Batteries ran down and could not be re-charged. Essential electrical equipment could not be operated for lack of adequate and reliable power source. A generator was required. But how to drive it, when petrol, diesel oil and most other types of fuel are so scarce and expensive in Zaire? The only energy generally available is human, people willing to work and help. A need – a problem.

The whole situation was given as a project to a team of students, working under the supervision of their lecturer. Many hours thought and industry were given to the task. The result? A well-designed generator, using pedal power to provide the drive. Problem solved! need met!

Yet not a final solution. Time showed that the particular machine, though good in basic principle and design, though efficient as a power source, was too cumbersome. Its weight and size meant that it was not easily portable, it could not easily be taken as a power source to the various points of need.

A team solution

A different project team worked on the basic design to try to improve its manouvability and versatility. The result? A less bulky device, half the weight and easily portable, yet with no loss of generating power. Problem solved! need met! (pro tempore?).

We have been talking of a real problem and its ongoing solution for one of our work situations in Zaire. We could just as easily have been talking of the life of the Baptist Missionary Society and its own particular designing and forming. There was a need! While in this country and elsewhere in the western world God's love was known and preached through well established churches, there were millions of men and women elsewhere who had never even heard of Jesus Christ. Whole generations were living and dying without ever discovering what God offered particularly through Jesus Christ. The need was recognized, and the rightness of trying to meet it, by William Carey and a few associates. In Widow Wallis' home the 'project group' was formed and gave itself by prayer and earnest seeking to the task of receiving guidance as to how best they might assist in God's great mission of love to the whole world. The result? A Missionary Society, which had a simple structure for support here at home and also a first missionary willing to serve God overseas. Problem *beginning* to be solved! need *beginning* to be met!



Nothing fixed or final

There has been no final solution to the problem, no complete filling of the need. Month by month, the pages of this magazine, let alone the messages through the other news media, point to countless millions in this world still needing, and even seeking, the wholeness found only through God's love in Jesus Christ. Not surprisingly, this has led the history of the Society to be one of continuing modification of its structure to meet the needs of the contemporary situation. No pattern of organization has been seen as fixed and final. The error of clinging on to old forms or structures for their own sake has generally not been a failing of the Baptist Missionary Society.

Hopefully this is still true. Over recent months there have been many changes of personnel on BMS staff, generally by the replacement of folk retiring. But also there have been clear changes in the structure of the Society's Secretariat. This month sees the completion of the working team, the end, for a time, of design modifications. The result? Not a new machine, for the principles first established and refined over the years continue to be valid. What we can hope for is an enhanced usefulness, an increased efficiency.

It will be a team effort

We shall all need to learn how best to operate the modified machinery. With the new design have come new titles and new members of staff and these given to new or modified working briefs. Our Overseas Representatives are not revived 'Field Secretaries', but folk with a different role that enables them to liaise fully with the national churches as well as offering support and encouragement to our missionaries. Our Secretaries based on Mission House aim to offer even stronger support of the overseas work and promotion of the cause of the Kingdom through the partnership of the Society. They will be co-operating as a team in a somewhat different fashion from before.

This month's *Herald* gives typical indication of the endeavours in which we share overseas. There was a need. There still is a need — and a continuing opportunity. The Society has entered a time of changed structures and patterns. But with your continuing and loyal support, it will be the beginning under God of a new usefulness in the cause of His Kingdom.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretaries acknowledge with grateful thanks the following legacies and gifts sent anonymously. (29 January-29 March 1982)

Legacies	£	p
Miss H. M. Andrews	7,000.00	
Mrs E E C Boulding	3,333.00	
Miss M H Burton	300.00	
Mrs E Cardwell	48.77	
Mrs C K Carpenter	100.00	
Lady Chesterman	100.00	
Miss T Dunkerley	1,000.00	
Mrs B B Edwards	1,500.00	
Miss D L Emery	2,613.76	
Miss B J Exell	100.00	
Miss E V Gidney	287.39	
Miss M E Greening	50.00	
Mrs L M James	23.29	
Mrs C Mort	90.91	
Miss G A E Powell	2,500.00	
Mrs M M Stevens	3,000.00	
Mr F Tadman	8,000.00	
Mrs G A Tadman	10,000.00	
Mrs A Talbot	9,394.59	
Miss M L Weymouth	375.00	
Miss G I Williams	70.00	
Miss E N Woombs	100.00	

General Work: Anon (In memory): £100.00; Anon: £100.00; Anon: £10.00; Anon: £0.26; Anon: £1.00; Anon: £15.00; Anon (Durham): £5.00; Anon: £300.00; Anon (Hereford): £30.00; Anon: £5.00; Anon: £5,000.00; Anon: £5.00; Anon: £1.80; Anon: £50.00; Anon: £2.12; Anon: £35.00; Anon: £25.00; Anon: £8.00; Anon: £5.00; Anon (W Yorks): £100.00; Anon: (Scotland): £60.00; Anon (FAE — Aberdeen): £20.00; Anon (Cymro): £133.00; Anon (Charities Aid): £120.00; Anon (Stamps): £34.41.

SEEING OR NOT SEEING?

by **Angus MacNeill**
the Overseas Secretary

At Kandy in Sri Lanka, I saw some monkeys foraging about in a roadside rubbish heap. They were interesting and photographic and that was all – or so I thought. Recently, I saw them again on TV in a BBC Horizon programme, where I learned that they are of special interest to scientists. It appears that these malaria afflicted monkeys may provide some valuable clues, leading to the discovery of a malaria vaccine.

So much for my powers of accurate observation! Obviously, I did not ‘see’ these monkeys properly when I did watch them at Kandy and this made me wonder about the accuracy of my insight into the many other things which I saw during my seven week tour of India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

I've never been out of the big cities

I saw a great deal – of that there can be no doubt. The business man who sat next to me on the plane taking me back to London from Colombo, confessed that in his many visits to India he had never been out of the big cities and, even then, he seemed to spend most of his time in hostels, factories or offices. He listened rather enviously as I told him about my recent visits to Indian and Bangladesh villages, where I ate along with local Christians and shared with them in worship and fellowship. I was indeed privileged to get beyond the ‘airport to hotel’ view of these countries and to find myself moving about in real life situations and not in the artificial world which is sometimes created for the tourist. Being a Christian and, in particular, being a representative of BMS, opened up doors of welcome through which I could go to get nearer to the heart of things.

So few among so many

Still, did I really ‘see’ everything I saw? I



Temple of the Tooth at Kandy

met fifty of our missionaries and talked with them. Each of them is either heavily involved in Christian work or preparing to be so involved. They represent the wide spectrum of service within the modern missionary movement and included pastors, teachers, agriculturalists, doctors, business managers, nurses and engineers. There was no doubting their sense of God's call to them, despite many a difficulty. Yet, what are they among so many? Over seven hundred million people in these countries makes the BMS fifty seem irrelevant by

comparison.

I met many Christians and I was taken to various churches and church institutions, as well as spending time talking to Christian leaders. In the great cities of Dacca, Calcutta, Delhi and Colombo, the Christians were there. In the hills and plains of Orissa, they were there. When I went to the north of Bangladesh and then down into the waterways of the huge river delta area, I came across groups of active, witnessing Christians. They were there in Kathmandu, ringed in



The Monkeys of Sri Lanka

by the hills and snow-capped mountains, and they were there gathered into a small church at Butwal, just at the point where the north India plain encounters the foothills of the Himalayas.

When I think of all these Christians, they seem to make up a considerable number of people, but again the 'seven hundred million' loom over them and over all the other Christians whom I never saw or met. If the truth be told, they are only a small minority in predominantly non-Christian countries, so, in seeing them and being impressed by them, as I was, did I 'see' aright?

It depends how you look at it

The viewpoint we adopt in all this, is important. From one vantage point, it all looks so insignificant – even a thousand new Christians a year could pass unnoticed. From another vantage point, the roll-on effect within these countries of a compassionate ministry in the name of Christ as it touches education, medical care and economic development, can appear to have a fair bit of weight behind it. Neither of these vantage points, I believe, give a true picture.

What has happened in these countries is that the Church of Jesus Christ has been

established, small enough though it may be, and as a result Christ Himself is present there through His people. The dynamics of this fact are incalculable.

I returned to this country grateful for the part which Baptist Churches in Britain are called upon to play in cooperation with these other Churches in applying the power of the Living Christ in an Asian setting.

I may not have 'seen' the significance of everything which I saw, but this I did see truly and clearly.

FAR ROUND THE WORLD

The Organisation of African Unity remains silent on the situation of minorities, complains Maxime Rafransoa.

Mr Rafransoa, who is General Secretary of the All Africa Conference of Churches, told a meeting on refugees that great violations of human rights on the continent have led to a generation of millions of refugees. He also said developed countries should pay more attention to the refugee situation in Africa 'where half of the total refugees in the world are being housed'.

African Christians need to support Bible translations, printing and distribution on the continent more than they do now, according to Milton Belete, Africa regional secretary for the United Bible Societies.

He estimated ten per cent of the funds for such efforts in Africa are raised there. He pointed out that only two of the continent's 26 Bible Societies (Nigeria and South Africa) are self supporting.

The prayers are too long say some members of Kenya's Parliament. They were complaining at the longwindedness of religious leaders at the opening of Parliament in March. In reply, the Speaker, Fred Mati said, 'It is difficult to control some things, especially prayers. Some people think that unless one prays for an hour, God does not hear.'

A Government minister suggested that religious leaders should limit their prayers to one minute.

Singapore has decided to make religion in high schools compulsory.

'Religious education is the best way to save the country from becoming a nation of thieves,' says deputy Prime Minister Goh Keng Swee.

Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, and Muslims are to study their own religion. Others are to study world religions in general.

Zambia's minister of national guidance, Arnold Simuchimba, has declared that his is a Christian country and will remain so until the end of time. 'That is one reason why every state dinner starts with a prayer,' he added.

Church Conferences in Asia, the Pacific and the Caribbean, have formed an Ecumenical Coalition on Third World Tourism. Peter Holden, former secretary of the South Australian Council of Churches, is to be the coalition's first executive secretary.

It hopes to help Third World people benefit more from international tourism. With a Southeast Asia headquarters, the secretariat is expected to begin operating by the end of April.

'The coalition does not want to end tourism, but rather to work for alternative tourism that is wholesome, creative and just,' Mr Holden says.

IT'S A PLACE WORTH VISITING

by David Aubrey



The Church at Tondo

If you mention Tondo to most of the Society's missionaries in Zaire, their immediate reaction is to smile. To them, Tondo is something of an enigma or even a joke. This is unfair. Because of the difficult journey, most of them have never visited Tondo. It is their loss, for besides being a large and active mission station, it is extraordinarily beautiful. Ntondo-Meleka, to give its full name, is set on the shore of Lake Tumba, about 140 km from Mbandaka and only 60 km from the Equator. The lake itself is 40 km long, full of dark brown water, and the habitat of crocodiles, hippos and many varieties of fish, while the surrounding forest is the home of a host of different birds. Such attractions alone make Tondo a place which most missionaries would willingly visit, were it not for the problem of getting there.

Six hours on a trailer

All journeys to and from Tondo have to be via Mbandaka, a large river port with a population of approximately 100,000. Situated astride the Equator, it has its own airport with a regular service to Kinshasa, three large markets and about 100 shops, including a reasonably stocked ironmongers. We buy most of our supplies there, but the trip from Tondo to Mbandaka takes about three hours travelling along fairly good dirt track roads. This makes it difficult, although not impossible, to do the round trip from Tondo in one day. Such a trip is very tiring. Not only is the heat oppressive, but the bone-jarring ride in a Land Rover or on the back of a lorry is so uncomfortable. Once, for fun, I spent six hours on a trailer behind a tractor returning to Tondo. Never again!

Such travel difficulties make an overnight stay at Mbandaka very desirable especially since we do not usually finish all the shopping and business in one day. However, finding somewhere to stay is not at all easy, particularly if we arrive, as most missionaries do, unannounced, late in the evening. Angus MacNeill once spent three days in Mbandaka waiting for someone from Tondo to meet him. Eventually he was able to obtain a lift with some Catholic missionaries. In the meantime he arranged to stay with some Americans. Today this is more difficult, but we hope that it may be possible to rent a flat or house in Mbandaka exclusively for use by missionaries.

No water or electricity

The newly arrived visitor to Tondo, is often shocked at what he sees. Many buildings are in poor condition. There is a lack of such basic amenities as running water, electricity and in my case even a cooking stove. Closer inspection, however, reveals that the place has possibilities.

My first job at Tondo was to make my house habitable. This mainly involved repairing and installing the lavatory, and replacing some sheets of corrugated iron, which had fallen from the roof. Once this was done, I was able to move in, gradually completing the decorating throughout my stay.

I then began my work in the hospital. My first task should have been to put up some new guttering, in order to give the hospital a water supply. However, the guttering did not arrive until three months before I was due to leave and so I began at Tondo by redecorating the operating theatre. For over 20 years Tondo had been without a doctor, but a year before I arrived, Dr Mpia and his

wife were assigned there. In Zaire, every doctor is expected to be a surgeon, but that is not easy without a useable operating theatre! There was much rejoicing when everything was ready and Dr Mpia began to operate. He is the first to admit his inexperience, but confidence will come with practise. Unfortunately, when I left, the doctor was not working. An administrative error had stopped his pay, and he had to go to Kinshasa to solve the problem.

Money pledged by British Baptists

About the time of the doctor's arrival at Tondo, it was felt that the hospital warranted a new maternity ward. In July 1980, the hospital committee applied to the BMS for a grant to build one, and in November we learned that £6,000 had been given to start the building work with a promise of more money to complete the job at a later date. We estimated that it would cost about £8,000 to build the shell of the building alone, and were very glad to hear that the ladies of Baptist churches up and down Britain were aiming to raise £10,000 to pay for the entire building — a reasonable price for a new maternity ward.

The building is not so much a maternity ward as a maternity block. Twelve beds have been placed in the main ward, although more can be squeezed in if necessary. Another room, with three beds, is used as both the antenatal waiting room and the examination room. There is also a post-natal clinic room, which can accommodate another three beds in an emergency. The other rooms are a store, a baby washing room and the delivery room. Electricity will eventually be installed in the delivery room and running water will be introduced into the whole block.



Travel in Zaire can be difficult

Everything except the bricklaying was carried out by the hospital workmen under their foreman Tata Yona. I had Ngubu to help me. He was both my work-mate and my friend. I was very pleased to assist at his baptism last year. I began to teach him to drive and now he does most of the hospital driving.

A chance to diversify

One of the most interesting aspects of working at the mission is that, although we all have our own particular job, we are expected to turn our hands to almost anything. Besides carrying out her responsibilities of nursing and administration, Wilma Aitchison also organized some of the decorating. Conversely, while I was on a public health trip, with Mary Hitchings, for example, I would weigh babies, or distribute medicine. Rena Mellor, although a full-time housewife, demonstrated her superb cooking skill for public health classes. Lack of time means that some jobs requiring attention cannot be done. I had to decline the teaching of English at the school. There are too few qualified people at Tondo and there is practically no skill which the BMS cannot use.

It is said that travel broadens the mind, and that is certainly true of mission stations. Several American missionaries

were working at Tondo on a school and housing project. They became my close friends, and as a result, I now understand the Americans better. I still do not entirely understand the Zairian people, but I like them and enjoy their culture. In some ways, Tondo is very Westernised, but many African customs and ceremonies remain. The most fascinating of these is the ancient tradition of Wulikeli, the dance and feast celebrating the weaning of a bride's first child. Zaire has its own modern culture too, particularly in music, dance, painting and even sculpture. When I was in the region of Bandundu, I came across a whole series of modern statues.

Zaire is an incredibly interesting place to work, where you always expect the unexpected. It has its frustrations, too. The ones which I found most aggravating were usually due to the lack of tools and materials. For the want of a single spanner, a job on the Land Rover could sometimes take hours rather than minutes. However, at the end of the day, after a swim and a wash in Lake Tumba, there was an opportunity to sit quietly and reflect on the day's work. So often, nothing seemed to have been achieved, even after hours of hard effort. As I sit back now at the end of two years and reflect on the work, it is satisfying to see that perhaps, something has been done after all.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE NURSES GONE?



At Kimpese, Betty Gill, the nursing school director, and Dr Stephen Rigen-Green are having to think about the new intake for the nursing school in September.

Is it going to be possible to have a new intake this year? There are not enough teachers to supervise the present number of students, never mind a further intake. The main problem is that it is not at all certain whether the Health Authority will provide any Zairian teachers. That information will only be available at the beginning of the new school year, which is too late to turn students away.

In Zaire this problem is country wide. At Yakusu and Pimu there will be no first year intake of student nurses this time. The number of national nurses trained to take responsibility in senior posts is too small. If hospitals, both those connected with the church and those related to the government, are any distance from a large town, they are poorly staffed.

Unfortunately not enough new candidates to serve in the hospitals of Zaire are coming forward. Retirement, ill health and other reasons have depleted the staff. The situation is all the more acute when you remember that furlough periods for our medical missionary staff have to be covered. Also it is anticipated that the Bolobo Hospital will once again become the responsibility of the churches.

The situation in Zaire is critical, but our BMS Medical Committee believes that this offers a great challenge to the churches in Britain. **'Make known the needs of Zaire. Help the nurses in your fellowships to see this as an opportunity and a call to serve Christ and the people of Zaire in their physical and spiritual need.'**

IS GOD CALLING YOU?

If you feel God may be calling you to serve as a missionary nurse, here are the qualifications the Society is looking for:

- * **State Registered Nurse**
- * **State Certified Midwife**
- * **A willingness to learn sufficient French to communicate freely**

- * **A willingness to pass your knowledge and skill to African young people**
- * **Your skills to be informed by the compassion, patience and saving love of the Lord Jesus Christ**

The Personnel Secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society the Rev Mrs A W Thomas is ready to answer any queries. Just write to her at: Baptist Missionary Society, 93 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4AA.



Health care for the next generation

DO WE WANT QUALITY OR QUANTITY?

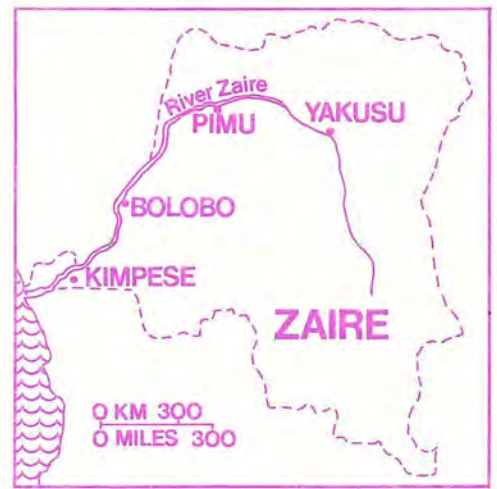
To support and maintain an acceptable service in a place like Kimpese, with the resources now available is virtually impossible. Difficult decisions have to be taken. Is it quality or quantity which is required? At the moment some of our missionaries feel that it is the quality which is suffering.

During the evening and the night there are two nurses, one trained and one student, for up to 80-90 patients, and these are for the paediatric and medical wards combined. The same situation prevails throughout the whole hospital. One ward for cases for tuberculosis has no resident nurse at all throughout the night.

That is only one aspect of a lack of resources. There is very little equipment

available at Kimpese. In the nursing school the course is modelled in a way that would make an English student nurse feel at home, but when the students work on the wards the reply is 'well we would like to do that, but we just don't have the means'.

Picture a ward in one of our modern British hospitals. Take away the shine from the floor, and replace it with concrete. Age and dirty the walls, and cause the paint to flake off. Chip the paint off the beds and remove all the bed linen except maybe one torn sheet. Remove the bed lockers, or at least remove the handles. Now take away all but four nurses and add 20 more patients, placing some on mats on the floor and others on metal stretchers. Forget about the meal trolleys and add



BMS Associated Hospitals in Zaire

visitors all the time. Increase the noise level a thousand fold. To all this add the worry of paying for the treatment, which can be more than your life's savings. You can forget the helping hand given by the social worker. Now you begin to get some idea of the picture.

It would be very easy to look totally on the black side and to forget the good. Against the problems it has to be remembered that at least the sick have somewhere to receive treatment, and in many cases that treatment is successful. So there is fulfilment in knowing that a degree of help exists.

From a letter written by Michael and Brenda Abbott who are nurses at Kimpese Hospital and teachers in the Nurses School.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WITNESS

Our nurses who serve in Zaire, because they are first and foremost committed Christians, have many opportunities to become involved in evangelism and the work of the church. The one-to-one relationship of nurse and patient gives many opportunities for witness. Of course this means that it is essential to have a good knowledge of the local African language.

Nurses become members of the local Zairian Church. They take part in those activities of the church for which they are most suited. The pastors and village teachers often have problems, and a visit from the missionary nurses, maybe for a clinic, is often a great means of support for those working in difficult situations.



Michael and Brenda Abbott with Kathryn

I WAS THRILLED TO BE BACK

From the time she left the Kond hills in 1972, ANNE BOUND had prayed for the day when she could return to the Kui people whom she loved. She wanted to tell them about their precious links in the love of Christ. Last year her dream came true.

It was such a thrill to climb up the *ghât* road again, which the pioneer missionaries had used at the turn of the century. They had entered the dreaded fever-invested hilltracts to preach the Gospel to the tribes there who still practised human sacrifice — but I was climbing it in a jeep to visit friends who had taught me so much about real faith and joy in the midst of adversity. The intervening nine years since I was there last, just rolled away. I had a great welcome with garlands from the Hostel girls, several of whom were daughters of old friends, and so many people came to renew friendship that I immediately felt at home again.

Although much seemed the same as I had remembered, there were, of course, changes. A dam has been built about a mile away from the mission compound and one of the valleys is now flooded, providing water for irrigation and creating an area of great scenic beauty. There are tube wells now in many of the villages and my general impression is that people enjoy better health and that the standard of living has improved, although they are still very poor compared with Western standards. Transport and communications have also improved and more people are able to travel away from their immediate home area.

My pupils are now teachers

The Church is still growing and I had a strong impression of vitality, especially among the young people. Instruments are regularly used in Church worship and singing really goes with a swing — a great contrast to the drag of former days. Women's classes were well attended in the far side of the district; the women still walk up to eight miles across the hills, often with a baby on their hip and a portion of rice on their heads, in order to



Missionaries visiting in a Kond village

attend the class. Self-help literacy work continues, though progress is slow, and I was especially thrilled to meet girls who were in the Hostel in my time, and who are now themselves teachers. Most of them are now married with young families but are also teaching in Government Primary Schools, leading evening literacy classes, and taking responsibility as leaders and deacons in their local churches. Others are nursing in various parts of the State of Orissa and two from Toruni and Bhaktimala, are in their final year of Bible training and will probably return to take positions of leadership in the work among the women. Christian Endeavour is popular among the young people and groups regularly go out from the older churches to lead Sunday worship in surrounding villages. Bhaktimala is sponsored by the Christian Endeavour movement.

We are grateful — our eyes are open

Most of the churches in the Kond Hills are part of the Diocese of Cuttack of the Church of North India. Indeed, they form the major part of that diocese and consequently many of the diocesan rallies and meetings are held in the hills, but increasing numbers of local churches are wishing to be independent. This is in many ways a sadness, especially when motives appear to be financial rather than theological, but there was a lovely piece of testimony from one of the independent churches which should be an encouragement to all who have helped in the building up of the work in the Kond Hills. The church invited Rev Angus MacNeill to visit them while he was in the hills and also welcomed the Bishop and the rest of us who were in the group. In a speech they said: 'We as a church are grateful to Almighty God

who through His servants from the BMS England opened our eyes to see the True Light. We were once animists. We worshipped idols. We were groping in the darkness. But now we have seen the Light and come to know the True God Jesus Christ who is the only Saviour of the world. We are also thankful to God for the BMS. . . . Please convey our greetings to the friends of BMS. Tell them that we are grateful to them.'

Not an easy task

I was especially impressed with the quality of some of the leaders of the Church. Their responsibilities are tremendous and although most of them are doing a grand job, they all spoke of problems and temptations. They were encouraged to hear of our prayer support, especially as they sometimes feel abandoned and forgotten.

Many of us had the chance to meet Rev Sudhansu Naik during his year's course at Bristol Baptist College recently. He is now Presbyterian-in-Charge of both the Balliguda and Udayagiri Pastorate Unions. It was fascinating to see slides of this country taken by Sudhansu and to hear him assure people of the support for them and their work which he found in our churches in Britain. He has been able to convey so much about our country and our churches to his own people in a way that the missionaries could never do and I sensed much more understanding of our way of life and therefore a strengthening of the bonds between us. This is especially noted in the way that people talk with such appreciation and understanding of the work that Joan Sargent is doing. I hope and pray that more of the young leaders will have the chance to study in this country.

The Church is like a flower

Bhagyabati is the first Kui girl to obtain

her BD degree. She is now Treasurer of the Union and responsible for women's work and her husband Charanabandhu is Diocesan auditor. They are a fine Christian couple with two charming young children and I was most impressed by their maturity and the quality of their family life. They seem to have found a balance between their responsibilities towards their work and towards each other and the children. We went to one women's class where Bhagy plucked a flower from my garland as we went into church saying, 'that is my visual aid'. She then proceeded to give a fascinating talk on fellowship illustrated by the insignificance of the single petal but the beauty of the whole flower where all the petals are related to each other and each is in its place.

People like Sudhansu, Bhagyabati and Charanabandhu fill me with a great sense of encouragement and hope for the future, when missionaries are unlikely to be able to share in the work. Alongside them is a large band of faithful pastors who have comparatively little education but a real love for our Lord and are faithful in preaching the Word and ministering to the people. Meeting them again and realising afresh some of the difficult circumstances under which they work and the sometimes overpowering temptations which they face, I realise how much I admire them. They are the real backbone of the Church and very much need our prayers.

continued overleaf



Kui family ostracized because they are Christian

I WAS THRILLED TO BE BACK

continued from previous page

I was never directly involved in the work of the Moorshead Memorial Christian Hospital, but I remember it as such a busy place in the old days, serving a very wide area. It is sad now to see it at rather a low ebb with very few patients. Many people spoke of the need for a surgeon but it has always been a problem to attract Indian surgeons to such a remote place, despite the fine surgical facilities available there. It was good, however, to meet a number of staff who have remained loyal through the years and are still giving of their best in spite of everything.

I stayed with Joan Sargent, in the house we used to share, and I was reminded of some of the difficulties which confront our missionaries. There is now 24 hour electricity at Udayagiri but in some ways I think we were better off in the days of oil lamps! Scarcely a day went by without many breaks in the supply or

such low voltage that strip lights would not function. On several evenings Joan's cook did not arrive to prepare the meal, which is not very easy to do when there are no package foods, only a wood fire and not even an electric kettle to boil water for tea. Constant interruptions all day long leave little time to concentrate on the accounts. Sponsorship of Hostel children, helpful though it is, involves a lot of work translating letters, taking photos, buying gifts and clothes and making the appropriate detailed returns. The problem is further complicated by postal delays and by the fact that many items can only be obtained 80 miles away in Berhampur. Even the jeep has to travel 30 miles for petrol!

I was certainly thrilled to be going back to the Kond Hills but also a little apprehensive because I was aware of the many problems in the life of the Church there. I think above all else the visit has

helped me to restore a balance. I met people with a real vitality and joy in the Lord, in the midst of the most adverse circumstances. Highly among these must be classed the lepers in the little village of Bulasuga.

I also saw signs of growth and maturity and sensed the vigour of the young people who are taking increasing responsibility in all aspects of Church life and are also working in harmony with some of the older folk who were leaders in the past. There is certainly no doubt that the Kui Christians welcome our visits and they spoke glowingly of various people who have been there for short periods working in the Hospital or in the little English medium nursery school. These links are an enrichment to us all and an encouragement as we work together with Christ for the building up of His Church in our world.



WHO CAN BEAT THIS?

How much does a BMS Globe hold? Does anyone know? Of course it depends on whether you put in ½p's or £50 notes, but one lady in Maesteg, Mid-Glamorgan thinks that she must have created a record.

When her Missionary Globe was emptied recently it contained £230. Is that a record? We don't know, but perhaps you can tell us.

HUNGER IN THE LIVING ROOM

by Vivian Lewis

Hunger invaded the prayer meeting that evening. It was our usual Friday evening gathering in the living room of the hostel at the BMS compound in Kinshasa. In ones and twos we drifted in, the missionaries who work at the headquarters of the CBFZ (the Baptist Church Community with which the BMS is connected), Gwen and I from the International Church, the teachers from the British Association School and David Masters, waiting to begin his work at Bolobo hospital.

Then Ruth Montacute, the headmistress

of the British Association School, brought in Steve and Cathy. Steve is our Church treasurer, an American out here on contract with Gulf Oil, working in their accounts department. Cathy helps each Friday at a baby clinic in one of the villages not far from the city.

A strange arrival

They are looking for the doctor. Cathy is carrying a pathetic bundle wrapped in a flour sack. It is a Zairian boy, and they want David to examine him.

The baby is the son of an unmarried teenage girl. Although he is over a year

old, he weighs only 10 lbs. His mother believes he has an evil spirit, so her family refuse to feed him. She brought him to the clinic and abandoned him there. Until a more permanent arrangement can be made for his care, Cathy is looking after him.

Someone held the boy while David examined him. His big round eyes stared listlessly out of a wizened face. His body was wasted, his arms and legs were thin sticks. David advised Cathy and Steve on feeding and on medicines to deal with infections, worms and other ailments. Cathy gathered the baby in her arms, thanked David and left with Steve and the bundle. For a while, that very sick little African boy will join their two lovely fair haired daughters as part of their family.

This time it is different

We are used to seeing hunger out here, at clinics or at hospitals, in the beggars outside public buildings, even among the people whom we pass as we ride along in our cars. But it seems different somehow when hunger comes, as it did that evening, into the living room. It seems more personal . . . too personal. We turned to our prayer meeting in a subdued mood.

Lord, I would like to hold hunger off at arm's length. I would like to deal with it second-hand, through the BMS or Oxfam. But tonight you have thrust it into the living room, into our hands.

Help us to be sensitive to human need. May we use all the means at our command to combat hunger and misery, disease and want. Remind us that in this way, we serve our Saviour, who said 'In as much as you do it unto the least of these little ones, you do it unto Me.'



Cry of hunger

CAN I BE PRIVILEGED, WHITE AND WISE?

The contrast between living in Britain and living in Zaire is most marked in the first months of missionary service.

ANDREW ROSSITER, newly arrived in Mbanza Ngungu, Zaire, speaks of his feelings.

What a difference from living in England! I look out from my desk across the road to see the women file past. Backs and legs are straining under the weight of bundles and metal bowls of produce loaded on their heads.

I am well aware of the excellent arguments for the situation remaining like this. 'What good would it do if a missionary had to tend a garden as these women do? If the missionary had to go to the river to wash, had to walk everywhere, there just wouldn't be time to do your job.'

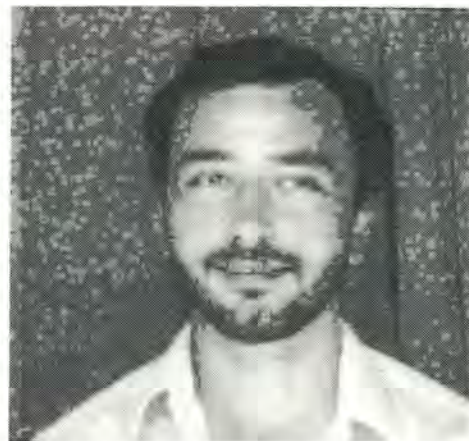
The other arguments are just as well stated. 'A white person has no immunity to the bugs in the water here, so all our water has to be boiled and filtered. The local church would not respect someone in authority doing jobs of the menial nature.'

Convincing as these, and other arguments are, I also hear ringing in my head the words of Jesus where he talks about the master being the servant and the first being the last. I also feel within myself, 'How much can we possibly hope to know of African life?' Such questions never stop coming into my mind.

But then I have a young visitor. After we have chatted for a while, he reticently starts on the subject of witchcraft and magic. 'What's the situation like in England.' I see a great divide within this young person. On the one side is the

strong belief in the power that one person holds over another, and yet, at the same time there is the strongly held belief in the Christian message of equality and of the love of God for all. It is here, in such situations, that the privileges of being white and missionary are sought out by the Africans.

So life here, as anywhere, is a balance between using the privileges, that we whites have, wisely, but at the same time continuing to question the life-style that follows in its wake.



WHEN GOD TAKES OVER THE TIME-TABLE

Andrew Rossiter — Now teaching in Zaire tells how he happens to be there.

It was GCE 'O' Level that brought Andrew Rossiter back to religion. Nothing else would fit around his other subjects in the school time-table.

Born in Devizes, Wiltshire, 23 years ago, Andrew attended a Baptist Sunday School.

'But at the revolutionary age of eleven I decided to leave the church,' he told the *Herald*.

When he left school his teachers wanted him to go to university, but he started work in Lloyds Bank instead. It was about this time that he heard of the 'new minister' at Sheep Street Baptist Church, Devizes and he went along to hear him.

'My conversation was not a sudden experience, but it gradually dawned

within me, and I feel it developing still.'

After two years, he felt the call to the ministry and was accepted for training at the Northern Baptist College, where he gained his BA degree in Theology.

'I am grateful to all the students, staff and folk who have widened and deepened my understanding of the Christian Gospel,' he said.

'Because of this experience, I realized that I was yet too young to take on the responsibilities of a Baptist Church, and I applied to the BMS as a short-term missionary.'

Now, after completing his initial training, and study of French, he has left for Zaire, where he is teaching religion and English at Mbanza-Ngungu.

MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

Arrivals

Miss V Campbell on 21 February from Dacca, Bangladesh
Miss A Flippance on 3 March from Binga, Zaire
Miss P Gilbert on 6 March from Mbanza-Ngungu, Zaire

Departures

Miss J Purdie on 7 February for Ngombe Lutete, Zaire
Mr C Sugg on 14 February for Kinshasa, Zaire
Dr E Marsh on 18 February for Berhampur, India
Miss V Campbell on 8 March for Dacca, Bangladesh
Rev F and Mrs Mardell on 8 March for Dacca, Bangladesh

DEATHS

In Glasgow, on 14 February 1982, **Mr John Adamson Dick**, aged 86. Honorary Member of General Committee since 1965.

In Derby, on 25 February 1982, **Miss Kathleen Mary Lewis**, aged 76 (India Mission 1934-1965)

In Stanford-le-Hope, Essex, on 27 February 1982, **Mr Frank Ager**, aged 87. Honorary Member of General Committee since 1970

NOTES FOR YOUR PRAYER GUIDE

Roy and Margaret Connor (25 June) have returned to Rio Negro.

Derek and Joanna Punchard (26 June) are now back in Foz do Iguacu.

Anna Weir (14 June) is on leave of absence.

Wilma Aitchison (29 June) is on furlough.

USED SPECTACLES— A BIG THANK YOU



Parcels of old spectacles are arriving daily from all parts of the British Isles, reports Mr T Slade.

'I have tried to send a note of thanks to those who have enclosed their address,' he says, but in the future he would like to be excused the time and the expense of writing 'Thank You.'

So will all donors please note that we are extremely grateful for all the spectacles which are sent and please accept this as our THANK YOU.

Please remember that spectacles should be in really good condition, but please do not send hard cases.

Parcels of used spectacles may be sent direct to

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

or addressed to Mr Slade and handed in to any branch of Clement Clarke, Clement Clarke Opticians, Wright and Mills, or Sabells.

SPECIAL OFFERS

1. BAPTIST UNION DIRECTORY 1982/83

(available September 1982)

Contains details and locations of Churches; names and addresses of Secretaries; Pastorates; names and addresses of Ministers; Lay Preachers; Rules; Constitution; Trusteeships etc. etc.

PRICE £3.95 – POST FREE if ordered C.W.O. by 31st August.

2. BAPTIST DIARY 1983

(available August 1982)

Containing useful Baptist information *plus* a full section for 1984 engagements.

PRICE £1.25 – POST FREE if ordered C.W.O. by 31st July.
Specify the colour – Yellow, Green, Light Blue, or Black.

Order from:
BAPTIST PUBLICATIONS
Baptist Church House
4 Southampton Row
London WC1B 4AB



Valediction of new missionaries at BMS Annual Meeting — from left to right, Susan Shields, Jackie and Michael Cranefield, Justin Blakeborough and Karen Rodwell

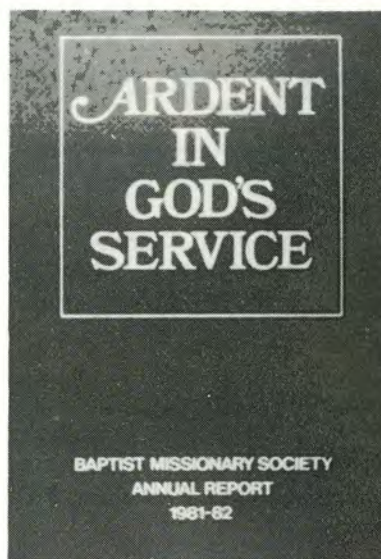
ARE YOU SENDING A MAGAZINE?

Are you sending your own copy of a magazine or newspaper to a BMS missionary under an arrangement with the Missionaries Literature Association?

The new secretary of the Association is anxious to update the records and would welcome your contacting him with details.

Please write to:

George Roberts,
63 Elizabeth Road,
Henley-on-Thames,
Oxon RG9 1RA.
Tel: 04912 5346



BMS ANNUAL REPORT 1981-82

Price 10p

Order now from:
Publications Department
Baptist Missionary Society
93 Gloucester Place
London W1H 4AA