

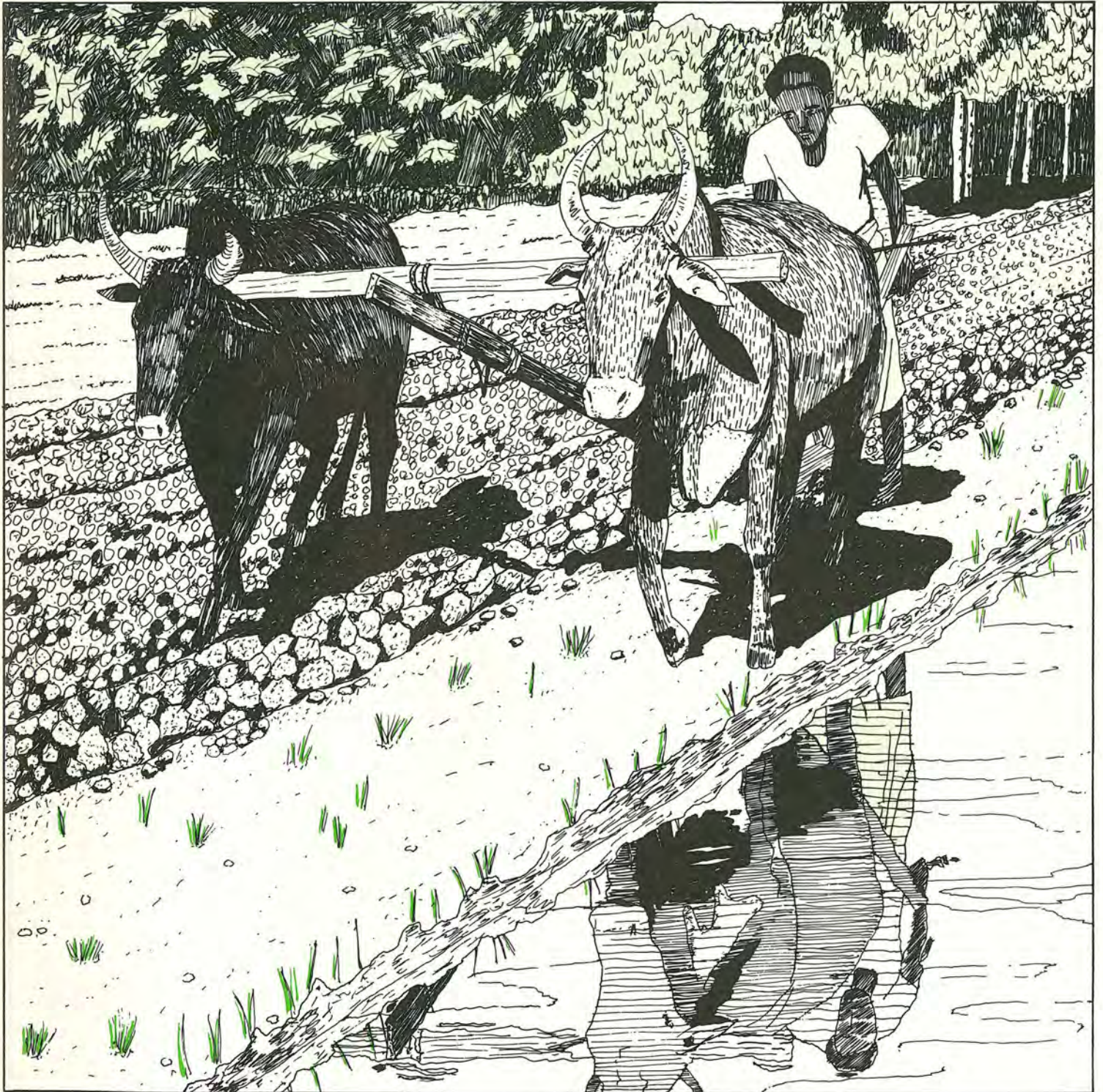
Missionary

HERALD

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Preparing the ground — Bangladesh

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COMMENT

The message we are receiving from so many countries is that they are moving backwards. Their economies are in retreat; communications are breaking down; and rising populations mean that it is seemingly impossible to overtake the problems of hunger, malnutrition and disease.

'How can we cope with the human need all around us,' says one of our missionaries, 'we can only deal with those who are on our doorstep. The vast majority of the poor and ill must continue to go without.'

For anybody but the poor

There are no instant solutions, for the picture presented is extremely complicated. In this edition of the *Herald*, the articles on Bangladesh and Brazil show how economic forces, politics, the interests of landowners, and even the conservatism of the farmers themselves, all conspire to keep the poor depressed.

War on Want, in a publication called *Underdeveloping Bangladesh* and Tony Jackson in *Against the Grain*, published by Oxfam, show how charitable and government aid can help just about everybody but the poor who need it. Of the 430,000 tons of grain donated by the UK to Bangladesh between 1972 and 1980 most of it went to 'privileged groups like the army, police and government employees', or the middle-class urban areas, or it just 'disappeared' whilst being distributed in rural communities.

No simple solutions

So what do we do? Turn our backs on the whole problem because it is beyond our capacity to cope? The Baptist Missionary Society and the Baptist Men's Movement working through Operation Agri say, 'No.' The Gospel is about new life for the whole man. It concerns his body, mind and spirit. There may be no simple solutions, but Christians cannot opt out of the task of working with their Lord, reaching out in loving service to so many in the agony of their living. We can say that where our missionaries, along with the Church in Bangladesh, have

been involved in the distribution of aid donated by British Charities, then Christian hands have made sure that it reached those it was meant for.

Extending OA's work

It is to the end of doing the loving work of Jesus Christ more effectively that the terms of reference for Operation Agri have been extended. In future all aspects of rural development, not merely agricultural work, will be supported. We hope that churches will take note of this as they prepare their projects for Harvest services next month.

When Operation Agri's Jack Norwood visited Zaire last year, he looked at the problem of water supply. In previous editions of the *Herald* we have pointed out that the lack of a supply of clean water is a major cause of disease in many Third World Countries. So Operation Agri's project for 1982 is based on Jack's experiences in Zaire. It can be used by children and young people as part of a harvest service.

Fleeing from the land

We see this new emphasis by OA on rural development as vitally necessary. Throughout the world there is a mass exodus from the countryside, which is associated with poverty, to the urban areas, where, it is thought, fortunes can be made. Already fifty percent of the Third World live in cities and their populations increase by 50,000 each day. If this trend continues Mexico City will have 31 million people by 2000 AD, and in Brazil, where BMS missionaries are working, São Paulo will be a 'megalopolis' and Curitiba will have a population of five million. The only part of the developing world where this is not happening, to any great extent, is China, which is encouraging the development of the countryside.

The poverty of rural areas will be exchanged for the larger problem of the city slum and the concrete jungle unless we accept the challenge to help rural communities now. Through the BMS and Operation Agri British Baptists have the opportunity of doing just that.

BANGLADESH

Size of Bangladesh — England and Wales together.

Population — 92 million or 1,700 persons per square mile, increasing by 8,000 per day. Most densely populated country in the world.

Food — Rice, but doesn't produce enough so heavy reliance on imports.

Health — 1 in 3 persons don't see a doctor once in their whole lives. 1 in 3 babies die before age 5. 70% of disease caused by lack of pure water supply and basic sanitation facilities.

Unemployment — Vast — no way of calculating percentages. Much of the work available is seasonal or casual.

Education — 82% of the population cannot read and write.

Economy — One of the poorest countries in the world relying very heavily on aid. No natural resources to exploit. When part of British India (up until 1947) it was used almost exclusively for the growing of jute for which there is now little call having been largely replaced by synthetic fibres.

Outlook — Grim.

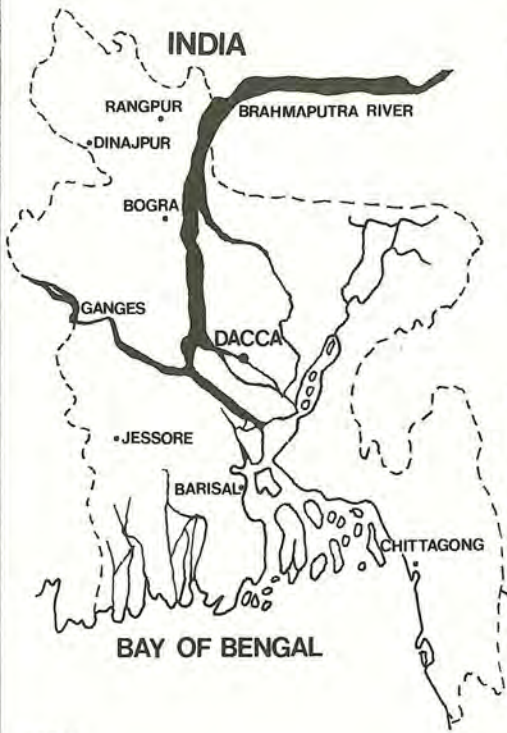


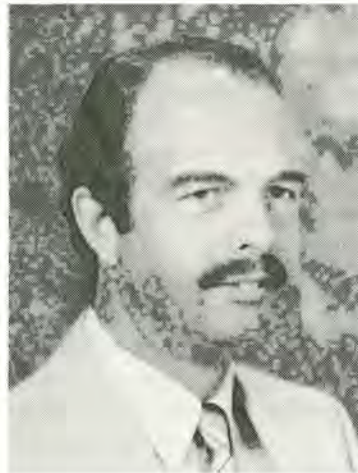
FIG 1

THE DILEMMAS OF DEVELOPMENT

The village of which I'm thinking is one of the 65,000 villages of Bangladesh. It is a cluster of bamboo and thatch houses, amongst waving palm trees, where 500 people live. Half of them are children under 15 years of age. Most of the people cannot read and write and are, by any standards, very poor. Not one of the households has a source of pure water, a sewage system or an electricity supply.

The village is about 10 miles from the nearest asphalt road and for about six months of the year the distance between is covered on a beaten earth road. For most of the six months of the monsoon season the earth road disappears beneath the flood waters from the nearby Meghna river and little boats are rowed and paddled along the line of the road in place of the dry season bicycles and cycle rickshaws. There is a school of sorts in the village, but the teacher is only half trained and the most the pupils can hope for is a grounding in 'the three R's'.

by David Sorrill



The majority of its people earn their living by farming, or by occupations related to farming, in common with the bulk of Bangladesh's population. Many of them don't have land of their own and rely on being hired as labourers by the landowning farmers. Others have an agreement with the landowner to farm

his land in return for a proportion of the crop, usually 50% of the harvest. When there is no work in the fields, the landless peasants as they are called, and the many landowning farmers whose land is too small to provide a family income all the year round, turn their hands to anything, especially fishing. Otherwise they migrate to the towns in search of work.

The Standard of Living is appalling

That's a very brief description of a typical village in Bangladesh, and probably holds good for many similar villages in other countries of the Third World. In many ways it is self-sufficient and traditionally able to supply all its own needs. But this is now changing as the marketing techniques of Western style selling agents penetrate to the most inaccessible village with things like synthetic fibre cloth, washing powder, tea, cigarettes, Coca cola and magazines.

Whether the village uses the skills of its

continued overleaf



Typical Bangladesh village

continued from previous page

own members, or looks more and more to the outside, for the things it needs, the standard of living and quality of life for nearly all the villagers is by our own accepted UK levels appalling. The beauty of the tropical sun reflecting from the luscious greens of the landscapes, the waving palms and thatched houses, the smiling, often beautiful, people, hide a struggle to survive and a frequency of suffering which we would not tolerate for a moment. You may think this an exaggeration. but the facts speak for themselves (see fig 1).

None of it is news, but we cannot remind ourselves often enough of the plight of some of our fellow World Citizens, WHO THROUGH NO CHOOSING OF THEIR OWN find themselves born into the ranks of the under-privileged. The big question confronting those involved in trying to help them is HOW?

It's a complicated picture

In our typical village what are the most obvious problems which should be tackled? There are differing views on the priority of the matter. One thing is sure without FOOD people will die. Without HEALTH CARE, and a pure water supply,

they will suffer unnecessarily and may die. Without EMPLOYMENT they will have no income. Without EDUCATION, of some sort, improvement will prove impossible. Without proper HOUSING general improvement will be very difficult.

The Voluntary Worker going from the UK to a Third World country to assist with his skills and expertise soon finds that what, at first, seemed from a distance to be clear cut areas of need are in reality part of an inter-related and very complicated picture. As an example take food production.

Bangladesh does not produce enough rice to feed its own people, and so has to spend precious foreign exchange (reserves of currencies which are accepted internationally in payment for goods, e.g. US Dollars) in buying rice from other countries. The obvious answer to this is to purchase more rice inside the country. Or is it?

We get an indication of what happens when more rice is produced by looking at the times when a good harvest naturally occurred. Because of the glut of rice in the market place the price

dropped. The landowners, many of whom live at or near subsistence level themselves, in sympathy with the price drop reduced the wages they paid to the vast numbers of casually employed farm workers, to safeguard their profits. Although the price of rice dropped, the prices of other basic items in the market which the farm worker needed to buy did not (see figure 2).

One of the great dilemmas of development work is how to tackle one problem without making another worse. The example in figure 2 is, of course, over simplified to make the point. To consider it further we would need to look at agricultural production in the economy as a whole. Questions would inevitably arise about land redistribution and social reform, with one question leading to another. These 'chicken and egg' type problem situations occur in many of the main areas of need in Third World countries like health, education, employment and population control.

We should keep ourselves informed

How may we, as Christians become involved in helping to resolve some of these problems which confront so many millions of people? Generally speaking the two levels at which help and assistance can be given are Local and National. Local means contact with specific groups and individuals where they are in the Third World country. National means government action and influence upon it here in the UK. We as Christians can be involved at both these levels. Local involvement through our missionaries and BMS commitments overseas. National involvement by the pressure we bring to bear, here in the UK, on the government of the day to DO something to improve the present situation. The Brandt Commission Report has done much to focus attention on the problems of the Third World, and our contribution could well be made by informing ourselves better of the specific

problems mentioned in Brandt, by joining in the debate on the Report, by writing to our MP's to ask what they feel about it and to urge greater sympathy and positive action on Brandt by the government of the day.

These are real people

But all of the problem situations, in whatever country, involve people, real people living out their lives like you and me. And at the local level our involvement can be equally valuable. If the action of governments is seen as tackling the problems from one end, then involvement in the local situation can be seen as tackling the problems from the other end. Working with individuals and groups to help them find solutions to the everyday problems facing them personally. Yes, a sudden increase in the amount of food available nationally may have a drastic effect on wages, but Mohammed Ali wants desperately to know how he can grow



Children playing forget their hunger

Rice production at usual level	— Huge imports of food grains, involving large expenditure of foreign exchange, released in to market at Govt discretion.	Wages of farm workers remain stable at barely subsistence level.
Greater production of rice	— Less food imports freeing foreign exchange for other vitally important purchases, e.g. raw materials, oil, equipment, spare parts.	Drastic reduction of wages paid to millions of farm workers causing great hardship.

size piece of land to feed his large family properly. The large cities may have chlorinated mains water supply, but he needs a tube well giving pure water for drinking instead of the stagnant pond he has to use now. Along with his fellow villagers he would like some sort of basic health centre in his village in place of the untrained quack doctor. He would like to learn to read and write, but there's no one willing to teach him. He would very much like to build a more permanent house for his family in place of the bamboo and thatch one he has now, which blows down in every cyclone and in any case has to be replaced every four or five years.

The contribution that can be made and the number of persons helped in these type of situations by just one appropriately qualified and motivated Christian, whether a national of the country, or a foreigner sent by a missionary society, is unlimited. Most missionaries can relate accounts of situations in which either they or more rice on his pocket handkerchief

colleagues 'happened' to be the right person in the right place at the right time. What they did may have been simple, obvious, and 'anyone else would have done the same thing'. But ask them whether the successful agricultural project, village health centre programme, leprosy control programme, blind centre, self help housing programme or literacy project, would have been started if THEY had NOT been there, and the answer invariably is 'Well I suppose there wasn't really anyone else around to do it.'

For those of us convinced that Jesus has a burning concern with the wholeness of persons, and can see that concern mirrored in the wholeness of his Gospel, there seems very little choice about our involvement. For most of us it will be speaking up in sympathy for the Third World, and the support of organizations like the BMS with its various projects. For a few it will be offering our skills and expertise for overseas service in the local situation, ready to be used by God to preach the Gospel through actions, as well as words.

Sue Le Quesne

BMS Women's Secretary, talks about this year's Women's project

Do you know what it is like to be 'packed in like sardines'? Travel in Bangladesh and you will understand the full descriptive power of the phrase.

Imagine a hot, humid day when the pastor needs to visit a church which is 60 miles away. To go by public transport means a ride in a crowded bus which might take three hours or more followed by a walk of anything from one to ten miles. It is not hard to imagine the physical exhaustion of such a journey. With the use of a motor-cycle the pastor can reach the church in two hours, and then be ready and fresh to lead the worship service, a communion service and visit the homes of the people as well. Ideally each church has a Communion service each month, but this usually depends on the visit of the pastor. There is still a shortage of trained pastors, and the distances to be travelled do not always make monthly Communion a practical reality, especially when public transport is used.

John Sarkar is one of the Bangladeshi pastors. He transferred to Ruhea, the church centre in the north of Dinajpur district in January 1982. With the help of a motor-cycle he can reach many of the



30 churches in the area within an hour or two. This depends on the condition of the roads because rain can make mud roads extremely slippery and hazardous doubling the time of a journey made in drier weather.

She makes several trips each day

The Sangha School for Blind Girls is situated at Mirpur — in western terminology it would be called a suburb of Dacca — about eight miles from where Veronica Campbell, the principal of the school lives in Dacca. Each week day, Veronica drives out to the school and back again at least once. This is a round trip of 16 miles or so, but she often has to make three or more such trips every day.

If one of the girls needs treatment for an eye — they can become painful and need treatment for various reasons — Veronica will go out to the school first

WORKERS ON WHEELS

thing in the morning and bring the girl in, probably with the housemother as well. In order to get near the front of the queue to see the doctor at the Islamia Eye Hospital it is necessary to get there early. Later she will take them back to school.

A Guide Company has just been started at the school. If some of the girls and members of staff wish to attend functions at the Guide House in Dacca they have to be brought in and taken back afterwards, and if more than five girls are going, then it will mean two trips each way.

The School for Blind Girls is a quarter of a mile down a brick and mud road leading off the main road. The potholes and puddles, especially in the wet season, have to be seen to be believed. The main road has been widened and re-surfaced in many places recently, but one section has been known to go under water and become quite impassable in the rains.

All this makes wear and tear on a vehicle very heavy, and a larger vehicle is needed. The present saloon car has given yeoman service, but its replacement by a Toyota Liteace will relieve many strains and provide needed reliable transport.

He needs to move around freely

As an engineer who is called to advise and oversee buildings in different parts of the country, David Wheeler spends a lot of his time travelling around. He is closely concerned with the building of the premises for the Blind School at Mirpur, which is at present in rented buildings. He comes up to Dacca every two weeks or so from Chittagong to



Village served by Bangladeshi pastor

check on progress. He often needs to carry materials and equipment around and when he gets to his destination it is helpful for him to be able to move around freely in order to go to any necessary offices. There is also much running around to be done in Chittagong, both in connection with the building work and in helping Chandraghona Hospital and BMS colleagues.

Three different spheres of service in which the provision of suitable transport can mean the saving of much time and physical energy and can enable the work to be done more effectively to the glory of God.

Wheels are an intrinsic part of our life in

the West. Do we take them for granted? Fifteen years ago not a single pastor in Bangladesh had a motor cycle, but now several have them and can move around more quickly and easily. Others can benefit when more are available.

Next time you get into a car, or a bus, or a train, please think of pastors and missionaries travelling in Bangladesh. Will you help them to do it more easily?

The target for this year's BMS Women's project is £10,000. The money will go to buy five motor-cycles for pastors in Bangladesh and to purchase two vehicles, one for the School for Blind Girls and another for David Wheeler in his work.



Meal time — School for Blind Girls, Dacca



TRUE UNITY

There exists a unity which transcends churches, nations and cultures, and holds people together in a common experience of poverty, insecurity and helplessness. These people are counted by the million. They are in pain and Jesus is solidly with them. Poverty grinds them into a mass of dough, and affliction bakes them into a single loaf of bread over which Jesus quietly bends with the words, this is my body, my self. It is in this crucified and broken body of his that Christ is breaking down all dividing walls and creating the new humanity. It is through the struggle of the Crucified Humanity of God and through the affirmation of freedom and dignity by the oppressed Son of Man that the true and common humanity is built and we are made whole.

Samuel Rayan,
India theologian

Around Potinga, on the coastal strip of Parana, most people live in their small holdings. There they keep cattle, a few lard pigs, backyard chickens and a scraggy dog or cat. All this on about 60 acres of very hilly terrain, where they grow bananas and manioc as cash crops, maize and sugar cane as animal feeds, and rice and beans and a variety of fruit trees for home use. Any surplus they sell. Flour, sugar, yeast, soap, coffee (although they grow a little), clothes and any 'luxuries' like furniture have to be bought.

Normally they do not bother with vegetables, because these are difficult to grow. There are too many pests and diseases, and in any case vegetables are difficult to keep. Their water usually comes from rivers in buckets. Latrines are rare. Local schooling is in one room school houses, with one teacher struggling with four classes at the same time. The teacher often has little more education than her pupils. The houses are fairly well made wooden structures with tile roofs to keep out the heavy rainfall and cool winters. Health is poor and infant mortality fairly high.

Changes are coming quickly to the area, mainly because of the road. Many people are tempted to sell their land and move to town, especially since offers from city folk wanting a country retreat and an investment are attractive. Their own obvious difficulties look larger than the unknown hardships of the town slums.

Improving Agriculture

Frank and Peggy Gouthwaite moved to Potinga in December 1976. They spent the next three and a quarter years trying to see how the people could be helped to improve their situation. During this time, in May 1979, the Baptist Rural Development Centre, CEBADER, was inaugurated. The main emphasis of CEBADER is to improve the agriculture and so make way for economic development. Experiments were made with vegetables, maize, passion fruit, dairy cow, chickens and citrus. They also grew plantations of sugar cane and napier, which is a type of elephant grass, for feeding the cows.

The vegetables were not a success because of disease and a lack of regular transport to take the produce to Morretes from where it could be marketed in Curitiba.



Frank and Peggy Gouthwaite

They soon discovered that it was cheaper to buy maize than to pick and shell the maize that had grown. 'We still don't know why the local people continue to plant maize,' says Frank Gouthwaite. 'Most of them do the land preparation, planting, weeding and harvesting all by hand, but the cash value of the crop is determined by the economics of the large scale highly mechanised and labour efficient farming of the plateau, and even the world price is determined by US grain surpluses. Against these factors must be put the fact that much of the labour required is very basic and can be entrusted to the children. Since the average family size is six or more, this is a considerable economic benefit to local families that it is not available to us at CEBADER.

Extracting juice to bottle

Growing passion fruit was a success. It is a perennial vine that gives a round yellow fruit full of seeds mixed with juice. When the juice has been extracted it makes up into a delicious drink. The flavour is all its own, but is probably more like orange than anything else. In the southern hemisphere it produces ripe fruit continuously from December to July. The first year it had a good steady price for the whole period. They planted more, and encouraged others to do likewise. About half a dozen did so. The next year the price slumped. They soon started extracting and bottling the juice themselves. That meant that the fruit did not have to be sold within three days or thrown away. Despite some difficulties this has proved to be a profitable proposition.

Sadly the locals show little enthusiasm for the crop. Many are put off by the cost of wire and the relatively large amount of labour required to cut the



POTINGA, PASSION AND

compiled from
Frank and Peg

stakes and install the support system. The government offers loans on very easy terms to help small farmers with such costs, but they are afraid of getting into debt.

A poor response

Frank Gouthwaite found it profitable to breed and fatten pigs of typical meat breeds, but this requires a lot of care and special facilities, which the locals were not able to provide. So he tried to concentrate on breeding the pigs for the locals to fatten. The response was very poor. People would buy a pig or two. Frank would explain the rules for fattening and provide a bit of ration to be going on with telling them to come back when they needed more. They would not be seen or heard from until six months later when they would complain that the pig was thin, and not



PLACE OF N FRUIT PIGS

in letters sent by
Geggy Gouthwaite

growing. Generally they ignored all the basic rules, but chiefly the problem seemed to be that they did not believe that feeding all that special ration which Frank talked about could possibly be profitable.

Pig keeping is worthwhile and something to be encouraged, but again people have not got the money to invest in a worthwhile group of pigs and are afraid to borrow it on the government's soft loan terms.

The daily milk run

When they acquired cows, in 1978, they were assured that a daily milk run would be operating within a matter of three months or so, but this has not yet materialised. Attempts to make cheese have only been moderately successful. So there was not much point in trying to

gain the biggest possible yield from the cows. They moved to one milking a day and thought about changing to beef cattle. Then at the end of last year they found someone who would pick up the milk daily and take it on his bicycle for sale in Tagaçaba. His customers could not face the inevitable price increase when wages went up in November, but they found that the milk could be sent to Guaraqueçaba on the bus everyday. Then the morning bus demanded an exorbitant tip and forced them to use the evening bus instead, and to pasteurise all the milk. But they persevere. 'We hope that this opening up of the market will also open people up to receive some of our advice on how to get more milk from their cows,' says Frank.

They have also been looking into the growing of high yielding varieties of rice. The birds ripped up the first plots planted as soon as the young shoots sprang up. They replanted and paid a little boy to sit there all day and bang a tin can as soon as a bird appeared. Unfortunately the birds got there first and ripped it all up before it even produced a shoot. By the time this was realised it was too late to get two harvests from the same plants. If you cut some rice varieties at ground level, they sprout again and will produce a second harvest three months later, if the weather doesn't get too cold. They waited until the time when 'everyone' in the area

plants rice. This time they watched hard for the birds and saw none, but still the rice did not come up. Rats were stealing at night. Somewhat against Frank's ecological conscience, they resowed with aldrin mixed with seed. Whatever its other effects, there were, in March, six demonstration plots of rice looking quite reasonable. The next problem will be to stop the birds eating the ripening ears.

Learning to work together

Last year they acquired a second-hand lorry capable of carrying seven tons. After some initial problems, it has given faultless service. It has been useful in taking some of the local people's bananas to Morretes where a producers' association, or co-operative, has been ripening them and sending them to Curitiba for sale. The hope has been to achieve higher prices than those normally offered by the middlemen, but the results so far have been mixed. This has been because the producers' association is itself inexperienced and is having 'teething troubles'. A number of people have tried once, have not experienced instant success and have not persisted. On the other hand the people of Itaqui have been so poorly served by the middlemen that even mediocre prices seem good to them, and they are beginning to show the continuity necessary if regular customers are to be found and kept supplied. This is the only way to ensure regular sales at reasonable prices.

continued overleaf



Passion fruit vines at Potinga

POTINGA, PLACE OF PASSION FRUIT AND PIGS

continued from previous page


Continuity of supply is vital in order to achieve continuity of sale. This means that a marketing association must be able to count on its members' produce. Any member who sells to middlemen must be eliminated, since his vacillation makes it impossible to guarantee constant supplies to the organization's regular customers.

This is very important as CEBADER encourages the formation of an association. A co-operative is something the local people have wanted for a long time, but the fear is that too many want all the advantages without accepting the responsibilities. A co-operative is a group of people working together to overcome obstacles and achieve something together. Will the people expect the association to achieve something for them without themselves doing anything to help?

Roads for development

The meetings to promote the formation of the association have shown that the first concern of most people is not the price their produce can command, nor the high price of groceries in the local shops, nor the lack of somewhere to buy seeds and fertilizers, but for roads — side roads that would branch off the main ones and pass through the properties where their plantations are. The government has a special programme for developing the rural areas, with funds set aside for road building. Frank is therefore surveying the routes where people say they need roads and drawing up requests to present to the appropriate authorities, including justification for each road in terms of the number of families to be benefited, the amount they already produce and the amount they could produce.

And so the work at Potinga proceeds. Farmers are notoriously conservative in their ways and take a lot of convincing that the new methods being introduced by Frank Gouthwaite are worthwhile. 'But,' says Frank, 'we look forward to seeing what God will do for us, and maybe through us, with these people in the future.'



Swansea
Maesteg

WALES BEATS WALES

Dear Sir,

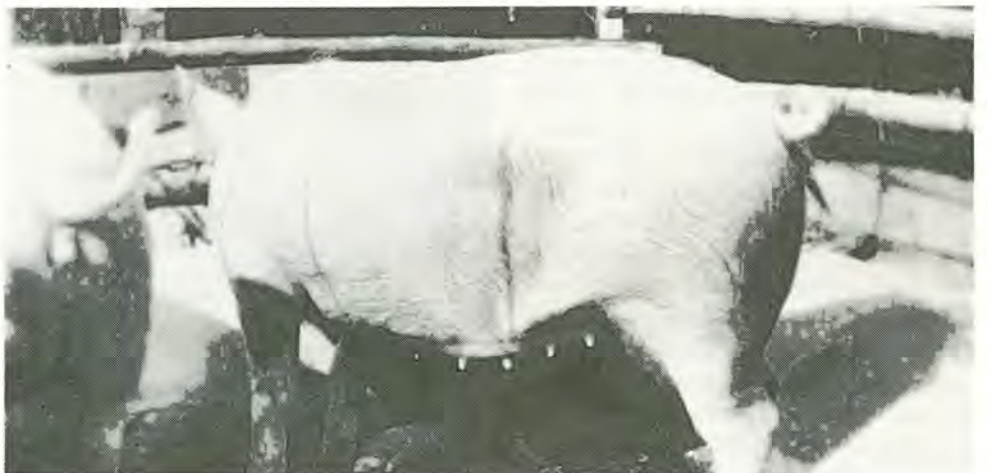
I was interested in the short article in this month's (June) *Missionary Herald*, 'Who Can Beat This?' We can! At our last box opening one of our members had £480 in his globe.

He handed it in two weeks before the opening then added another £20 making £500 for his yearly offering.

Hoping someone can beat this amount.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs) E Evans,
Secretary, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church,
Swansea.



Pigs from the project off to market on the new lorry

A FREE GIFT FOR DEVELOPMENT

by **Stan Crees**, Liaison Officer for Operation Agri

Every Operation Agri shipment sent overseas is accompanied by a Gift Certificate. It states that the goods being despatched are 'a free gift for a development programme'. As a result we hope that the goods will be allowed into the country concerned free from import duty.

Those same words also express the main purpose of Operation Agri. We are privileged to receive gifts of money from our supporters, and then we have the responsibility of passing them on in the form of tools, equipment, vehicles, spare

parts, water pumps, seeds and other items to be sent overseas. We provide funds for repairing buildings, digging wells and constructing grain stores, all for the purposes of development in rural areas, where a need has been observed.

Long before the gifts are despatched, a great deal of work has been done behind the scenes. Many people are involved in locating and obtaining the best item for a particular purpose. In this article I want to introduce you, anonymously in order to avoid embarrassment, to some of the people who are the links in the chain between those who give and the requests received from our missionaries. These friends provide information, or the items requested, or by naming sources and resources, put us on the right track.

Good quality seeds are needed

Often the smallest items involve the most people. When a request is received for an unusual variety of seed, which is not listed in our standard seed catalogues, we can turn to several Christians who are experts in this field. One such person is a scientist at a plant research station just outside London. Here they have a wide knowledge of new seed varieties which are being investigated for possible use in developing countries.

Other Christian colleagues work in a national centre for botanical research. They have often come to our aid in locating such seeds as *Amaranthus hypochondriacus* (fig 1), a fast growing cereal-like plant with a high protein content in the seed which David Stockley requested some time ago. Or *Psophocarpus tetragonolobus*, otherwise known as the 'winged bean' (fig 2). The young pods, leaves, tender shoots and



The seed head of
Amaranthus
hypochondriacus

FIG 1

seeds of this plant can all be eaten. The seeds are particularly nutritious.

More recently we have been introduced to a seed production controller, who has been working in East Africa since 1972. He believes that good quality seed is vitally important to the development of agriculture in the Third World. Recently he has sent us a sample of around 800 seeds of *Leucaena*. This is a tropical legume, which will be used in trials at Tondo to discover its suitability as a green manure and ground cover. We hope this will improve soil fertility and reduce erosion on land under cultivation at the agriculture project there.

Helping with equipment

When we receive requests for items of equipment we can turn to a Baptist friend in Essex, who has recently given advice on drive belt requirements for a grinding mill, or to farming friends in Suffolk and Somerset, whose knowledge of agriculture has been invaluable over the years.

Baptist men with vehicle businesses in the Midlands and London deal with our transport problems. Provision of a trailer, spare tyres, and cross-country
continued on page 127



Winged bean:
Psophocarpus
tetragonolobus

FIG 2

LEARNING HOW TO BE A NEIGHBOUR

by **Dr Salim Sharif**

Presbyter in Charge of the Parliament Street Free Church, New Delhi, India

Around the great city of Delhi there are many slums. In order to rehouse the people who live there the Delhi Development Corporation has built a number of estates, called colonies. But although they have somewhere new to live, the needs of the slum dwellers have altered very little.

So the Parliament Street Free Church has decided to launch a Community Development Project concentrating on the three colonies of Khicharipur, Kalyanpuri and Trilokpuri. A study of these areas has shown that the population is about 150,000 divided between some 30,000 families. The plot given to each family is about 15 feet square, and so, when families have six or seven members, living conditions are pretty miserable and unhygienic.

Medical facilities for the residents are provided by the government dispensary, which is an extension of the Lady Hardinge Medical College and Shrimati Suchets Kripalani Hospital. There are also a few private practitioners serving the area, but they charge exorbitant fees, which are way beyond the reach of these people. Unfortunately the public institution is not able to meet all the needs of the inhabitants.

Now that we have studied the area and have got to know the people, we can see that there is a need to teach them about immunisation and preventative medicine. We have drawn up several programmes to promote physical, mental and moral growth of children. We also aim to start a Community and Family Health Care training programme and to improve living conditions by helping people to find work.



Parliament Street Free Church, New Delhi

We want to care for the whole child

Let me tell you about our Child Welfare Programme. We know that the fulfilment of a child's needs at various age levels has a far reaching impact on the development of his personality. Child welfare is no longer confined to a narrow concern for orphans, abandoned infants or handicapped children. It cares for all children and embraces every aspect of their life. Keeping this in view, we have planned a varied programme of sports meetings, film shows and creative art workshops. This will give them the experience and guidance which is not normally available. We are also trying to teach them about the wider world by encouraging educational tours and exhibitions.

In the future, we hope to start a Day Care Centre and a children's After School

Centre. The Day Care Centre will cater for three to six year olds from the overcrowded houses of the low income group. These children are economically and socially backward, so we want to encourage them to attend school and to learn how to become good citizens. We also hope to help them to give love, to show affection, and to have a care for others — attributes which few of them have experienced in their own homes.

The After School Centre is designed to enable a child to develop his creativity. We shall use clay, rice, glass, straw and other materials so that the children can freely explore their creative talents.

We must control the spread of disease

Ill health causes poverty and poverty causes ill health. Until a community is healthy, any hopes and plans it may have

for development are doomed to failure. Many of the diseases in the colonies could be avoided if a clean environment were created. Mosquitoes and flies spread a wide range of illnesses and every step must be taken to control them. People need to be taught how to care for themselves and how to be involved in community health measures.

The women are learning about the importance of nutrition in the development of physical and mental growth. Practical demonstrations are given on good food and better eating habits, showing how a well balanced diet means a healthier community.

It will take many years to build all the

hospitals which India needs for her rural communities and city colonies, but it is possible, meanwhile, to provide basic health care through the use of trained, part-time health workers. It is vital that such workers live in the community which they serve, so that they know the background of the people and are accepted by them.

The health workers' course gives them a fundamental knowledge of First Aid. They learn how to treat minor ailments; to recognize contagious diseases, and to understand environmental sanitation, personal hygiene and immunisation. They also deal with inter-personal relationships. At the end of the course they take an exam to discover their interest and proficiency in health care.

We expect these workers to liaise between the community and the Health Care Centre.

There are not enough midwives

In India more than 75% of the babies are delivered by untrained attendants called *Dais*. These women have learned about childbirth from their mothers or other elderly women. They may have many years of experience, but most of them are illiterate and adopt many unhygienic and harmful practices. It is to these *Dais* that the expectant mother often turns for help. But it is important that women receive competent care in labour and that trained post-natal care be given.

It will be a long time before India has sufficiently fully trained midwives, but we can take steps now to organize training courses for the *Dais*, which will provide basic skills and technical knowledge. In this way the danger of cross infection can be reduced. The course is part-time. It has one session a week spread over three months.

Of course there are draw-backs in using non-professional workers. Will they realise the limitations of their knowledge? Will they recognize that they are not competent to treat every disease? Furthermore, although these lay people can be put to work with little initial training, they require years of in-service experience.

We therefore plan to hold, what we term, a Roadside Clinic. This will serve the community and provide a supportive service for trainees. It will be held weekly and, although primarily it is intended to give the trainees experience under close supervision, its secondary purpose will



Church in a New Delhi colony

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ON THIS ROCK . . .

Angus MacNeil reporting the General Assembly of the Baptist Churches in Zaire

A Church General Assembly of just over thirty delegates seems strange when we compare it with Baptist Union Assemblies in Britain with their hundreds of participants. However, for the Baptist Church of the River Zaire (CBFZ), it is quite impossible to gather together a large number of delegates from all the six Church Regions. Given good communications and transport facilities, it would be quite a task even then in view of the vast distances involved, but in Zaire travelling remains an uncertain business at the best of times and when the opportunities do arrive they are often prohibitively expensive. The result of all this is that the CBFZ General Assembly, held at Upoto during the first week of June, could only be made up of a small selective group of representatives, who got there using river boat, canoes, Land Rovers, Air Zaire and Missionary Aviation Fellowship.

The Assembly had a theme — 'On this rock I will build my Church'. Each morning at 6.30 a.m. the delegates met for a time of worship and prayer led by this year's Assembly chaplain, the Rev. David Norkett, director of the Theological School at Yakusu. The rest of the day was given over to Assembly business, either in open sessions of discussion and debate or in the work of Commissions which dealt with different aspects of CBFZ life and activity. A Church Community of over 100,000 members provides plenty of subjects to be discussed, although in the main, the Assembly only considers what is referred to it by six Church Regional Assemblies, held earlier in the year.

A Spirit of understanding

This year one of the items on its agenda was the appointment of the BMS Overseas Representative for Africa. This



Worship in the Upoto Church

had been approved by the 1981 CBFZ General Assembly but a number of difficulties had emerged as far as the CBFZ was concerned and, after a full debate, the Assembly decided to rescind its previous decision. The matter is a delicate one, with the CBFZ considering a compromise solution at the moment. Despite differences of opinion, the Assembly never lost the spirit of understanding and retained its concern that the partnership between CBFZ and BMS should continue to grow and develop. Indeed the President of the Assembly was a missionary and one or two missionaries were there as delegates.

The Assembly listened to reports which spoke about financial problems in the running of the Central Secretariat, at the same time as it heard about efforts in Kinshasa to do something for unemployed girls and the need for evangelistic work amongst teachers in the many schools which have become a CBFZ responsibility. Pastors were urged to hold classes for people recently baptised and to encourage those in their charge to move on to meaningful discipleship of Christ.

Inspiring leadership

The Rev Koli Mandole Molima, who was elected for another five year term of office as General Secretary of the CBFZ, was often on his feet to clarify a situation

or to guide the Assembly in its decisions, as were the various Regional Secretaries. It is on these men that so much depends within the CBFZ for the inspiration of leadership. Theirs is not an easy task. 'Don't hold that consultation in July' said one of them referring to a special meeting which was being proposed, 'I need to be at home for a bit and so see the family during their school holidays. I always seem to be away from home.'

Joyful Celebration

On the Sunday of the Assembly week, over a thousand people gathered in the Upoto Church for a Service of Worship and Communion. This was the Baptist Church of the River Zaire — old and young, pastors and people, men and women packed into the Church building and spilling outside on to the surrounding grass. A joyful occasion of singing by choirs and congregation, a rejoicing together in the welcome given to the Assembly delegates and an attentive listening to the preaching of God's Word. The fact that the combined Service lasted over five hours did not seem to matter!

By now the delegation and the Assembly are back home in their own regions. The work of the Assembly is over for another year, but the Spirit of God continues to work in and through His Church in Zaire. ■

LEARNING TO BE A NEIGHBOUR

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be to serve the needy people of the area at a nominal charge.

Plans to provide work

Our third objective in this community development project is the Employment Scheme Programme. We feel that this is necessary because most of the people with whom we are concerned belong to the economically weaker section of society. Many of them have to cycle up to 25 kilometres to work, and what they earn will not even provide two meals a day. No wonder there is so much ill health!

We have plans through a vocational guidance bureau to help these under-privileged families — many of them starving — to find employment. The Bureau will provide information of work available and the various types of work which they might do.

We also intend to launch a Vocational Training Scheme for both men and

women. We hope that Funding Agencies will provide scholarships and that proper guidance will be given about the best career to follow. They will be encouraged to undertake training in things like driving, sewing, knitting, secretarial work and telex operation.

We will also encourage those who choose to start their own cottage industries in the manufacture of masala (spice), matchboxes, candles and soap.

We believe that a good employment programme is very necessary to overcome the poor living conditions of these people, and our concern is to help them develop into a happy, healthy community.

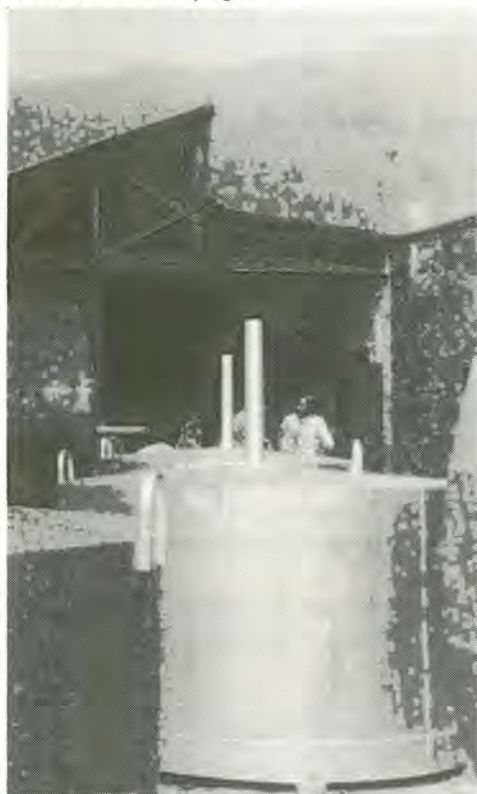
Much of this project is still in the future, but we have the vision and we believe it right in the sight of God to make this vision a reality. We covet your prayers in support of this outreach.



Caring for Children, New Delhi colony

A FREE GIFT FOR DEVELOPMENT

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Bio-Gas production

transportation of items for shipment are some of the ways in which these willing helpers have assisted the work of our farming missionaries.

With the advance of technology we are glad to have technical help from men with an inventive turn of mind in electronics and other disciplines. We have received considerable help already in the fields of solar energy, radio communications, boat transport, water supply and bio-gas production. We know that we are going to need their expertise in the future.

In the shipping world, we have other Christian colleagues who will take on board any freighting tasks presented to them. Their vast experience has saved us many hours and much expense as the goods for shipment begin at last to move towards their appointed destinations.

Using Missionary expertise

This is by no means the limit of the expert advice to be obtained within our Baptist circle. We can consult agricultural

missionaries of earlier days who are now resident in this country. They have a fund of first hand knowledge of where they served. This can be vital in reaching decisions about equipment to be purchased or advice to be given. We can obtain assistance in the fields of nutrition, incubation, weed control, agricultural education, self-sufficiency, solar energy and a host of other topics, all for the cost of a stamp and a large fund of goodwill on the part of these helpers, ladies as well as men.

We believe this goodwill, these free gifts of time and talents, this readiness to help at little or no cost to Operation Agri, or the BMS is symbolic of the wider generosity of spirit expressed by our supporters as they give so readily to support the practical work of BMS missionaries working with the church overseas.

In this way the missionaries are better able to follow in the footsteps of Jesus who declared that he had come 'to bring good news to the poor . . . and set free those who are oppressed'.

PLEASE ORDER NOW!



Many churches have already received their projects, leaflets, posters, gift envelopes etc for the Operation Agri Harvest Appeal. If you haven't already sent your order form (enclosed with July 'Herald') please do so today!

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MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

Arrivals

Miss R Montacute on 14 May from Kinshasa, Zaire

Dr D K and Mrs Masters on 20 May from Bolobo, Zaire

Rev D J and Mrs Hoskins and family on 22 May from Cocoyea Village, Trinidad

Departures

Miss B M Earl on 4 May for Pimu, Zaire

Rev D W and Mrs Doonan on 12 May for São Paulo, Brazil

Rev H F and Mrs Drake on 18 May for Luanda, Angola

Births

On 26 April, in Brazil, to **Rev D and Mrs Grainger**, a son, **William Alexander**

On 5 May, in Stafford, to **Mr and Mrs G C Smith**, a daughter, **Zoe Esther**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretaries acknowledge with grateful thanks the following legacies and gifts sent anonymously. (28 April-11 May 1982)

Legacies

	£	p
Mrs E E C Boulding	214.04	
Mr F Illingworth	38.65	
Mrs E H Puddephatt	100.00	
Mrs M M Stevenson	100.00	
Mrs L Taylor	1,980.00	
Miss E E Worvell	2,380.21	

General Work: Anon (Advance): £40.00; Anon: £30.00; Anon: £30.00.

Gift & Self Denial: Anon: £5.00.

PRAYER GUIDE NOTES

Rev David Martin (2 August) is Home Education Secretary as well as Young People's Secretary.

Rev S J Newbery (7 August) died on 15 June. Remember Mrs Newbery.

Frank and Dorothy Vaughan (18 August) return from furlough to further service, to Cotia.

David and Sheila Brown (22 August), after furlough, returned to a new location at Port Velho.