

MISSIONARY



HERALD

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY

MAY 1985 20p



**Christian witness
in Sri Lanka**

Editorial Comment

WE have said many times that the strength of the Baptist Missionary Society stems and has always stemmed from its grass-roots support in local Baptist churches. In the Baptist churches of the British Isles our missionaries are nurtured and sent out; those same churches provide the resources to support their work; and they are upheld and uplifted by the faithful prayers of committed Baptist church members.

As a Society, however, we have to recognize that there have been many changes in Baptist Church life over the last 20 years. The mobility of the population as a whole has brought many people into our churches from a non Baptist background. We can no longer assume that every person within a Baptist church has a knowledge of BMS history or an understanding of what we are about in world mission today. There is a big job to do in education about the world Church.

There are many ways in which the Society is trying to tackle this. We are endeavouring to improve all of our promotional materials so that we can assist churches in their teaching programmes. But we realize that unless key people in the churches are enthused about world mission then no amount of material sent out from Mission House will be of any use. In order to work more effectively at the 'grass-roots' the BMS General Committee, at their meeting in March, decided to extend the use of area representatives to cover the whole of England, Wales and Scotland have had representatives for a long time, but in England only in the North West have we had a full time representative, whilst honorary representatives have served in the North East and the West Midlands.

This move to appoint six representatives for England arises out of 'the firm belief that the Society is in no sense superfluous, redundant, or outdated, but still has a place in God's purposes. The needs overseas are as great as ever if measured in terms of the number of people who have not yet discovered the fullness of God's love and the fullness of life itself through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.'

We hope that this may be seen as a step forward, 'leading to a renewed response from Baptist Churches throughout Britain to the challenge of world Mission'.

MISSIONARY HERALD
THE MAGAZINE OF
THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY
93/97 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4AA
Tel: 01-935 1482

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© 1985 Baptist Missionary Society
Photoset and printed by
Stanley L Hunt (Printers) Ltd
Rushden, Northamptonshire

Enquiries about service to:
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ISSN 0264-1372

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MAY 1985

Features

- 83 **MINISTERING PEACE AND LOVE**
Derek Mucklow shares what he saw on his trip to Sri Lanka
- 85 **BROADCASTING THE GOOD NEWS**
Sri Lankan churches becoming involved in radio and television
- 87 **CHANGED LIVES**
Results with the Leadership training
- 88 **HE DIED OF JOY**
When vision becomes a reality
- 88 **SRI LANKA PROJECT**
Young people's visit to Sri Lanka to give a helping hand
- 90 **SNACK SHACK**
Sharing Christ in a practical way
- 92 **BOOK REVIEWS**
- 93 **COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, QUOTES**
by Dekka
- 94 **MISSIONTALK**
News and views from home and abroad
- 96 **TALKBACK**
What our readers are thinking
- 98 **CALL TO PRAYER**
Guide for Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Zaire, and Brazil
- 99 **MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS ETC**

We share in the work of the Church in:

| | | |
|------------|---------|-----------|
| Angola | India | Sri Lanka |
| Bangladesh | Jamaica | Tanzania |
| Brazil | Nepal | Zaire |

Sri Lanka, 'the resplendent land', was very hot and humid, in total contrast to the cold and icy conditions I had left behind in Britain. Peter and Margaret Goodall were at Colombo International Airport to meet me and were to be my hosts, tour organisers and travelling companions for the next six days. They have been serving at Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church since 1979, and are much loved and valued for the fine ministry and pastoral care they exercise.

Encouragement

They told me of great encouragement in the work of the church, particularly among young people. I met some of them, including the two Hindu lads, who with five other people, had been baptized the previous Sunday. For some time there has been a Counselling Centre at the church. Now the Men's Fellowship has opened a 'Snack Shack' which serves good food at very reasonable prices.

I was able to attend part of the Half Yearly Sessions of the Baptist Sangamaya (Union) held at Kadawatta. The church was packed with delegates and people were sitting and standing outside. In a most impressive service led by the President, the Rev Danny Weerasinghe and Dr W G Wickramasinghe, two new Pastors were ordained, three evangelists were commissioned and twelve people received certificates from the Lay Training Institute.

Enthusiasm

I spent a day with Denzil Jayamanne, the Pastor of the Matale church. One of the younger ministers, he has great enthusiasm, energy and dedication. He needs to have, for he has widespread and onerous commitments. As well as the thriving work in Matale he is responsible for the organization of the splendid new Christian Service Centre at Ambagasternne. We travelled onto the church at Kekirawa where Denzil has pastoral oversight. Once a month he makes the eighty mile round trip by bus to take the service there. About the same distance from Matale, he took me to Minneriya and the home of a Christian carpenter. Services are held in the home and Denzil visits once a

Derek Mucklow reports on his visit, as BMS Chairman, to Sri Lanka

MINISTERING PEACE AND LOVE

month. He has a vision of placing an evangelist at Minneriya and building a church in the grounds of the carpenter's home.

Conflict

It was in Matale that I became more

aware of the racial conflict in Sri Lanka. Shocked and outraged by the savage violence between Tamils and Sinhalese in July 1983 and subsequently, many people have deep-seated fears for the future. I met the Anglican priest in Matale who is moving his family to South India



Snack Shack visited by Rev Mucklow
More on the development of this service on page 90



Rehearsal room in the open air

Church worshipper

because he is a Tamil and fears reprisals. The house next door to the church belongs to Tamils. It was damaged in the troubles and still remains empty. In this region road ramps have been built, often near to police stations, in order to forestall sudden raids and quick get-aways. I spoke with a leading educationalist who expressed great despondency about the future and stressed the need of positive action by a strong, stable and wise government.

Now under the direction of a Baptist, Richard Gunasekera, it is a lively community, with wide-ranging business operations and a strong Christian witness. I visited the studios of the Department of Communication of the National Christian Council. The enthusiastic Director is another Baptist, Felix Premawardhana. A man with a great vision for communicating the Christian message through the arts he has succeeded in making his dream a reality in the excellent facilities at the studio.

The relatively small Christian community is ministering the peace and reconciling love of the Gospel to the fearful and strife-ridden people of Sri Lanka. They need our prayers and support.

Vision

I was glad to see the work of the Kandy City Mission at Augustawatte Paradeniya, where housing and work are provided for disadvantaged people.

Margaret Goodall describes how the churches in Sri Lanka are becoming involved in radio and television



Young people being greeted



Broadcasting the Good News

IN 1958 Mr Felix Premawardhana and some friends tried to produce 'A Man Born to be King' for the radio in Sri Lanka. Broadcasting House made such a mess of the recording that from that moment on was born the idea that the National Council of Churches department of Communications should have a recording studio of its own.

Present day broadcasters of Christian programmes have had the same experience of poorly recorded programmes, essential sentences being cut out, muffled sound, or announcers who attribute programmes produced by Baptists to the Catholic church.

It is therefore a very great relief to Christian broadcasters that Felix's vision, and sheer hard work as Director/Secretary, has led to the building of a recording studio.

European Help

Most of the money for this project was given by the Communications division of the Evangelistic Church in Germany and by the Netherlands Missionary Council.

The recording studio is housed in a new three storey building which has been built on land adjoining the Cathedral in Colombo. The studio and arts centre is called the JANAKALA SEVANA which means Refuge of Folk Art. There is still a feeling that

Christianity is a 'foreign' religion imported from the west, so with this in mind, the studio and Art centre is established with the following aims in view:

a) To help the creation of a truly National Christian Community in Sri Lanka.

b) To foster a Christian influence in the various National Art forms by making a real contribution to the culture of this land.

c) To facilitate a fusion and complete identification of the Christian Church with the people of Sri Lanka.



Peter Goodall making first recording in the new studio



The new building

Those are the aims, and the activities carried on in this new building are many.

TV and Radio Broadcasts

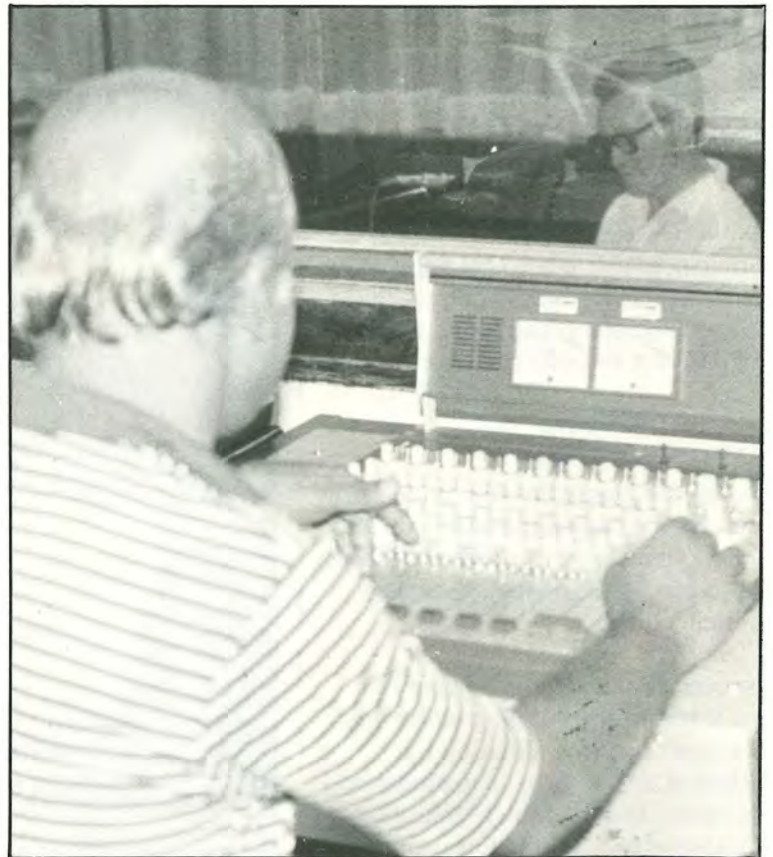
Radio broadcasts take a very important place in the programme — altogether 475 Christian programmes are

produced in a year in English, Sinhala and Tamil. Also there are up to 50 'specials' produced for Easter, Christmas etc. The new studio is one of the best in the country, and Peter Goodall was the first to record a 'Sunday Half Hour' programme there, with the Cinnamon Gardens Church Choir.

The NCC has at last been granted a 25 minute TV programme bi-monthly. This is a tremendous responsibility, particularly when there are absolutely no funds or equipment. However, by use of graphics, stills and a limited amount of film available some really high quality programmes have been produced. Peter and Margaret Goodall,



Cinnamon Gardens choir making a recording



Rehearsal Room

after the training they received at CTVC at Bushey, have been asked to serve on the panel which meets to criticize each programme and to plan for the future.

Other Facilities

At the Arts centre there are also facilities for Meditation, Retreats, Meetings and Seminars. The whole top storey of the building is a huge open-air rehearsal area – roofed over for shade, and cool from the breeze blowing through. These facilities are open to all without discrimination, and for Christians there are groups which hold workshops on subjects like puppetry, dance, oriental and western music, drama and photography.

At the rear of the building is an immense and very ancient Banyan tree, with its many aerial roots. Around this tree a garden is being created, and this peaceful area will be available for meditation, quiet retreats, for painting or composing.

There are already plans for the future. An application has been made for funds to start a Cassette Ministry in health, sanitation, agriculture and farming, and English for adult education. There are already tentative plans for building a TV recording studio when funds become available.

If you turn the pages of the visitors book to July 7th 1984 there is this comment, written by Mr Nevill Jayaweera, Director, Project Development and Research of WACC.

In all my ten years in the WACC I have not seen funds put to such good use, with imagination sensitivity and economy, as in the Jana Kala Sevana. It is a magnificent job of which Felix and his committee should be justly proud. Thanks be to God the Source of all good things.



Group of patients who attend worship, outside hospital chapel

Changed Lives

LEADERS trained in the Leadership Training Institute of the Baptist Sangamaya in Sri Lanka are now accepting positions of responsibility.

One of the first group to be trained has been responsible for Baptist work among the patients of the Leprosy

hospital in Hendela. On December 16th David, a patient in the hospital was baptised by the minister of Hendela Baptist Church, Rev Sunil de Silva. Altogether, four patients have requested baptism and it is a great thrill that many years of faithful service are bearing fruit in changed lives.



Baptism in the river

He died of joy

when his vision became reality



Opening Ceremony – Mr Jayasinghe on right

IT was a great thrill to the small Baptist community in Sri Lanka when on December 19th a new church/ community centre was dedicated.

Many years ago, Mr Jayasinghe donated a piece of land adjoining his house, where he hoped a small church could be built for the use of the Christians in the village of Ambagastenne, a few miles beyond Metale.

For many years there were no funds to spare for this project, but last year, with some help from the Australian Baptists and using local labour, a dual purpose building was completed.

As the building is to be used as a community centre, available to all in the village, everybody was there for the opening. Honoured guests were greeted in the traditional way by the offering of Betel leaves. Mr Jayasinghe, old and frail, was proud to present the key on a silver tray, for the opening of the door. All who could squeezed into the building, while others crowded around the walls and peered through the windows.

It was a very happy occasion for all involved, but tinged with sadness when we heard that Mr Jayasinghe, having seen his dream at last come true, died on the very next day.

His wife said, 'He died of joy'.



Church being built

SRI LANKA PROJECT

Last year a group of young people from South Wales went to Sri Lanka to do a Community Service Project and were given a 'terrific reception by Peter and Margaret Goodall and the members of Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church'.

THIS is the story of a project that nearly died before it came to life. Peter Goodall was originally approached by the South Glamorgan Education Department in 1982, and plans went ahead to set up a joint project with the Sri Lanka Baptist Young People's Auxiliary working at a home for the elderly in Matale. The idea was to take a building apart, brick by brick, and generally level the site in readiness for rebuilding at a later stage.

Plans were made for the youngsters to travel out on 30 July 1983. But this was not to be. From 23 to 30 July serious civil unrest, looting, burning and rioting occurred in Sri Lanka and the project had to be abandoned at the last minute.

'It would have been so easy to let things go,' writes Carolyn Moore, the project leader, 'but in September 1983 we began the whole process again. Two thirds of the original group decided they still wanted to go.'

Unfortunately the original project no longer existed, but Peter Goodall wrote saying that he and the members of Cinnamon Gardens would be happy to host the group and to help with a project. It involved work on a home for abandoned babies – painting,



Knocking out a window frame to make way for a doorway



Mural painting — designs by Julian taken from a Sri Lankan comic

decorating, making a new doorway, putting in sinks and taps, and revamping the older children's play area outside.

John Stops, co-leader of the group, flew out on 28 July and phoned back to Wales full of excitement and giving the go-ahead. The rest travelled out on 4 August, 1984 and were met by John and Peter Goodall who took them back to what was to be their 'home' for the next three weeks — Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church.

They found the accommodation in the Church Hall and part of the Manse more than adequate and they really enjoyed the warm welcome of the church members who greeted them in the traditional fashion — flower garlands, lighting a candle and eating a piece of sweetmeat.

The project was tackled with enthusiasm and work started every morning at 8 am, transport being provided by 'Save the Children Fund'.

They were helped by Shelton, the mason, and his friend the brickie, and nearly every day boys from the church. 'When people disappeared from work,' says Carolyn Moore, 'they could usually be found playing with, or nursing the babies. There were also some older children who watched and often demanded that we play with them as well — not a difficult task as they were always so full of smiles and very friendly.'

When the work came to an end, the Matron and nurses put on a special tea party. One of the Commissioners from the Department of Probation and After Care inspected the project and pronounced it 'excellent'.

Both the local press and television covered the project.

Apart from their work, the group was able to visit some of the sights of Sri Lanka, which included the Elephant festival at Kandy and a short visit to stay near a coral reef at Kikkaduwa. Close contact was maintained between the young people of the church and their families.

Apart from the value of the practical work the group did and the benefit this has given to the children's home, the young people themselves have learned something of life in another culture and so expanded their vision.

JOBS TACKLED

- (1) Complete decoration of a large ward.
- (2) Murals painted on all walls — cartoons taken from a Sri Lankan comic and one picture provided by Matron.
- (3) All cots, playpens, tables and chairs sanded down and painted.
- (4) Window frame removed and replaced by doorway and door.
- (5) Small room — dividing wall and doorways knocked out, toilets removed and new sinks and taps positioned. Decorated and floor tiled.
- (6) Two flower-beds made outside nursery windows.
- (7) Outside play equipment painted, new equipment provided and installed.
- (8) Old fridge — could not be repaired — a new one provided by the group.



Cot painting



Painting the 'Snack Shack' sign before opening

Snack

An expression of very pra

THE Men's Fellowship of Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church, Colombo have initiated another social service project. A small canteen has been opened. It is open every day except Sunday. The 'Snack Shack' as it is called, provides tea, soft drinks, snacks and lunch packets of rice and curries at very low cost. This is of particular benefit to the beggars and others, who live on the streets nearby, who can buy food at about half the price they normally have to pay.

The quality is good, so it is patronised by school boys and workers too. At



Cutting of the ribbon



Serving of first meal inside Hall

Shack

Christian love in a practical way

7.30 every morning there is a queue of our poorer friends waiting to have their tins filled with plain tea for 50 cents for the first drink of the day. One of them was heard to say that this is of far more help to them than the free lunch packet they receive weekly from the Mosque next door!

Tracts and other reading material are provided for those who wish to take them, and right next door is the building which houses the NCC Family Counselling Centre, so that those with problems can be directed immediately to someone who may be able to help.



Serving some of the public at the outside counter



Ladies working hard in the kitchen



BOOK REVIEWS

'MOVE OUT'

by Michael Duncan

Pub MARC Europe (£1.75)

SUBTITLED 'Taking Your Place in God's World', this book by a young New Zealand Baptist minister who has caught a world missionary vision himself, is a must for all ministers, missionary secretaries, and should be on display in every Church Bookstall and library.

It is bursting with valuable information, including an excellent reading list of books about world mission, its theology and practice. The book abounds in useful ideas for local missionary church

programmes, and Mr Duncan's enthusiasm is contagious.

This easy-to-read little paperback is a source-book which will keep any church going with ideas for missionary education and promotion. It also helps the individual Christian to see his/her own place in God's world missionary purpose, and helps the enquirer with essential information and advice about taking that first step towards missionary service, with helpful guidance about training courses.

Buy it and read it, and then pass it on to your minister! RA

'TEN SENDING CHURCHES'

ed. Michael Griffiths

Pub MARC Europe (£1.95)

THIS is an invaluable follow up to the previous volume, in which ten ministers share how they and their churches have caught the vision for world mission, and how they are mobilizing their churches to engage in the Christian outreach to the world.

It is helpful to learn from the mistakes and achievements of other churches like one's own. Dr Griffiths is Principal of the London Bible College and has a list of helpful books already published under his name. Prior to his present appointment he

served with OMF and has spent many years as a missionary himself.

Here are useful ideas for raising interest, examples of thoughtful enterprise, and a wealth of suggestions emerging from real life situations which other churches have devised. There's no copyright on these ideas, they are offered for the benefit of other churches. The book seeks to answer the questions, which Rev Jim Graham of Gold Hill Baptist Church asks, 'How can we, as a church, release more and more resources into the harvest fields of the world?'

RA

A Hitch-hikers Guide to Mission by Ada Lum

Publisher: Inter Varsity Press

THE tensions, frustrations and dangers experienced by missionaries may be different from those of 30 years ago but they are just as real. As always missionaries have either got the spiritual resources, the skills, the necessary insights and the endurance to survive and become effective workers, or if not, they become part of the problem, a burden to themselves, their colleagues and a hindrance to the witness of the church.

Those of us who are involved in the training of missionaries are always looking for books to help us in our work. I find Ada Lum's *A Hitch-hikers Guide to Mission*, such a book. She is a Hawaiian Chinese Christian who worked with students in Hong Kong from 1962 to 1968. Then had an itinerant ministry, which took her to many countries in East Asia where she met and worked with missionaries in a wide variety of ministries. At present she is involved in a role which takes her to all continents training students for mission.

She has insight, wisdom and courage, which she uses to challenge sentimental, or paternalistic attitudes. She insists that 'No education in mission is complete without a working knowledge of the lives and works of the world's two greatest missionaries: Jesus of Nazareth and Paul of Tarsus.'

All the chapters in the book are worth reading and will be helpful to those contemplating missionary service. I found the one on 'Making Disciples in Other Cultures and across Barriers' particularly useful, especially her insistence that it can and should start now right where we are.

Another good chapter, I feel, is the one on 'Women in Mission'. It is refreshing, these days to read someone expressing a common sense approach to women in mission which is free from strident feminism and also from doctrine interpretations of some of the texts of Paul.

Most problems encountered by missionaries these days can be fitted into one or more of the following categories. Problems associated with the conflict of cultures, personality problems heightened by living and working in community, a sense of frustration because the work proved to be different from cherished expectations, an inability to adapt to changing circumstances, and an inadequate spiritual experience. At times breakdowns in health also have their roots in these matters. Ada Lum not only challenges missionaries to face up to these problems, but she also encourages them with the assurance that, if her experience is anything to go by, the facing up to them in obedience will be exhilarating, full of adventure and surprises.

'Obedience on earth,' she says, 'expands our capacity to enjoy heaven and the king of heaven. Having come this far with him, I know the best surprises are yet to come.'

JIM GRENFELL
St Andrew's Hall
Selly Oak

COMMENTS QUESTIONS QUOTES

By DEKA

'CALLED to be a missionary.' What does this mean? The same as it has always meant? One who goes overseas to share the good news of Jesus Christ by preaching, by healing, by teaching?

After relating some of the activities in which she had recently been involved one missionary wrote:

What has all this activity to do with being a 'missionary', I can hear someone ask? Not very much if you directly relate the term 'missionary' with conversion, but a great deal if you accept an explanation I heard some time ago about 'missionary gifts'. The explanation was something like this? 'The special gift that a missionary requires is not that of prophecy, practical service, teaching, exhortation, aid-giving, or even extraordinary powers of healing or the working of miracles, but the ability to practise whatever gifts God has given to them within the context of a culture that is not their own.

It is my earnest prayer that all should come to share my faith and know Jesus as their own Saviour, but I recognize too that I may only be one link in a long chain, and not be the person to whom the privilege is given to bring that particular individual to a saving faith.

Q Q Q Q Q

A missionary is one who uses the gifts God has given in the place where God appoints. I have sometimes heard it said, and have even said a similar thing

myself: 'I don't have any gifts.' Is that really true? We all have some gifts that God has given us, and as we exercise them perhaps we are amazed to discover what God can do.

William Temple wrote in one of his books: 'As soon as they became disciples they became missionaries, and that is what disciples should be.' As those who have accepted and love the Lord Jesus we are all involved in his mission to the world. Does that not help us to see how our differing gifts may be used, and we are links in the chain.

Q Q Q Q Q

I wonder what being a link says to you? Passing on what you have received, being joined to those on

either side, reaching out beyond what is possible by oneself, and a broken or weak link means the whole operation is put in jeopardy.

All of us have gifts –
All of us are links –
All disciples are missionaries –
Who are we?
What are we doing?

Corruption and theft remain big problems everywhere in this country and require your prayers.

This is deadly true of many of the places and situations where our missionaries are called to work – to get a place in school, good marks in an exam, entrance to university, priority in seeing the doctor, travel documents or the needed letter of introduction. It is not easy to stand against these pressures, but as Christians do so what a powerful witness they give.

Corruption can be very subtle – I wonder, is my stand a witness?

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London WC1B 4AB

or ring:

01-405 4084



MISSION TALK

Generous Giving

THE churches are continuing to give generously to the work of world mission through the Baptist Missionary Society. 'Last year the increase in giving was 8.5% higher than the rate of inflation,' Mr Arthur Garman, the Society's Treasurer, told the General Committee last week. 'However the giving was £57,000 less than the 11.8% increase we appealed for.'

Altogether British Baptist Churches gave £1,839,599 and the total income of the Society was £2,335,692. It has been

necessary to pay a large claim of £35,626 for VAT. This includes an unexpected and unplanned for amount of £23,000 – a back claim over a period of six years. 'This is only bringing us into line with other societies,' BMS Financial Secretary, Christopher Hutt, told the Committee. 'But this doesn't mean that we are happy with the situation. We are going to have to pay VAT now on our advertising. The Society is a member of the "Charities VAT Reform Group" – called together by top charities like the Spastics Society and Dr Barnardo's –

which is collecting information from its members and bringing pressure to bear on the Government through a Parliamentary group,' Mr Hutt said.

In addition administrative costs rose higher than expected during the year, but it was possible to make savings of £10,000 in overseas expenditure. 'We received £50,000 more than we estimated in legacies and interest,' said Mr Garman. 'This means that the actual deficit has been kept down to £9,952. If we are to meet all of our commitments in the current

year we need to ask the churches to give us an increase of 11 per cent over last year's giving. At the moment giving is running at 8.3 per cent higher than the same time last year.'

Mr Garman told the Committee that it was right to make policy decisions without asking whether the Society could afford them. 'We make the decision that we need to make,' he said. 'Finance has never held us back in the past. We must step forward in faith and present the challenge of mission today to the churches.'

CHRISTIANS ABROAD

GETTING ready to go abroad is exciting, but that excitement may conceal the frustrations and possible loneliness to be faced when the journey is over and the traveller reaches the new home. Reality, in the form of fitting in with new patterns, maybe learning a new language and certainly making new friends, soon takes over.

Here, 'Christians Abroad', an

organisation with which BMS has links, can help. One British housewife went to Japan on a travelling scholarship – her first visit abroad. 'Christians Abroad' put her in touch with a teacher in Tokyo and also with the local church. Afterwards she wrote: 'I was welcomed into the house of the Rt Rev Abraham Uematsu in Nagoya. He and his family dispelled any fears that I had of being alone in a country where I

knew no one and could not speak the language.'

Christians Abroad also gives help and advice to anyone who is thinking of going to work and live abroad. They bring folk into contact with organisations (including the BMS) and governments who are seeking their particular skill.

CA's information service now provides personal guidance and

information leaflets for around 3,000 new enquirers each year. The new address for Christians Abroad to which new enquirers should write is:

Livingstone House,
11 Carteret Street,
London SW1H 9DL.

New Missionary Candidates



Michael and Valerie Roake, from Christ Church, Stantonbury, Milton Keynes were accepted by the BMS General Committee in November as candidates for engineering and teaching in Nepal.



Martin and Kathleen Hewitt were also accepted by the March General Committee and will be going to Brazil. Martin is training at Spurgeon's College and is student pastor of Wraysbury Baptist Church. He is a member of Warwick Baptist Church. Kathleen, a teacher, is a member of Bracknell Baptist Church. When Martin has completed his student pastorate they hope to attend a course at Farnham Castle whilst awaiting their visa for Brazil.



Dannie and Margaret Calder were accepted by the March General Committee for service in Zaire. They are both members of East Kilbride (East Mains) Baptist Church. Dannie is a teacher of mathematics and Margaret is a staff midwife. After study at St Andrew's Hall, they will do some language training.

Thank you

IN 1935 Elsie Ackland became Church Missionary Secretary for the small fellowship at Stanground Baptist Church, Peterborough.

At the recent Peterborough Auxiliary BMS deputation weekend, the friends of the four churches paid tribute to Mrs Ackland's long service over the past 50 years, and presented her, now aged 82 years, with a flowering plant.

Before the days when Sunday School became a morning

activity in our churches, Mrs Ackland would take the scholars from her Sunday School at Stanground into a city church in Peterborough for the annual Missionary Sunday School rally, with the BMS missionaries visiting on deputation. The 60 children would walk over two and a half miles each way, in crocodile, for the special event.

It was a great privilege to remember the work of this fine lady, and her devotion to the Society and her life of service to Christ.



Richard Hoskins is a member of Eld Lane Baptist Church, Colchester. He has served for two years as a Sandhurst-trained army officer in Britain and in Germany. Since becoming a Christian he has felt the call to full-time Christian service and after two terms at St Andrew's Hall and some language training he will be going to Zaire.



Broadcasting to China

From Russell Ashley-Smith

A number of different organisations are involved in Christian broadcasting into China. I can comment only on behalf of FEBC Radio International, beaming 40 hours of programmes daily into China in various languages from stations in Philippines, Saipan, Korea and USA plus of course FEBA Seychelles.

In no sense do we see ourselves in a 'cold-war' situation (as sadly does Deng Zhaoming — p 35 February *Missionary Herald*). It is interesting that Mr Zhaoming writes from Hong Kong where is also located the FEBC office which co-ordinates all our broadcasting into China, headed by Rev Ken Lo, himself originally from mainland China. The vast majority of programmes are produced by expatriate Chinese based in Hong Kong and Singapore.

Our programmes deliberately avoid any controversial doctrines, aspects of church organization, or political comment. We preach the Gospel in a variety of styles of programmes, carefully geared to the known needs of Chinese Christians and non-Christians. In the light of Bible shortages, reading of the scriptures at dictation speed is meeting a real need. There is no question of 'ignoring the Church in China'. We see ourselves as providing facilities for Chinese to broadcast to their own brethren in what is, let us not forget, a communist country, from where there are frequent reports of continuing restrictions on religious activities. We are offering a service to the Church in China. It is sad that a few in some sections of that Church mistakenly see this as 'unfriendly'.

FEBC's Christian programmes were first beamed into China in 1949 as the bamboo curtain fell. Very few letters were received from within China during the next 20 years, but broadcasting continued in faith. Since 1978, when correspondence with the outside world was again permitted, 50,000 letters have been received by FEBC Hong Kong from mainland China. Allow me to quote from just two:

We have no pastor, no preacher. The brethren get together just reading the Bible, singing hymns, or giving a testimony. Lots of them are illiterate. . . . Sometime we listen to you first from the radio, then we share with them. We are all like children without a mother, we need a shepherd. . . .

. . . I started to follow the Lord in 1980. Now I am the pastor for a house church of 30-40 people, I have encountered a lot of difficulties due to my low educational background and poor Biblical knowledge. . . . But through your broadcasts I have gained a lot of knowledge. . . .

We surely believe that these Christians and thousands like them are part of the true Church in China, which is not to be limited to those who rigidly adhere to the dictates of the Three Self Movement, the official church body, whose hierarchy includes nominees from the communist government. While we continue broadcasting we displease those who see this as outside interference. If we stopped, we would cut a spiritual life-line to thousands of ordinary Chinese Christians.

Christian radio is of course one of only many ways in which the Holy Spirit speaks to non-believers and also ministers to Christians. We must not overplay the role of radio, neither should we limit the power of the Holy Spirit. A local Chinese Christian leader, passing through Hong Kong told FEBC that in his area, 'at least half of the Christians came to Christ through listening to radio broadcasts'.

Through the BMS and other missionary societies, British Christians were able to work on the ground in China with local Christians until 1948. It is our privilege to be able to continue that partnership through such means as Christian radio.

RUSSELL ASHLEY-SMITH
FEBA Radio
Addlestone, Surrey

From Leonard Bayes

I feel constrained to write and express my extreme disquiet at the tone and content of the article 'Cold Broadcasting War' on page 35 of the February *Herald*. It is of course, common ground that more need must be paid to Chinese susceptibilities and nationalism by Christian missions than was sometimes the case in pre-revolution days and on this basis it is easy and reasonable to understand some of the reactions of the Three Self Movement. On the other hand there is, I believe, enough evidence to justify caution on evangelical grounds in dealing with TSM. One does, sadly, hear of hostility towards Christians who feel unable to conform. May there not be a lesson from Church, not to say Baptist Church History about relations with 'establishment religion'?

On more general grounds, should we not thank God for, and support to the full, the Spirit's wonderful answer, through the trans-frontier use of radio as a means of evangelism (and true Church building), to the Devil's attempts, to keep millions and millions of people from hearing the 'Good News'? FEBA has only during the past year been rejoicing in a new and unexpected opening for including mainland China in its sphere of quotations. But by no stretch of the imagination can it be called a 'Wealthy outside broadcaster'. Interestingly enough, some of the initiatives and main support for FEBA came and comes from Baptist sources.

LEONARD BAYES
Malvern

We must point out that the item referred to was not an article, but a report of the way broadcasting from outside is being received by the Chinese Church and quoting from what a Chinese Christian, based in Hong Kong, has written.

Missionary Training

From Mr F M W Harrison,

I am a little disturbed about the eagerness of Ian and Sally Smith, I am sure with the best of motives, to 'de-academize' missionary training (March *Herald* 1985) and I wonder whether this is not a symptom of the current general tendency, not least in some churches, to devalue thought and learning, and of the current demand for short-term quick-result policies.

I speak as a layman who served for about 15 years in India in a secular occupation, when I liked to think I had a modest contribution to make to the missionary cause. After five years I had my first leave and returned to Calcutta feeling there were things about the Christian faith of which, for my own sake, I needed to know much more, therefore, with no intention of entering full-time religious work (which I have never done), I took the Serampore BD.

I agree that missionary training should be practical, and may I give reasons arising from my own experience why I feel it would be actually unpractical for a missionary not to have behind him a fair amount of academic (including Biblical) study!

The strongest intellectual attacks on a Christian's faith are not the criticisms made by its opponents, but by what his own mind says to him. Some training in theological and philosophical ways of thought

can be of great help in meeting such attacks, especially to one remote from other Christians.

Presumably every missionary candidate possesses that most essential quality of adaptability. Mental and spiritual qualities, acquired before going abroad, are meant to be adapted to a missionary's activities in the society in which he works. A training course takes a year or two, even less; the practical experience of a primitive society is gathered over a lifetime. If, *with* a deep, fundamental understanding of his faith, a missionary cannot adapt the presentation of his message to a simple people, he is hardly likely to be able to do it *without* such an understanding. It is possible to present, quite unknowingly, a superficial (I do not say 'simple') version of the Gospel.

Furthermore, not every missionary spends a lifetime in a primitive society. I have seen ignorance and poverty and squalor in India first hand, yet, at one period, my family and I shared the home of a Cambridge-educated Indian lady, a university lecturer. We numbered among our acquaintances well-educated Indians, Christian and non-Christian. My last evening in India was spent in a lively discussion group, which included followers of most of the Indian religions. Was not some amount of academic Christian knowledge of value in any attempt at Christian witness in these circumstances?

We Are Trying

From W Philip Clark

I would like to congratulate you and your staff on the present issue of the *Missionary Herald* (February). What a contrast to the *Herald*, when I first became a contributor, over 60 years ago, when it was just a thin poorly printed magazine. I am sure that the improvement is worth while. So thank you, for an interesting magazine.

W PHILIP CLARK

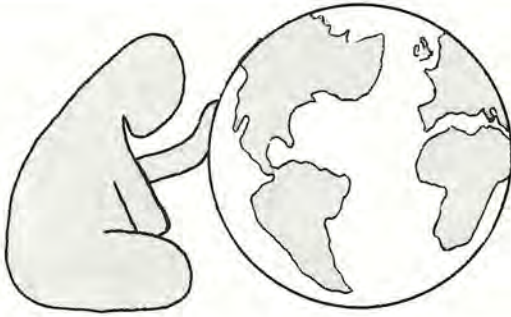
Eythorne

Devotion to the cause of Christ is, of course essential for any Christian and without it, missionary work attempted by a person whether or not his training has included an academic element, is useless. To consider the time spent in acquiring the modicum of academics offered at missionary training institutions, however, as encouraging an ivory-tower existence, seems to me curious. The ivory-tower life is an attitude of mind and it can arise in the remote areas of Nepal just as it can in Selly Oak.

Whether missionary training methods generally can be improved, I am not qualified to say. I expect few would claim they are perfect.

F M W HARRISON

Newthorpe
Notts



CALL TO

PRAYER

1784 - 1985

Nepal – UMN Health Services Board

28 April-4 May

IN a country where the majority of people work on the land, the emphasis in health work needs to be in developing programmes for the rural areas. Stuart Little is part of such a programme, based on Tansen. He works as a dentist in the hospital and also in the outlying villages. At Amp Pipal Ian and Sally Smith, as well as maintaining hospital work, are encouraging the growth of a health service in a wider area. Ann Matthias, on the other hand, is preparing studies of a city area in readiness for a programme of urban health care. This

will cover the area served by the new Patan hospital where Kin and Sue Liu are based – Kin works in the laboratory – and where Isobel Strang is a physiotherapist.

We pray not only for our BMS missionaries but also for their United Mission to Nepal colleagues from other societies with whom they work. The work of health care is often frustrating, since they are having to cope with problems of poverty and malnutrition aggravated by ignorance and religious superstition.

Zaire – Bolobo

19-25 May

A ZAIRIAN, Dr Luzaisu, has now taken over as director of Bolobo hospital. This has freed David Masters to concentrate on the health zone based on Bolobo and its emphasis on community medicine. Joan Parker and Richard and Elizabeth Smith, are nurses, who also teach in the nurses' school. Backing up the work in the maintenance of the hospital is Alan Brown. Simon Houghton is involved in evangelism, and along with Zairian colleagues has been travelling extensively. Last year, along with Ruth Jones, now returned to the UK, he arranged a very successful Summer Camp for the Secondary School students. This led to a 'revival' which seems to be maintaining its impetus amongst the young people. Apart from the missionaries, we remember the Rev Eboma, the Regional Secretary, the Rev Nzela, director of the Bible Institute, and Cit Iyeti who coordinates the Secondary Schools.

India – West Orissa: Sambalpur Diocese

5-11 May

A LOT of Carole Whitmee's time is taken up in administration. As a member of the Finance Committee of the Church of North India, she has to travel to Delhi. Because many of the children in the Girls' Hostel, where Carole is Superintendent, are sponsored through Action Aid, time has to be spent in helping them to write letters to their sponsors. Carole is also concerned in extending Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade work. Carole reports that three of the hostel girls were baptized at

Easter. The well-equipped eye hospital run by Dr Suna at Diptipur continues to attract patients. It is a base for a community health programme, with a team of workers regularly visiting ten villages. We remember the Operation Agri supported work of the Rev R Senapati at the West Utkal Agricultural centre, and also Bishop Tandy and the Diocesan Secretary, the Rev A J C Chhatryia.

Brazil – Curitiba

26 May-1 June

BRAZIL is a country of economic problems where many have been seeking work in the cities. In consequence places like Curitiba have grown rapidly – an additional million in fifteen years. Derek Punchard is now working in Curitiba and is encouraging the 35 churches and many congregations to reach out to the growing urban population. David Grainger is principal of the Theological Seminary and helping to prepare men and women for leadership within the churches. He is seeking to make theological training relevant to the situations in which the students will eventually be working. There are 150 students in the Seminary at the moment. Michael Wotton, who was teaching there, has now returned to the UK to a tutorial post at Bristol Baptist College. But Pastor Lauro Mandira has recently returned to Curitiba after study in Britain and is teaching in the Seminary.

Bangladesh – Dinajpur

12-18 May

COLIN and Helen Laver are living in Dinajpur. Colin is engaged in Functional Education and village uplift throughout North Bangladesh, and Helen helps with the hostel work. Colin sees his role as that of a motivator and he is offering basic literacy programmes. He only returned to Bangladesh in August, but already he has visited a number of key villages and aroused interest. Jacqui Wells is kept very busy travelling around the many districts of Bangladesh doing work amongst the women, holding women's leadership camps and arranging training programmes. Suzanne Roberts is pioneering a community health project

based on Ruhea. She has had to overcome some local misconceptions, and people have been slow to understand the value of preventive medicine, clean water, and good latrines. But gradually the work progresses. Valerie Hamilton's work as the Sunday School Organizer for the Bangladesh Baptist Sangha also involves a lot of travelling. It is hard work to encourage the churches to see the value of Sunday School work, but by the use of district organizers, teacher training conferences and a lot of visiting the work is being done. The Rev James S Roy is Pastoral Superintendent for the area.

MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

DEPARTURES

Mr & Mrs D Stockley on 1 February to visit Potinga, Brazil.
Rev D & Mrs Grainger & family on 10 February to Curitiba, Brazil.
Miss J Smith on 11 February to Udayagiri, India.
Dr K & Mrs Russell on 12 February for short stay in Ethiopia.
Miss P Woolhouse on 13 February to CECO, Kimpese, Zaire.
Rev M & Mrs Bonser & family on 14 February to San Fernando, Trinidad.
Mrs J & Miss S Punchard on 15 February to Curitiba, Brazil.
Dr R & Mrs Hart & family on 18 February to Chandraghona, Bangladesh and Hebron School, India.

ARRIVALS

Miss C Trundle on 12 February from Pimu, Zaire.
Mr & Mrs D Stockley on 28 February from Potinga, Brazil.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretaries acknowledge with grateful thanks the following legacies, and gifts sent anonymously (24 January-12 March)

Legacies

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Mrs E G Abbott | £ 500.00 |
| Mrs E M Brown | 1,600.00 |
| Mrs G Davis | 100.00 |
| Dorothy Minna Jenkins | 100.00 |
| Mr A E Jones | 500.00 |
| Hilda Ruby King | 300.00 |
| Mrs O E B King | 250.00 |
| Mrs M R Legassick | 1,605.31 |
| Mr H F Norman | 5,292.01 |
| Miss E M Parr | 10,000.00 |
| Mrs J A Penman | 50.00 |
| Miss E H Scotcher | 500.00 |
| Miss M L Shepherd | 476.86 |
| Miss D A Simpson | 802.23 |
| Mrs M E Taylor | 200.00 |
| Mr G H Tillott | 2,000.00 |
| Miss J G Way | 6,000.00 |

General Work

Anon: £10.00; Anon: £5.00; Anon: £10.00; Anon: £50.00; Anon: £20.00; Anon: £200.00; Anon: £1.00; Anon: £1.00; Anon: £5.00; Cymro: £84.00; FAE Aberdeen: £20.00; Anon: £30.00; Anon: £10.00; Anon: £300.00; Anon: £16.00; Anon: £5.00; Anon: £75.00.

Medical

Anon: £2.00.

Women's Project

Anon: £5.00.

Gift and Self Denial

Anon: £1.00; Anon: £2.00; Anon: £7.00.

Special Relief Fund

Anon: £10.00.



Susan Le Quesne waiting with some of the 'Venturing into Bengal' party, before leaving Heathrow for Dhaka on 20 March. They returned on 11 April and we will be printing reports of their experiences in a future edition of the *Herald*.

NOTICE BOARD

SITUATIONS VACANT

Needed urgently for work in:

ZAIRE

Secondary School Teachers

Graduates with PGCE and probational year completed for teaching and possible Scripture Union work. Some French desirable — further training given.

Pharmacist

BSc in Pharmacy. Some French desirable — further training given.

BANGLADESH

Church workers and/or ministers

for evangelism (particularly amongst Muslims) and literacy work in cities and villages.

GOING PLACES

BMS WOMEN'S PROJECT 1985/86

£20,500 to provide transport for Pastors and Evangelists working in Angola.

Details are available from Miss S Le Quesne

SUMMER HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

3-4 August at Folkestone Baptist Church to commemorate 75 years since the founding of BMS Summer Schools

Write to the Rev David Martin for details

ANNUAL REPORT 1984/85 Water from the Rock

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MISSIONARY RALLY AND VALEDICTORY SERVICE

Worcester Baptist Church
Sansome Walk on 26 June 7.30 pm

BMS/LBMU AUTUMN MEETING
Incoming President Rev Fred Drake
Bloomsbury Baptist Church
London WC1
23 September 7.00 pm

Further information about any of these notices can be obtained from: Baptist Missionary Society, 93 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4AA.