



HERALD

25 YEARS OF
AGRICULTURAL WORK
AT DIPTIPUR



Editorial Comment

THERE is no excuse for not knowing of the dire material needs of so many people in the Third World. If we have tried to hide away from the problem, Bob Geldof and others have placarded it so blatantly before our eyes that even the most insensitive of consciences must surely have been touched. It has been good to see how people, the world over, have begun to work so enthusiastically to raise money for the hungry of Africa.

Baptists in Britain have, for a long time, been involved in helping, albeit in a smaller and quieter way, people in Africa, Asia and South America to improve their standard of living. As far back as the beginnings of the BMS we find William Carey taking an interest in agriculture and botany, and over the years the Society's missionaries have never regarded the sharing of the Gospel as something related merely to the so-called 'spiritual' side of man's nature, but rather as a total concern for the whole person, body, mind and spirit.

Twenty-five years ago, the Baptist Men's Movement founded Operation Agri to support the agricultural work of the BMS by supplying seeds, equipment and technical advice. Two or three years ago this brief was extended to include the wider aspects of rural development. The Society values immensely this particular partnership with the men of the denomination and in this edition of the *Herald* we are printing articles which show how this co-operation is working for the benefit of ordinary people in India, Brazil and Nepal. This kind of work is not to be seen as a response to a headline-hitting emergency, neither is it aid in the sense of giving hand-outs. It is part of a long term effort to help people help themselves. By education, example and the sharing of technical information the love of Christ is being shown in a very practical way.

As usual this August edition of the *Herald* is meant to act as prelude to the joint BMS/Operation Agri Harvest Appeal. We hope that the churches will respond as generously this year as previously, remembering that although this work does not hit the national headlines it is nevertheless quietly helping to improve permanently the lot of many communities which previously knew only poverty and hunger.

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Tel: 01-935 1482

General Secretary
Rev R G S Harvey

Overseas Secretary
Rev A T MacNeill

Editor
Rev D E Pountain

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AUGUST 1986

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We share in the work of the Church in:

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| Angola | India | Sri Lanka |
| Bangladesh | Jamaica | Trinidad |
| Brazil | Nepal | Zaire |



A 'Welcome' entrance to the meeting

SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE

TWENTY-FIVE years ago the pioneer farm at Diptipur was put on the map when it was named 'West Utkal Agricultural Centre'. Utkal is an ancient name for the Indian Province of Orissa. Its western part is within the Sambalpur Diocese of the Church of North India. It is an area of peasant farming with mainly rain fed cropping dependent on a fickle monsoon.

Jean and I first went to Diptipur soon after we were married in 1956 when it had been our job to get the work started. So we were thrilled to be invited there again to join in the silver jubilee celebrations.

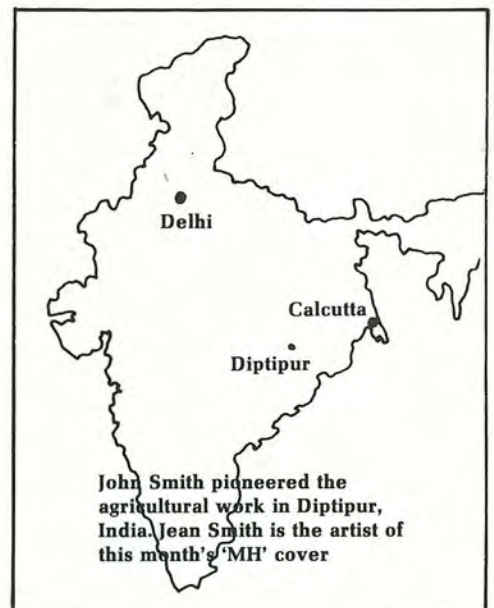
Originally the Centre was established as the focus of a church-linked programme of agricultural improvement. New crops and new varieties were tried out and local farmers came to see if there was anything they could make use of for their own land.

'There was colour, music and song at Diptipur, all on account of a silver Jubilee,' writes John Smith

Dairy goats were imported from North India to form a Diptipur herd and to improve the local stock by cross breeding. Some of the latter day descendents of these goats are featured on the front cover of this issue. Although the Diptipur herd is currently rather reduced in number the stamp of its line can be clearly seen in the wide area around Diptipur. The long ears and shaggy breeches of the imported Jumnapari goats have proved a distinctive marker.

Expansion

In 1964 the Hagen family moved to Diptipur to keep the Centre in running order and they were followed



eventually by the Casebaws. Under Alan's leadership the work expanded further and became heavily involved in 'food for work' programmes and irrigation projects. This was to meet the desperate need of the people devastated by drought.

Since 1979 the Diptipur project has been under the care of the Rev Reuben Senapati and it continues to be a vital service centre for the local peasant farmers. It also seeks to provide a service on a wider front. It has tried to help handloom weavers with a co-operative marketing scheme and now is acting as local agent to popularise biogas plants.

These installations are village-made fermentation pits, fed with cow dung and similar material to produce methane gas. The gas is tapped and piped off to provide light to see by and heat to cook with. This device saves wood, saves trees and consequently helps to prevent soil erosion.

Long term aims

The work of agricultural improvement is long term. It is slow and seldom spectacular. Not everything succeeds

and sometimes there are failures and mistakes. But we persist with it to encourage stewardship among



Irrigation pumps for sale

Christian farmers and to show the practical, earthy love of the Lord Jesus. We remember that He brought the daughter of Jairus to life, then told them to give her something to eat.

The celebration meetings were held under a specially erected canopy of brilliant orange and yellow cloth. Government officers, church leaders and local farmers with their families, met together to share greetings and appreciation for the service and achievements of the past. There were good wishes too for the future and hopes expressed that the West Utkal Agricultural Centre would live a long while yet.

An important part of the celebrations was the first ever Diptipur agricultural show. Reuben explained it to us as: 'Something like your Royal Show'. He had visited the Royal Show at Stoneleigh while in Britain for a year's study leave in 1983. It was indeed something like it, and the highlight of our concluding ceremony was the distribution of prizes for the winning entries. The prizes were variously ploughshares, pickaxes, buckets and digging hoes and each winner had a free copy of the special souvenir brochure.



Exhortations for agriculturalists

Pilgrimage

Jean and I were present in an official capacity representing the BMS and Operation Agri. But our visit was also a personal pilgrimage, back to a place and a people where we had spent the highly formative years of our early married life. Back to a province where our first born son is buried; to a community where our roots had gone deep and where we had learnt greatly of the Lord's goodness.

Our leaving Diptipur in 1964 was unexpected and in a hurry. Our young son Paul was seriously ill and feared not to survive the journey home. He did survive and is now 25 years old. Everyone rejoiced to see him back in Diptipur with us. We were celebrating his Silver Jubilee as well.

Paul went to see where he was born, in the operating theatre of Diptipur hospital. He found that it had been made bigger, was now fitted with air-conditioning and has an incubator for premature babies. This last item made an impression on Paul. Both he and Peter his twin were themselves premature babies and Diptipur facilities were rather lacking in those days.



Home grown rope and vegetables

It was a very precious moment, standing there in this much improved operating theatre. They held Paul's hand (he is blind) and placed it on the table, the very place of his birth, and he prayed. He thanked God for His loving care in keeping him alive. He said thankyou too for the airconditioning and for that baby incubator.

The 'goat boy'

The young theatre superintendent, who showed us around, was an old friend. We still think of him as the 'goat boy'. His family were too poor for him to go to school and he asked if he could help graze the farm goats. We let him and paid him for it, on condition that he learnt to read. I agreed to teach him.



Early visitors look at prize rice and peanuts



Hopeful for a prize

It must have been a touching sight, the missionary farmer and the goat boy sitting down and learning to read by lamplight. He learnt quickly. He went to school and others built on that beginning. Now he is in charge of a modern operating theatre. It was good to meet him again.

Another set of twins was born at Diptipur a year after Peter and Paul.

Their parents somehow found our struggles a source of encouragement. One thing we had shared with them was a balanced, weaning food recipe of rice, sesame seed and peanuts. We met them again this time and, as we were chatting with them after a meal, Uma said to Jean, 'Do you remember that recipe? I've still got it, and I've passed it on to my daughter-in-law.'

Josana smiles

Another day, as we finished breakfast, the Senapati family said to us, 'You have visitors'. We went out to find a beautiful young woman in her early 20's and a little old lady with her. It was Josana and her granny. Josana is a trained teacher and a Christian working in a government school in a village near Diptipur.

We first met Josana as an orphaned baby with serious malnutrition. Granny brought her into the hospital. The doctor thought her chances of survival were slim and feared permanent brain damage, but he agreed to let us have a go. At that time we had recently had success with a similar case by feeding home-made peanut butter.

We explained to granny what we had in mind and she agreed to co-operate. She was determined to keep Josana alive if she could. She followed instructions faithfully, roasting the nuts, grinding and blending them to a smooth paste. Josana responded. We wrote in our diary at the time: '16 January 1964. Josana smiles; weighs 9lb 11½ozs after 2 weeks of peanuts.'

Josana smiled for us again at the Silver Jubilee. Granny wept a bit, remembering the struggle it had been and agreed it had been worth it all. It was a good thing that someone gave her something to eat.



Thank you for coming, thank you for helping

REFLECTIONS



A RIGHT ROYAL VISIT?

Sue and Kin Liu work in Kathmandu, Nepal, where Kin is a laboratory assistant. The recent visit of the Queen and Prince Philip to Nepal led the Liu's to these thoughts.

'The whole of Kathmandu was smartened up, holes in all the roads filled, buildings painted, banners hung up, lights put up, and a day's holiday when the Queen arrived.

'The Queen has finally arrived in Nepal. People turn out into the street to welcome the Royal guests. Any final preparation for the grand reception must be made. People have new clothes made. How do you interpret the term "day dress" in the invitation card?

'The day comes. Children line the roads with flags in their hands. All the guests for the reception are ushered into the garden of the Ambassador's residence. There is a brass band playing on the balcony. The garden is already crowded with people, all in their best dress. Nepali servants offer cold drinks and snacks. The lawn is chalked with two big circles, one inside the other. People are grouped in small circles, exchanging news. We chat, we eat, we drink, and we wait and wait.

'At long last, the Queen and the Duke arrive. Everybody stands behind the chalk mark. The Queen starts to chat to people from one end while the Duke from the other. Ah, well, in the end, the Queen and the Duke walk past and do not choose to speak to us. But we have a good look at the Queen and the Duke.

'The following Wednesday, the Queen of Nepal visited Patan Hospital. As usual, Wednesday is a closing day at the hospital. The Medical Superintendent had gone home, the Administrator had taken his usual day off, and the Nursing Superintendent was giving a lecture. Suddenly, the gate guard spotted the Queen's car coming in our direction. Her Majesty had suddenly decided to visit the hospital that she and the King of Nepal had opened three years ago. Apparently we had been warned of the possibility of the Queen's visit, but the officers of the hospital brushed aside the warning.

The Queen stepped into the hospital and none of the Senior officers were at hand. The Queen visited some of the wards and chatted to the nursing and medical staff. The visit lasted about half an hour. What she saw of the hospital was certainly real as no spurious things could be put on.

'But understand this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him.'

TIM LEHANE

Tim Lehane is adjusting to life in Nepal. His impressions make interesting and thought-provoking reading.

'It was a great relief to eventually move into my own house, or at least part of a house. I have the upstairs room in a proverbial "Mud Hut", living under thatch. I'm in a village of "Magars" (pronounced muggers) who are the racial group predominant in the area. The village is called something like "Bom Bhanjang" but according to the villagers I can't say it properly! Below me lives a deaf woman and her family. The rent for this place is equivalent to £18.33 per year! which gives you some

idea of the incredible economic gap between our countries in this world.

'Commonwealth citizens had an opportunity to see the Queen and Prince Philip on their visit in February. I have to admit I went, yes, even with my ancestry (. . . there was free food!) Amongst many of Prince Philip's well known sarcastic comments was reported, "Why don't you lot who are not allowed to be 'proper missionaries' go back home where you are allowed to be?" He also thinks we have taken an easy option in a way. So, all you UK dwellers, we had better get our hands dirty and get stuck in!



THE MACHETTE AND THE MATCH

**By
David
Stockley**

If you were given the chequebook of a 'Savings Account' by old 'Uncle Nature' of an account which had been receiving deposits for hundreds of years you would be very pleased, especially if there was no limit to what you could spend! But you would receive a shock if, after spending continuously, the Bank informed you the 'Account' was practically exhausted! How will you continue to maintain your family in their present life style? When the 'Account' is spent you will have to move away or starve!

machinery, they commence the task of clearing a living space and planting area. The machette they carry is put to good use — cutting every plant and branch within reach in the corner of their plot. After drying, the match is used and after much smoke, the area is clear of everything — bar the stumps! Very quickly there is space to construct shelter, and areas where food crops like beans, maize, bananas and manioc can be planted.

At first the crops grow well giving satisfactory yields, but after two or three seasons the yields become disappointing. To ensure that there is enough food for the growing family, and crops to sell, to buy other necessities for life like clothes, household utensils, bedding, transistor radios, plastic pipes for water supply, hoes for cultivation and bicycles for transport — new areas of the forest plot are slashed with the machette and put to the match!

Problem

This is the plight of many Brazilian families who receive large plots of the 'Rain Forest' for farming to earn a living for their families. They arrive at the plots which may be 200 acres, with trees towering over their heads — nowhere to live, and nowhere to plant their food crops. Without the help of

David and Joyce Stockley have served with the BMS since 1952. They lived in Bangladesh for 32 years, where David worked as an agriculturalist. They recently left for Brazil where David has responsibility for the CEBADER project at Potinga, Paraná State



For hundreds of years, the forest trees and plants have built up the fertile compost layer which supports the crops of the Brazilian farmers. Once the trees are cut or burnt, the build up of fertility ceases. As the branches are burnt, potential compost along with some of the present compost is also burnt.

Removing the tree umbrella allows the sun and rain to react directly with the soil surface. While planting and caring for his crops the farmer further disturbs the soil surface. The planted crops feed on the soil extracting some of the accumulated fertility until, quite soon, the soil is exhausted of fertility and eroded by rain and wind.

The greater the needs of the growing and grown up families, the greater the demands on the soil, and the greater the destruction of the natural resources of the country!

Attempt at a solution

Brazilian Church leaders in the Paraná State, seeing the problem and realizing that destructive land practices lead to low income families and insufficiently supported and pastorless churches, established the Baptist Centre for Rural Development or CEBADER, at Potinga in the Litoral or coastal strip where these farming systems are practised.

We were invited to assist in this programme, and our 'brief' from the Church Leaders is to demonstrate the most worthwhile land use without 'high capital input' – and to bring new 'vision to the people of the Litoral'.

Taking 'Conservation' as the general theme, we are examining ways of helping the farming families to produce enough food to eat and sell whilst protecting Nature's accumulated fertility and restoring the exhausted soils. Where practical, it is suggested that areas be cleared without burning,

by cutting a season in advance and allowing leaves and small branches to rot. Large branches should be burnt elsewhere or made into charcoal, which is a marketable product. Some trees may be lopped to re-grow in a season or two. Sloping land should be planted with crops in lines across the slopes to minimise erosion of the soil by rain. To control erosion, heavy rooting, or semi-permanent crops should be planted in bands across the slopes – like sugar cane, napier grass, coffee and pineapples.

Exhaustive crops like maize should be rotated with restorative crops like beans. Farmers may be encouraged to alternate the crops in the field, with an equalizing effect.

Exhausted soils may be quickly restored to fertility by preventing erosion with simple ditches to arrest 'sheet erosion' and planting restorative crops like Pigeon Pea or Sunn Hemp which not only feed nitrogen through their roots and give a very heavy leaf drop for compost, but yield edible

'peas' or usable 'fibre' as well. There are special quick growing trees like Ipil-Ipil (*Leucaena*) which produce heavy amounts of leaf and wood. The leaf is used as animal feed or fertilizer and the wood for stakes, posts, planks or firewood. The more the trees are cut for any of these, the more they produce.

Because bananas are overcropped they have practically no cash value, so with the farmers participation, new alternative crops will have to be discovered which may be stored, consumed or sold commercially.

Farmers will have to form Associations for experimenting with new techniques, sharing machinery, educating themselves in Agricultural Sciences, forming Credit Associations, marketing co-operatives and pressure groups.

We see ourselves as catalysts for change! The Machette is still needed, but a substitute has to be found for the Match!



Bananas going to market, these are overcropped and have little value



Worlds Apart.

Springs, Pump

ANGOLA

CHIEF CROPS Coffee, Bananas
INDUSTRIES Alcohol, cotton goods, fishmeal, paper, palm oil, footwear
ARABLE LAND 2%
LABOUR FORCE 60% agriculture, 15% industry

BANGLADESH

CHIEF CROPS Jute (most of world's output)
INDUSTRIES Cement, jute, fertilizers, petroleum products
ARABLE LAND 0.3 acres per capita
LABOUR FORCE 74% agriculture

BRAZIL

CHIEF CROPS Coffee (largest grower), cotton, soybeans, sugar, cocoa, rice, corn fruits
INDUSTRIES Steel, autos, chemicals, ships, appliances, shoes, paper
ARABLE LAND 17%
LABOUR FORCE 41% service, 36% agriculture, 23% industry

INDIA

CHIEF CROPS Rice, grains, coffee, sugar cane, spices, tea, cashews, cotton, copra, coir, jute, linseed
INDUSTRIES Textiles, steel, processed foods, cement, machinery, chemicals, fertilizers, consumer appliances, autos
ARABLE LAND 0.6 acres per capita
LABOUR FORCE 70% agriculture, 19% industry and commerce

STEVE MANTLE is responsible for a Water Project at Yakusu, Zaire. The project aims to provide clean, fresh water for the community.

"The water project continues to make progress, and the pump which was installed at the hospital a couple of months ago has proved a great asset for the patients and their relatives who stay with them throughout their time in hospital to cook for them, etc. Batolimbo, the foreman of the project, has just returned from a course held by SANRU (An American/Zairian public health development organization) where he learnt all about spring protection and administration. It was the first time that he had flown and he was overjoyed at the opportunity to travel. We, too, are really pleased that he is having the chance to learn more about the work which will hold

him in good stead running the project. There are courses due to be held in the next two years which we hope will also help. We pray for him as he runs a water project. He will continue as he does so.

Also concerning the project, we would ask you to attend seminars due to be held at Yakusu to teach the people of the villages around the project. I am hoping to hold seminars altogether preparing a program of practical preparation for housing and feeding while they are here. It can be quite itself can be quite

Allison Isaacs, B... Zaire, recently ac...

...Development

s and Wellies



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project and that
to be responsible

Steve on one of his trips to local villages.

'The first trip (from Yakusu) was with Steve Mantle who is involved in protecting local water sources. This meant visiting villages all around including two on islands in the river, to talk to people there, survey the existing water supply and giving them an initial amount of work to do such as clearing a better path to the spring or looking for gravel as filter material. Sometimes it is enough to protect the spring and sometimes a well or rainwater storage tank needs to be built. One village's main source of water was a few muddy puddles which disappeared in the dry season when people rely on the polluted water in the main river. It's amazing how much good can be achieved with a small amount of technology, co-operation and common sense!

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| | |
|------------------------|---|
| JAMAICA | |
| CHIEF CROPS | Sugar cane, coffee, bananas, coconuts, citrus fruits |
| INDUSTRIES | Rum, molasses, cement, paper, tourism |
| ARABLE LAND | 30% |
| LABOUR FORCE | 36.4% agriculture, 32.7% service, 14.9% industry and commerce |
| NEPAL | |
| CHIEF CROPS | Jute, rice, grain |
| INDUSTRIES | Leads, drugs, tourism |
| ARABLE LAND | 13% |
| LABOUR FORCE | 93% agriculture |
| SRI LANKA | |
| CHIEF CROPS | Tea, coconuts, rice |
| INDUSTRIES | Plywood, paper, milling, chemicals, textiles |
| ARABLE LAND | 59% |
| LABOUR FORCE | 46% agriculture, 29% industry and commerce, 19% services |
| TRINIDAD | |
| CHIEF CROPS | Sugar, cocoa, coffee, citrus fruits, bananas |
| INDUSTRIES | Oil products, rum, cement, tourism |
| ARABLE LAND | 25% |
| LABOUR FORCE | 10% agriculture, 66% construction, mining, commerce |
| ZAIRE | |
| CHIEF CROPS | Coffee, cotton, rice, sugar cane, bananas, plantains, coconuts, manioc, mangoes, tea, cacao, palm oil |
| OTHER RESOURCES | Forests, rubber, ivory |
| ARABLE LAND | 50% |
| LABOUR FORCE | 75% agriculture |

ALTERNATIVE SHELTER IN NEPAL

The Place

BUTWAL, a small but growing town on the edge of the foothills in southwest Nepal. Here the flat plains from North India meet the beginnings of the Himalayan foothills through which a narrow gorge marks this traditional trading route into the heart of the country. Butwal has always been an important trading town. Here on Nepal's partially completed road network there is the constant activity of small clothing, food and hardware stores and the noise of trucks and lorries heading north and east into the country.

The Time

Hotting up in 1986 with temperatures of 35-40 degrees celsius. This characterises Butwal's climate of either hot and dry or hot and wet, for eight months of the year.

Nepali folk can be seen hard at work, either conditioned by local upbringing in this climate or else driven on by the wage-earning reputation of such towns, humping loads on their backs, stripping down the truck engine or selling fruit by the side of the road. Then here and there the flash of an arc welder from a roadside hut reminds us that locally generated electricity has stimulated the development of many small workshops and places of work for these innovative people.

But around the edges of town are growing suburbs of poorer folk. In an economy that is moving from existence farming to a money-based one, no job means no money and no food. 'Development' can also bring less desirable results.

Further up the town is what is locally called 'technical'. Here people are seen working and learning alongside expatriates sent by their missions to work in their professional fields. The aim – to serve the people of Nepal in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ.

Next to the Butwal Technical Institute is found the Development and Consulting Services, which has one programme among others to test and promote the benefits of alternative building materials in Nepal.

The Foundation

The foundation of the work can be traced back 25 years. The mid-1950's

David Payne was appointed in 1982 as a short term missionary. He served in Nepal where he worked with alternative building materials. He returned in 1985 and is currently studying for further qualifications



David Payne, who has been working as a materials scientist in Nepal, talks about 'Mission in the Field of Economic Development'



Local café proprietor with shelter of many materials! – Butwal

saw two events in Nepal. The first was the joining together of a number of missionary societies with the common aim of service in Nepal. The other was the invitation to the, now, United Mission to Nepal (UMN), by the Government of Nepal, to establish work in the fields of health, education and economic development – but with no proselytizing.

In Butwal this work began as a small centre for providing young lads with apprenticeship training experience and skills in wood, metalwork and building techniques. Having traditionally isolated itself from the outside world, Nepal now found itself in need of additional practical skills in order to develop and progress as a nation. How much skilled manpower is then used is a difficult question.

From the beginning UMN has emphasized the need to recognize the dignity of people to do creative work as worthy members of society. UMN also tries in its work to inspire worker relations and ownership patterns that exhibit the justice and caring values of the Kingdom of God. This is not easy. In a society where 'backhanders' and the people 'who you know' run a successful business, justice not only has to be seen to be done, but seen to



Mike Wheller guides trainees in construction plans – DC Butwal

be believed! And all along the importance of Nepalis living and working alongside expatriates of a different faith and culture has never been underestimated.

My Work

As a materials scientist I became involved, during 1983, in the question of building materials used in Nepal. While setting up a place to test materials like sand, bricks and cement, the particular problems of roofing in Nepal became apparent. Man's shelter

is, essentially, his roof. Traditional thatched houses in Nepal were often burning down in dry seasons. Replacement grass – required every few years – was often grown in areas where food would rather be grown. Slates and clay tiles, usually heavy, were only used where clay and valuable fuelwood made them economic. Imported galvanized iron sheet was the alternative 'in thing' – if you had the money and the endurance to keep cool under it! There appeared to be room for a practical alternative.

There were three Nepali workers involved with me in the work. Kamal was a mature young man, technically very able and with ambition to advance in experience. Mun was eager to learn new work and support his flood-stricken family. And Yam was a man from the hills with experience of hard work and, like the others, with a feeling of achievement at having a job at 'technical'. The experience of working together with such a mixture of castes and characters was both a joy and a challenge.



The team and the first demonstration roof, in Butwal



Example of bad thatching, left, good thatching right

Using a recently developed machine from the UK we tried to make a lightweight and low cost pantile. Using a basic mix of three sand, one cement and chopped local fibre, we made a thin 'fibre cement' tile with a small twelve volt powered vibrator and simple moulds. After a few tiles were made confidence and interest rose. That they were the first Nepalis to learn these skills and see the end product and future possibilities gave them meaning and commitment in the work.

A programme was established to develop this as a possible small-scale technology. Our aims were:

- (a) to test and see if suitable tiles could be made from materials available
- (b) to put up trial/demonstration roofing in various areas
- (c) to assist other small groups in setting up their own tile workshops if required.

Feeling our way forward, each step seemed to take longer than planned – in true Asian style!

The first tiled roof on our demonstration/production workshop precipitated a host of local enquiries.

'How much do the tiles cost?'

'How can we get hold of them?'

'How do you make them?'



Learning new skills, Butwal

It seemed to fit the bill as an appropriate technology in demand, and so we took part in a number of exhibitions for such technology in order to test the response further.

At the present time a number of roofs have been completed and there are continuing requests from UMN and Government related projects to use these tiles. The team now faces the difficult task of disseminating the technology constructively to others. Much of this happens naturally as watchful locals exercise their initiative and innovative skills in promising new ventures.

The potential to contribute to housing standards in Nepal is high. However the technology has yet to weather the long term effects of Nepal's natural and

economic climate. Questions of group versus private ownership of workshops, quality control, price levels and monopolies are all at play. As one part of the UMN's Development and Consulting Services, we've tried to research and test a technology, then suggest or exemplify a way it might be used to the benefit and worth of communities. But in this case, as in others, we don't have ultimate control.

The results of such work can so often seem insignificant and the efforts feel in vain. Yet the fruits of this type of work are not so neatly or easily identified. This is just one example where folk from over 20 different countries are at work in their professional roles alongside Nepali colleagues and living out their witness in Nepal.



Preparing roof timbers, Butwal



Welding skills employed, Butwal

MISSIONTALK

A BAPTIST LEADER WHO NEEDS OUR PRAYERS

SIXTO ULLOA is both an active member of the Nicaraguan Baptist Convention and a member of the National Assembly of Nicaragua, representing the Sandanista Front, of which President Reagan so often speaks so damningly.

From a working family, Sixto has had little formal education. Apprenticed instead as a jeweller, he found work with a Baptist in Managua who invited him to church. A public profession of faith and baptism followed when he was 20 years of age.

Entering into the leadership of Baptist youth work and finding his attempts to train for ministry frustrated, he began to work for CEPAD (The Evangelical Committee for Development), but by this time he was a known opponent of the oppressive Somoza regime (and therefore working 'underground' for a period).

After marrying Dina, daughter of the current president of the Baptist Convention, Sixto became Director of the International Relations Department of CEPAD, after the revolution of 1979. This work brought him to the attention of the Sandinista Front, who asked him to stand as one of their candidates in the 1984 elections.

He asked for time to pray about it and to consult Christian friends. He also wrote to the leadership of the Front, expressing his Christian commitment and letting it be known he would be bringing a Christian conscience to bear on all his work. 'Fine,' came back the reply.

Anyone who walks into his constituency office will find a man concerned to understand each individual's problems, but on the walls of his office are a number of testimonies to his Christian commitment.

We went with him to a very conservative Baptist Church, not in the Convention, and the warm welcome we received indicated that a widespread of Evangelical Christians are proud to have this man active in the councils of their nation.

He is Secretary of the National Assembly's Human Rights Committee and of the committee presenting the new constitution to the people of Nicaragua. He was prepared to be quite critical of his own government: the declaration of the state of emergency last year was a great mistake.

He was concerned about the conditions in Nicaraguan prisons: he had just recently helped in securing evangelistic activity in the prisons. At a service attended by the President, Daniel Ortega, five ex-Somoza National Guard prisoners, who had been converted, were baptized in the Pacific Ocean, an immediate fruit of his initiative.

Sixto is highly esteemed in Nicaragua having won an award for most distinguished service in the Assembly. He is also frequently sent abroad to commend his country and its needs to foreign governments. He believes that the Revolution needs the churches, but if they are to play their proper part in these difficult days for Nicaragua they must be both united and prophetic.

John Briggs

PEOPLE NOT PERCENTAGES, BUT . . .

GIVING to the BMS from the churches is up, but at the present rate we are going to fall far short of the target figure.

'The BMS is in urgent need of extra money now,' writes Reg Harvey, BMS General Secretary, in a letter to the missionary secretaries.

'After the first six months of the financial year, the contributions from the churches were higher than at the same time last year, but the increase is nowhere near enough to meet the estimated expenditure of our mission work throughout the world. To meet the likely costs to which we are already committed, £1,500,000 is required by 31 October.'

Mr Harvey mentions the increased number of missionary candidates in training and the fresh opportunities opening up to the Society in new fields and work.

'All this growth of work is expensive. The major part of the expenditure is overseas and it is just not possible for the Society to limit the effects of inflation in other countries. We are committed to a considerable volume

of work and look to individuals and the churches supporting it with their gifts.

'At the end of the last financial year there was a favourable balance on our accounts. This only occurred because there were appreciable savings in expenditure. The giving from the churches was lower than we had asked for. But for the unexpected savings we would have had a notable deficit. This shortfall in giving makes the increase this year all the more crucial.'

Mr Harvey asks churches that give to the BMS by budgeted commitment whether they really decided on an adequate increase in giving to Society remembering that an increase of 16 per cent was asked for.

'It is not too late to ask church meetings for extra help. Also individuals might be able to make a special gift to the BMS, perhaps a thankoffering.

'People, not percentages, are at the heart of the BMS work. Yet if we do not have the right increase in giving, the service of the peoples of this world will suffer.'

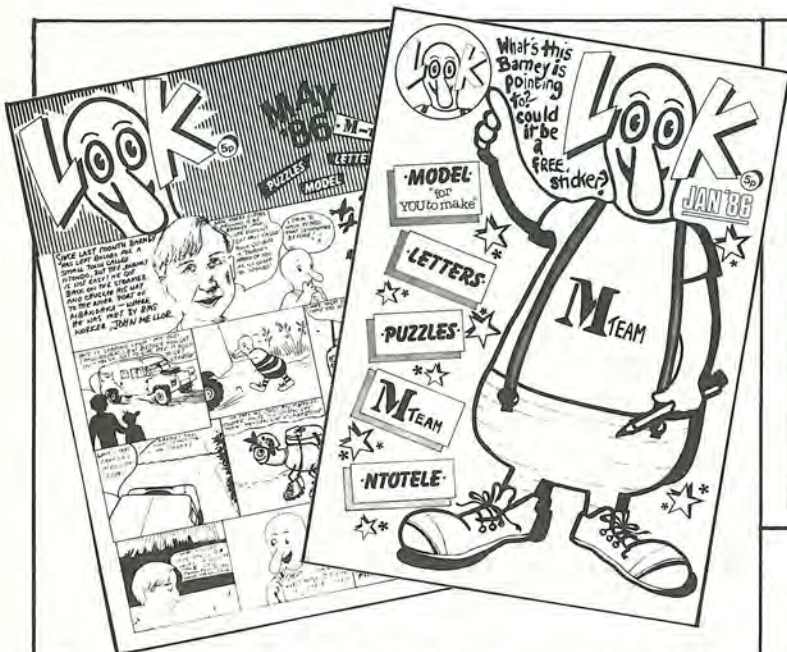
OUTREACH PLANS FOR JAMAICA

'NEW lands for the Church,' is the focus for the Jamaica Baptist Union during 1986 and 1987.

'Plans are being made to take the Gospel where the people are both at home and overseas,' said Neville Callam, JBU President, at the annual assembly held at Montego Bay.

'We will be doing for the next generation what our forebears did for us.'

Raymond Anglin, who has just left the post of General Secretary of the JBU after five years, has been honoured by the Union. Mr Anglin is going to pursue further studies.



LOOK! is the monthly paper for children! Through Barney, the **M-TEAM** and true stories children can glimpse some of the variety of work done through the BMS on three continents. Through monthly competitions, activities and Bible Digs, children can learn and experience the meaning of world mission. Does your church subscribe to LOOK?? Only 5p each a month, LOOK is a perfect introduction to the work of the BMS for children!



Carole Whitmee — Residential Permit Granted

THERE'S good news at last for Carole Whitmee, BMS worker in India.

Having been told that her residential permit would not be renewed and that she must leave the country within a month, Carole has just learned that the decision has been reversed. Two BMS missionaries have recently left the same state of Orissa because of heightening political pressures.

Only three days after arriving home for a short furlough, Carole had this to say about the situation.

'Within 24 hours of preparing to leave India I got the permit.

'Pansy James, BMS missionary, was in Calcutta and was asked if she would bring it to Balangir, which is on the other side of the State!

'She took an overnight train to Cuttack and in the morning contacted a Bible School student there who came the next night on the bus.

'He arrived on the Sunday morning and I was due to leave on the Monday morning.

'The telegram that was sent at the same time arrived on Tuesday morning — but that would have been too late since I would already have left!

HUNGARIAN BAPTIST SERVES WITH EBM

MISS Gabriella Furedi, member of the Kiskoros Baptist Church, has become the first Hungarian Baptist to go as a missionary with the European Baptist Mission. This means that twelve national churches now work through EBM. Miss Furedi will go to Sierra Leone serving in the area of theological education.

sizes and dressed in all manner of apparel, made their way home from the school at the foot of the hill. Yes, school on Saturday. Two scraggy dogs sniffed around the ox cart in search of water, their tongues hanging out as they panted in the heat.

At 3 p.m. the surveyor and the village administrator arrived. For the next two and a half hours we were to watch them tracking back and forth with their measuring chains. At times we joined them trying to keep out of the sun under an ancient black umbrella. As the sun began to sink, the sky became a deeper blue and the paddy greener. Children came out to play and two boys with a kite jerked and pulled to catch the air currents. The kite rose and fell, wheeling and turning and its long steaming tail gleamed silver in the sunlight.

When at last it came to rest I realized it was just a square of newspaper supported by two strips of bamboo, the silver tail pages cut from an exercise book and glued together. Other children pole-vaulted into a heap of sand left by builders.

Goats and cows were led out to graze on the stubble of the fields

and a family from the house nearby emerged to sit on the ground near us. Two women collected the dung cakes put out on the rocks to bake in the hot sun. They were put into sacks to be used for cooking.

More consultations, more walking around the perimeter of the land and finally at 5.45 the measurements were completed.

'When will we get the papers in our hands?'

'Oh, maybe in two months.'

Well, what is two months when you have already waited six! We sighed and good humouredly suggested that two weeks would be better.

With parched throats — how stupid we were not to have taken water — and with sweat pouring from our bodies we made for home.

A wasted afternoon? Well it could have been, but how grateful I was for cold water to drink and a shower. There are not many Saturday afternoons that I am able to sit and stare, so I thank God for pressing this one upon me.

'HOW DID YOU SPEND LAST SATURDAY AFTERNOON?'

'Was it decorating the kitchen, working in the garden, or watching cricket?' asks Ann Bothamley.

FOR me the relaxation was quite different. I returned home from the hospital at 1.15 and after a quick lunch and several glasses of water Marlienne and I made our way to the hostel land site. It has been agreed that we would meet the government surveyor at 2 p.m.

For the last six months we have been trying to get the papers that legally entitle us to a separate sub-division. That is the land is registered as one piece instead of the eight pieces at present. This has meant that Marlienne has had to make many visits to the local administrator and already she has spent hours watching the surveyors measuring the land — not just north to south and east to west, but from points in all directions criss-crossing what is ours now and reaching far off into other people's land.

'Yes please, be there at 2 p.m. sharp.'

I nearly commented when Marlienne repeated what the village officer had said and of course it was, as usual, 2 p.m. and not a soul in sight. The sun blazed down from a clear, blue sky, the hillsides bare and stark. A hot breeze blew, but at least it was a breeze.

We stood for some time and then seated ourselves on the end of an ox cart, the shade of a tree protecting us from the sun. 2.10, 2.15, 2.45, 2.55... there were few people about. It was too hot. Some villagers from a nearby hut offered us stools to sit on and we watched as an elderly lady played with her grandchild. She talked to us about her family. What dreadful teeth she had — yellow and rotting.

In front of us lay a circle of red chillies laid out in the sun to dry and creating a bright patch against the hard trodden, brown earth. Kites wheeled and circled overhead and an eagle swooped down on the field beyond. In the distance we could see women pumping a hand-pump for water while children, all shapes and

IT IS YOUR BUSINESS

DON'T leave mission to the so-called specialists. It's the Church's business and ought to be on the agenda of every church meeting.

So it was good to receive *Christward*, the magazine of Fallowfield Baptist Church, Manchester and to learn of the discussions about the BMS which are taking place there.

'We seem to have three general lines of approach,' writes the minister, Eric Bray, reflecting on a recent church meeting.

'There are those who have little to say about the Society's work and feel that our function is to be 100 per cent supportive, making our contribution in money and prayer. They reflect on the good work done and point to many excellent benefits.

'At the other end of the scale there are those who are doubtful about the value of the Society's work. They think the idea of a missionary society is out of date. They would much rather make their contribution to the world's welfare through the aid agencies and through movements for change. They feel it hypocritical to send evangelistic missionaries to peoples, the representatives of whom live all around us, to whom we ourselves make virtually no approach. They are not even sure that attempting to convert people of other religious faiths is right.

'In the middle come those who would like to see a radical change. They argue that the excellent idea put out by the Society of a 'True Partnership' should be developed to its logical conclusion. We are not any more in the business of one nation evangelizing another. We are in the day of the world Church.

'It may be true that most of the money belongs to certain Christians, but that does not give them the right to sit in London listening to requests from elsewhere and deciding what to do about them. And most certainly there are in other nations resources for understanding and proclaiming the Christian faith that we seem singularly to lack.

'This group would like to see the BMS transformed into a group of indigenous churches using their common resources for the common good by common decision.'

At the church meeting complaints were made about the poor communication between Mission House and the local churches, the use of jargon in prayer letters, and out-of-touch missionaries on deputation visits.

'There is little information on what the missionaries are actually doing and particularly on what local people are doing along with the missionaries.'

On the question of partnership with the overseas churches it was felt that it was the BMS who, in the final analysis, decides on who receives funding.

'The idea of any international consensus on priorities is not apparent. Thus the partnership seems all one-way. The possibility that people in Britain might have something to learn from churches abroad has not yet been tackled on any major scale.'

The BMS Northern Representative, the Rev Roy Turvey was present to answer some of the questions raised. But it is evident many were not completely satisfied with what they heard.

'I have a feeling that this discussion is far from over,' says Eric Bray.

Nor should it be over. Would that other churches were as concerned and as prepared to share their feelings with the BMS.

It is obvious from the Fallowfield discussions that the Society has a lot of hard work still to do in terms of communication. The BMS is prepared to listen to what the churches are saying, but we do sometimes wonder whether churches are actually hearing what we are saying.

Asia Prayer Call

FOLLOWING an appeal by the Rev Neil MacVicar, BMS Asia Representative, for special prayers for the needs in Asia, the Society is asking the churches to use the month of September to focus prayer on the Church in Asia.

'Think of the turmoil and bloodshed in Sri Lanka, battles waging even now in India, the poverty and need in Nepal but also the imprisonment of Christians,' writes the Rev Reg Harvey to church missionary secretaries. 'Within these sad situations the Christian Church, with BMS missionaries as part of it, tries to share a message of light and love. The countries, the Churches, our missionaries, need our prayer support.'

A bookmark is now available to help our prayers, and can be received by writing to Mission House in London.

Also in September, a month in which three weeks in our Prayer Guide are already given over to praying for Asia, we shall be sending out a Prayer Tape specially prepared by Neil MacVicar.

'Let us lift up the Churches and the peoples of Asia in prayer to God, that He may bring His blessing and work out even more His Will of Love,' writes Mr Harvey.



Baptist Missionary Society Stamp Bureau

We are looking for unwanted stamp collections of any country.

If you have any please send to:

BMS Stamp Bureau
Retail Sales Department
Richard Camp
3 Barnfield Crescent
Wellington
Telford
Salop

For Your Prayer Diary

HOME 3-9 August

During this holiday season, remember all those involved in BMS Summer Holiday programmes — the cooks, kitchen helpers, group leaders, hosts, and all those who are learning more about the role of mission in Christian commitment. The holiday centres are at Eastbourne, Penzance, and Pitlochry. Through the BMS Summer Holidays, many people have come to hear the call of God in their lives to go overseas and be involved in the world church. Pray that the same may be true this year — that as young people plan their future lives, they will allow opportunity for overseas service to be a part of the plan. Remember the many BMS workers home on furlough during this month, that they may have time for reflection and renewal. Pray for South Lodge, the BMS home for retired missionaries, its staff and residents.

BRAZIL — MATO GROSSO: CENTRE OF AMERICA CONVENTION 10-16 August

The state of Mato Grosso is found in the centre of Brazil. It borders on one side Bolivia, and is a centre of church work. Although largely a rural state, Mato Grosso also has urban areas. Stuart and Georgie Christine have been in the town of Rondonopolis since 1977. Stuart is pastor of the second Baptist Church of Rondonopolis. After a great deal of sacrificial giving by the church members, the church building has been constructed. Many women are coming forward in faith and are being baptized. Stuart asks 'Where are the men?' This needs prayer. Remember Keith and Barbara Hodges, involved in theological education and pastoral work in Cuiaba. Pray, too, for Laura Hinchin also involved in church work. Her church has been through hard times recently and needs your prayer support. Peter and Susan Cousins have also joined the BMS team at Cuiaba. Pray for them as they settle into life away from their friends at Sinop. Pray for the Centre of America Convention Executive Secretary — Rev. Samoel Martim. Pray for all the Brazilian leadership in the state.

INDIA — LUDHIANA AND VELLORE 17-23 August

Healing the body is the emphasis of the work at Ludhiana and Vellore. These centres of medical care have a national reputation for excellence. Their training programmes are well subscribed with people from all over Asia applying. Ann Bothamley is responsible for the 180 bedded Private Wing of Vellore Hospital, with its three intensive care units. She also takes care of the children of Indian doctors who have studied at Vellore. In Anne's recent prayer letter she says, 'I have been kept very busy. The new leukaemia unit has been in constant use. At this time our shortage of staff nurses is acute as the drain to the Middle East continues. New people are applying to work here but a constant turnover of staff does not enable us to maintain high standards of nursing.' Pray for Anne in all her work; for St John's Church and all the work among young people; for Dr F Eggleston, Director of Ludhiana Hospital; and for the staff of both hospitals that they may minister the healing of Christ in all its fullness.

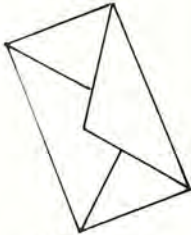
ANGOLA 24-30 August

In the midst of civil strife, the Evangelical Baptist Church in Angola (IEBA) continues to grow. Pray for the Rev Alvaro Rodriguez, Secretary of IEBA and the Rev Joao Makondekwa, President of IEBA, Secretary of the Bible Society in Angola, and President of the All Africa Baptist Fellowship. The civil war is having its terrible effect on the church. The Kibokolo Baptist Church recently lost church members due to an attack. Pray for peace in Angola — that the church may be a living witness to the reconciling power of Jesus Christ; for the Kibokolo Bible School and its Director, Rev Armando Sebastiao; for all Christian people in the country as they witness in all walks of life; for Colin Pavitt, currently in language training in Portugal, as he prepares to go to Angola as the only BMS worker in the country.

ZAIRE — MBANZA NGUNGU AND THE LOWER RIVER 31 August-6 September

Mbanza Ngungu lies in the Lower River region of Zaire where the first BMS missionaries arrived almost 200 years ago. Today, the church work in the area is supervised by Pastor Nkuka. The Rev Nkwansambu is the Regional Secretary of the River Zaire Baptist Community. Remember both these men as they undertake to be witnesses for Christ in that part of Zaire. Paul Stuart is a BMS teacher, working in Mbanza Ngungu Secondary School. He also helps with Scripture Union work in the area. He teaches through the medium of French, with Kikongo as the local dialect. Pray for all those in positions of responsibility in the church — for Mama Mabinda Kwama involved in Women's work, for Cit Nsumbu Badika, co-ordinator of the Educational work in the region, for Cit Muntuyaku, who supervises all medical work in the region, and Pastor Ludembo, who co-ordinates the Christian Education for the region.

TALKBACK



From Mrs Vera Collins

YOUR article on the 'Role of Women' in the *May Herald* was very instructive and prayer-provoking. But I felt I must write to say that on a smaller scale — much smaller I will admit — I have burned over the way women are treated even in our denomination.

Coming home from the Assembly Missionary meeting I remarked to my husband, 'Fourteen men and one woman on the platform again.'

When the married candidates are introduced, without fail the man's name comes first, ditto in the Prayer Guide, and always in the *Herald*. Wouldn't it be nice if, sometimes, we had 'Ladies first'.

I think the thing that galls me most is in the birth columns of the *Baptist Times*, when, so often a child is born to Tom and Jean. Funny! I've never seen a man in labour.

As a grandmother, I wonder how we shall ever keep our young women in our churches unless a bit more care is taken to make them feel wanted and of some consequence.

Don't tell me that the reason for the man's name coming first always is that he is the missionary and the woman his wife. How about Stephen and Pamela Seymour (Page 97 May), as well as the McBains? Custom it may have become, courtesy it is not.

Shirley,

Surrey

MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

Arrivals

Miss L Davies on 3 May from Kathmandu, Nepal (Compassionate leave)
Miss W Aitchison on 6 May from Tondo, Zaire
Miss K Rodwell on 8 May from Okhaldhunga, Nepal
Miss V Campbell on 17 May from Dhaka, Bangladesh
Dr and Mrs S Green and family on 24 May from IME, Kimpese
Mrs J Wieland on 30 May from Presidente Medici, Brazil
Mr and Mrs A Brown and family on 31 May from Kinshasa, Zaire

Departures

Rev D and Mrs Doonan on 2 May to São Paulo, Brazil
Mr and Mrs R Allan on 18 May to Pimu, Zaire
Miss Y Errington on 18 May to Pimu, Zaire
Miss J Willis on 26 May to Andhi Khola, Nepal

Birth

On 21 May, in Zaire, to **Mr and Mrs M Godfrey**, a son, Christopher Thomas.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretaries acknowledge with grateful thanks the following legacies, and gifts sent anonymously (to 31 May 1986).

Legacies

| | £ |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Mrs E G N Bles | 300.00 |
| Miss D V Fursland | 50.00 |
| Miss Violet Goodwin | 357.67 |
| Mrs H C M Hamlin | 306.00 |
| Mrs I M Lusey | 5.00 |
| Mrs A E O Marsh | 1,000.00 |
| Mr J W and Mrs O G Newell | 59,000.00 |
| Mrs B M Rudge | 100.00 |
| Mrs Dorothy Swaffield | 100.00 |
| Miss E Walkey | 5,000.00 |

General Work

Anon: £42.00; Anon: £5.00; Anon: £50.00; Anon: £20.00; Cymro: £30.00; Anon: £40.00; Anon: £15.00; Women: £5.00

Women's Project

£5.00

THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The Society is seeking a REPRESENTATIVE FOR WALES

to serve in the place of one who is retiring. The role will be to secure grass-roots support from local Baptist Churches, encouraging, and assisting ministers, missionary secretaries and other key workers in world mission and the support of the BMS.

The person will be expected to have a previously demonstrated knowledge of and commitment to the Baptist Denomination and the Baptist Missionary Society.

The task will involve personal visitation of local churches and leaders, conduct of meetings of varied types, leading of training conferences, participation in the general promotion and deputation programme of the Society, etc. A competence in the Welsh language as well as English is preferred.

Applicants may apply direct, giving full curriculum vitae and details of relevant experience. Applications should be received by 31 August 1986.

Write for further information or apply directly to:

The General Secretary,
 Baptist Missionary Society,
 93 Gloucester Place,
 London W1H 4AA.

NOTICE BOARD

'CARIBBEAN CHALLENGE' BMS WOMEN'S PROJECT 1986/87

To raise **£20,500** for the training of leaders and Pastors in Trinidad and Jamaica.

Details are available from Miss S Le Quesne
Slides are available. Please book early.

TRUE PARTNERS IN BRAZIL

Packs of worship material including discussion starters, children's talk and sermon outline and prayers.

Available free from Mission House.

NEEDED FOR MISSIONARY SERVICE OVERSEAS

Mechanics for Zaire. To service Landrover, diesel, outboard motors and general maintenance.

Theologically trained pastor to work as the co-ordinator of the Leadership Training Institute in Sri Lanka.

Physiotherapist for Chandraghona Hospital in Bangladesh.

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Posters
Leaflets
Collecting envelopes
Worship and
other materials from

Operation Agri – BMM
Flat 25
The Mortons
Huddersfield
West Yorks
HD3 3TT

Please Do Not write to
93 Gloucester Place

BMS/LBMU AUTUMN RALLY

MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

BLOOMSBURY CENTRAL
BAPTIST CHAPEL
at 7 pm

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