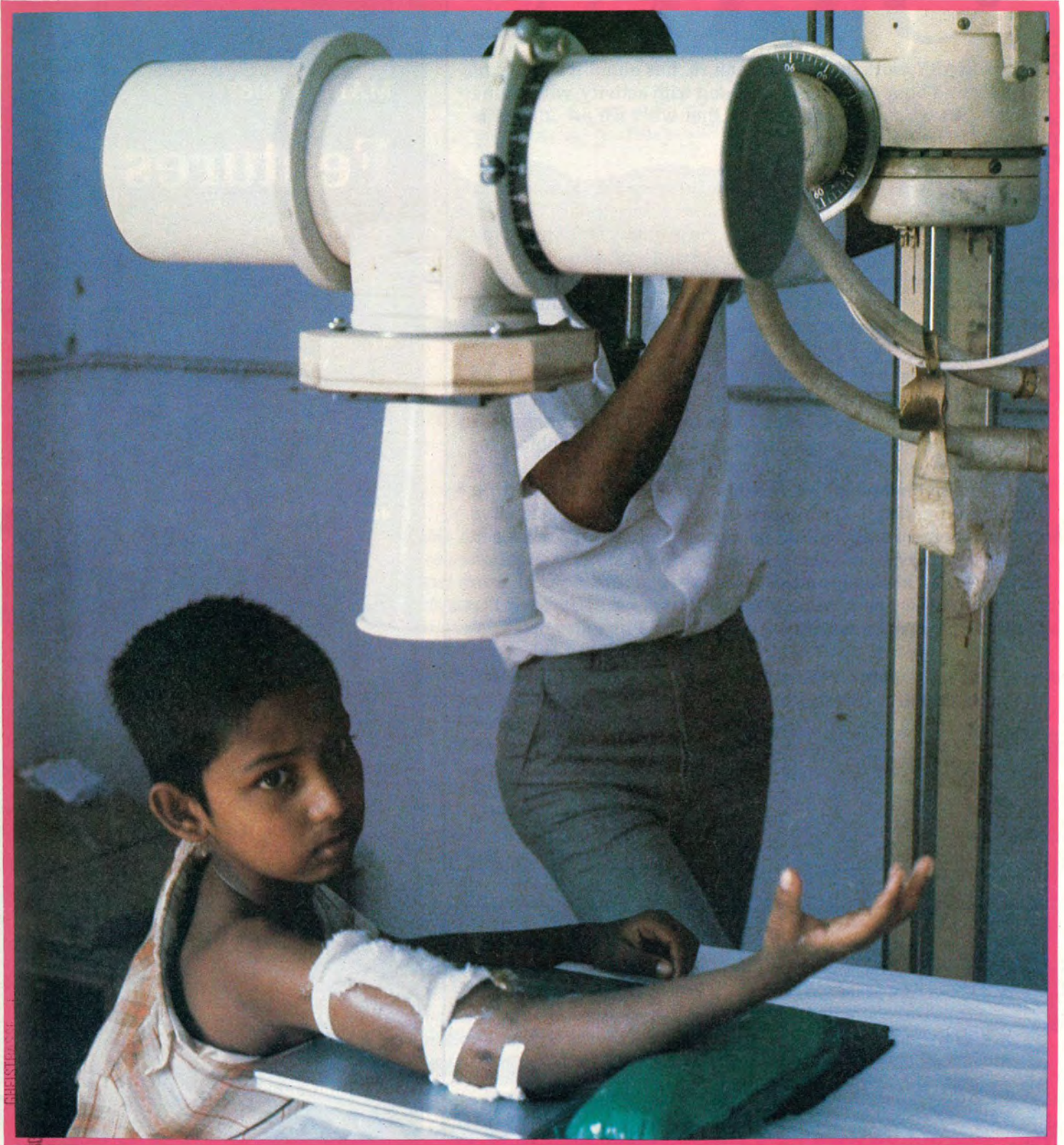


MISSIONARY

MARCH 1987 20p

# HERALD



BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



**LOVING CARE AT CHANDRAGHONA**



# Editorial Comment

MISSIONARY work, by its very nature, has about it a sense of urgency and busy-ness. It is associated with activity, with 'doing things'. Yet we need to make sure that what we are 'doing' is being effective.

Last month, some of us at Mission House were able to meet with the new General Secretary of the Church Missionary Society, Bishop Harry Moore. He underlined the problem for us by giving an illustration of a desert wadi where what could be life-giving water just flowed uselessly into the sand and disappeared. Then a barrier was erected and the waters were channelled into ways which irrigated the desert to make it green and productive.

A lot of our church and missionary activity is like that, he suggested. We can expend a lot of energy travelling, meeting in committee, talking – just being busy, but a lot of that energy is being wasted like the water in the desert. This is a problem for the BMS as it is for the local churches. We need to meet, to pray, to talk, to involve people in mission, but also need to be aware that just appearing to 'do things' is not the same as being effective in mission. Are we at the BMS using our committee structures in the best way? Are we channelling the energies of committee members and Mission House staff in the right directions? These are questions we need to keep asking so that we can take up the God-given opportunities being presented to us today.

You will have noticed the advertising we have begun in the denominational press and in this magazine for personnel. As God is opening new doors for our work the greatest need we have is for people, not only for France and Thailand, our two new fields, but also for a variety of jobs in areas where we are already at work. We thank God that already people are responding and asking, 'Is this something God is asking from me?'

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**General Secretary**  
Rev R G S Harvey

**Overseas Secretary**  
Rev A T MacNeill

**Editor**  
Rev D E Pountain

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# MISSIONARY HERALD

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY



MARCH 1987

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We share in the work of the Church in:

Angola	India	Thailand
Bangladesh	Jamaica	Trinidad
Brazil	Nepal	Zaire
France	Sri Lanka	



**A**ustralian Baptist missionaries, Graham and Carolyn Edgar, are working with one of the tribal groups.

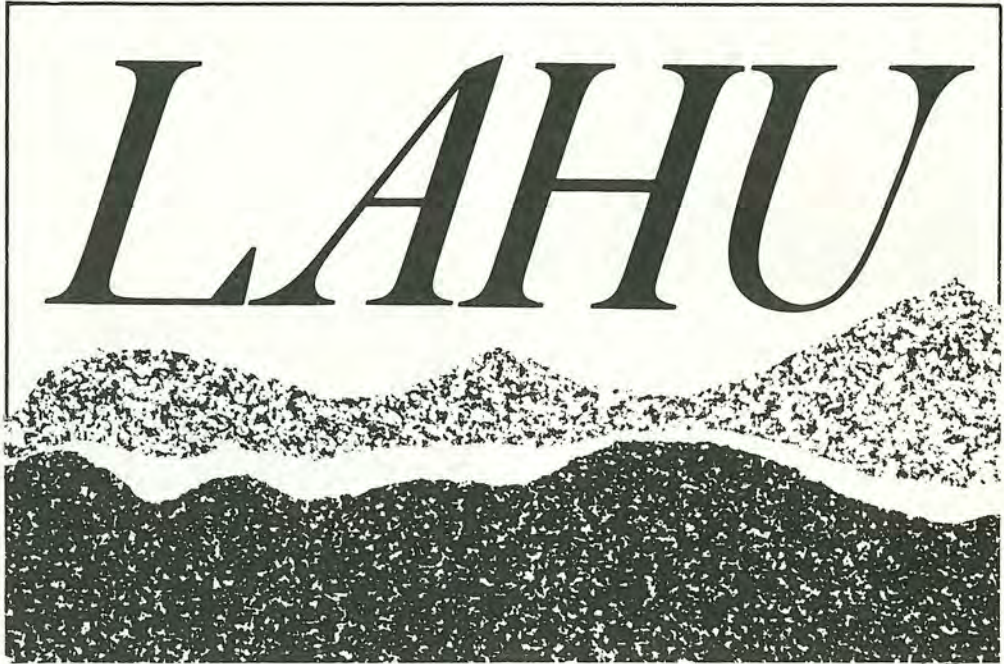
THE Lahu are one of the many minority tribal groups in Thailand. They have come mainly from Burma as unofficial refugees over the past 30 years. Traditionally they are animists, although many of those who have come across the border are Christian, having been brought under the influence of Christianity in Burma where the American Baptists had a strong work for many years.

In Thailand they settle in villages high on the mountain-sides, where they grow their staple crop of rice, as well as cash crops of corn, chilli and vegetables. As most of the paddy fields are occupied by Thais, the best land is therefore not available to them and they do the best they can with the resources they have.

The government is discouraging them from practising their traditional slash and burn agricultural methods, and is reclaiming much of the land used by tribal people for reforestation programmes. Australian Baptist World Aid has an agricultural programme aimed to help the Lahu people with some of these problems and they are being encouraged to plant crops such as tea, coffee, soya beans and fruit trees, which will give them a continuing income in the years ahead.

At present there are about 45,000 Lahu people living in Thailand. About 10,000 are 'Christians' with over 3,000 baptized. Because of the strong work undertaken in the past by the American Baptists, most of these Christians are incorporated into the Thailand Lahu Baptist Convention.

**TEACHING**  
In the Lahu tribal community it is the custom for whole villages to turn 'Christian' at the same time under the



## REACHING TRIBAL PEOPLE IN NORTHERN THAILAND

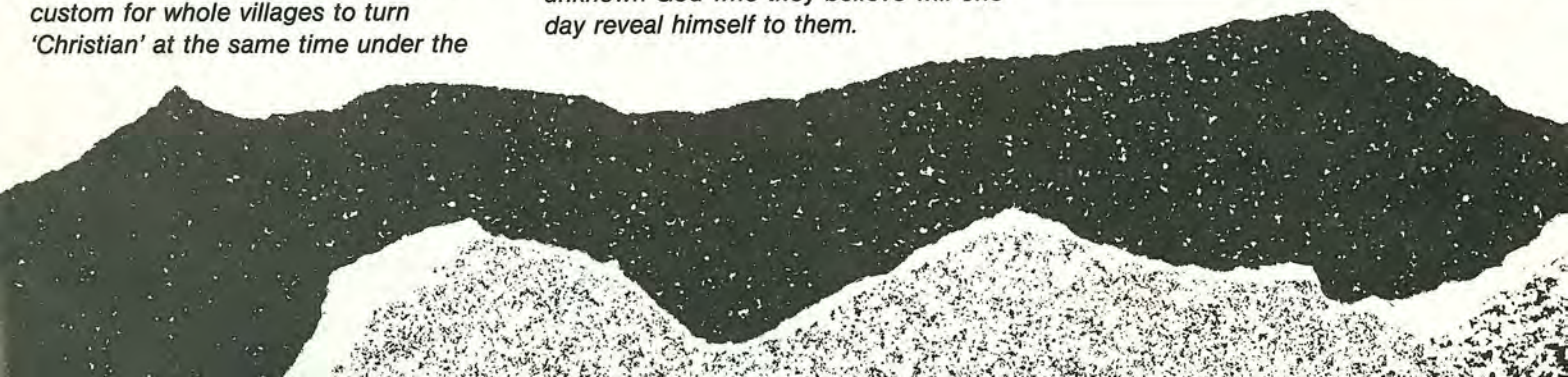
leadership of the head man. We therefore use the term 'Christian' in the sense that these people are not animists or Buddhists. Each Christian village has a pastor and meets together on Sundays for teaching and fellowship. We have been greatly surprised and encouraged by the hunger there is for Christian teaching and we have been involved in this work since our arrival in 1978.

The Lahu people are divided into a number of sub-groups that can be recognized by a difference in dress, language dialect and religious background.

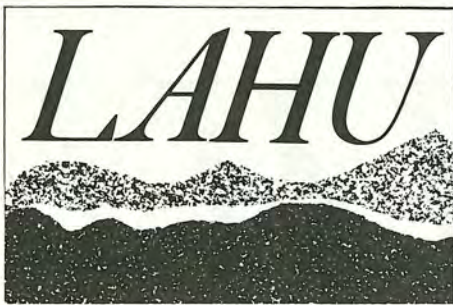
**UNKNOWN GOD**  
In the past the Red Lahu have been very responsive to Christianity. They are not true animists for they worship an unknown God who they believe will one day reveal himself to them.

They have a legend that in the past God gave his laws to the Red Lahu people who wrote them down on rice cakes. During a time of famine they needed to eat these cakes with the result that now they have God's laws within them, although they don't remember what they are.

Thailand LAHU Baptist Convention  
General Secretary - Mr Wai Paw Yo







*In Thailand at the present time there is only one Christian Lahu Sheleh village, and they have a constant problem with opium addiction. Many of the Sheleh begin to smoke opium as children, usually during an illness, and there are many addicts in their villages. Then there is the added problem of mothers giving birth to babies who are already addicted and who continue to inhale the smoke while sleeping in their mother's blankets.*

*In 1981, while engaged in a Bible teaching ministry among Lahu Christians in Thailand, we took a team of keen Christian Lahu to the remote Mae Hong Son area in the far north-west of the country. At that time evangelist Ca La was living in a non-Christian Red Lahu village and witnessing to them, but there were no Christian villages in the province. We visited many Red Lahu and Lahu Sheleh villages where the people had never heard of Jesus Christ. However, after hearing a little of the Christian message, many of them asked for an evangelist to live among them and teach them about Christ.*

*At some time in the future a white man will come with a pure book in which God's laws will be written and they will be able to find their way back to him.*

#### **ANIMISM**

*The Lahu Sheleh, on the other hand, live in constant fear of spirits and make sacrifices of chickens and pigs in order to placate them. They long to be free from this bondage to spirits, but are held by fear.*



*The LAHU Christian Training Centre outside of Chiang Mai*

#### **WITNESSING**

*We returned home to Chiang Mai very moved by the need of these people. The Lahu Christians who had travelled with us shared their concern with others, and the Lahu Women's group almost immediately began to support evangelist Jaw Sha, who moved into a non-Christian village in Mae Hong Son Province and began to witness to them.*

*On our return from furlough in 1983, we were asked by the Lahu church to help them with their evangelistic programme,*

*as well as being involved in teaching Lahu Christians and training pastors.*

*We found that the Lord had been preparing his people for this work and Ca Nu, an ordained Pastor, Ai Yaweh, Ai Bo and Ba Ba have now joined Ca La and Jaw Sha as evangelists in Mae Hong Son Province. Ba Ba is a Lahu Sheleh man who is very keen to witness to his faith. Just a young man, he has been helping and learning from Ai Bo for the past two years and has now moved out*



on his own into a Lahu Sheleh village where he is very well accepted.

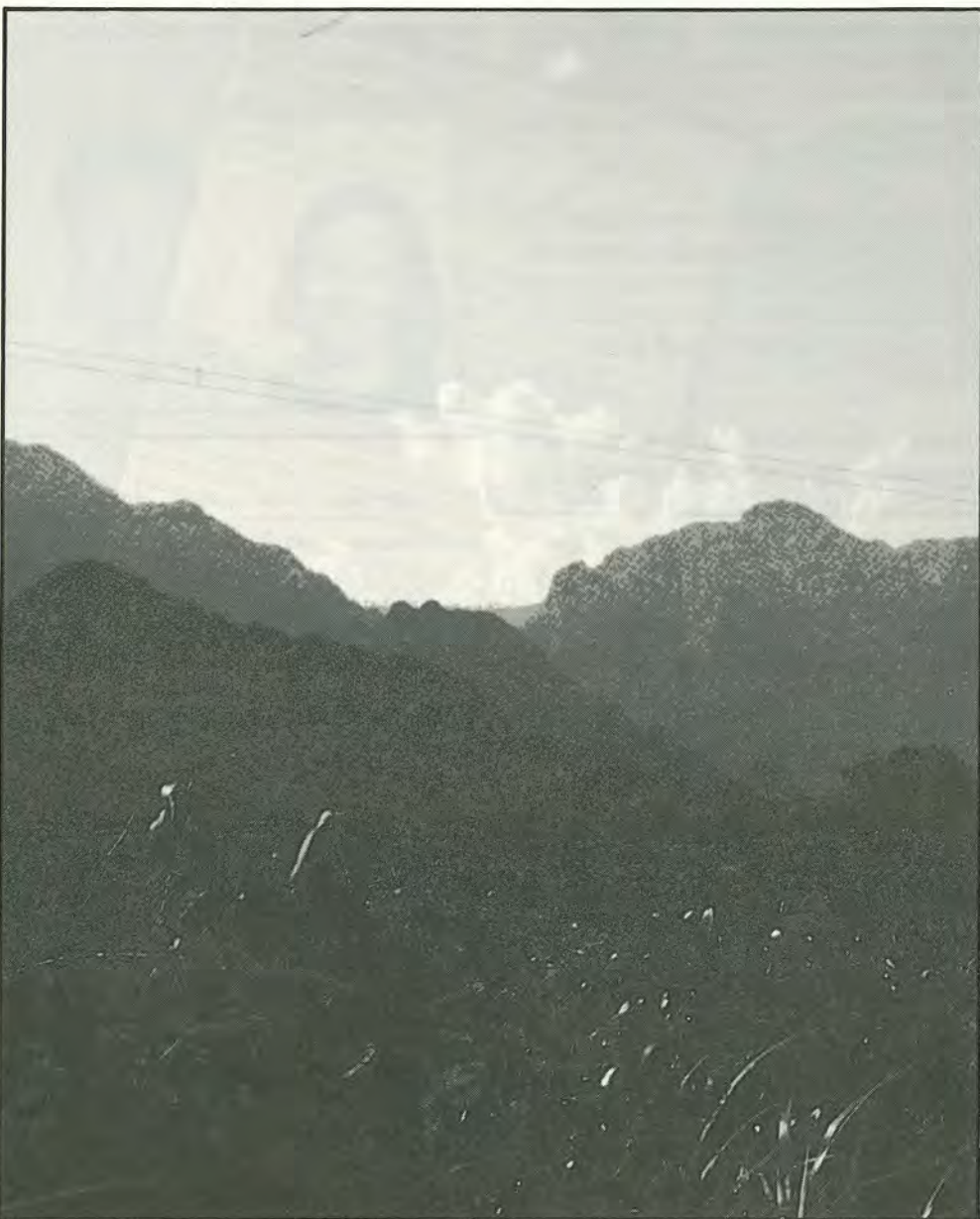
#### INCREASED INTEREST

The two evangelists living in Red Lahu villages, Ca La and Ca Nu, now have Christians in their villages who meet together regularly for fellowship and teaching. Because of opposition from the headman, Ca La's group has had to move out of the village and they have built their houses nearby. Graham visits them regularly in Mae Hong Son in order to teach and encourage them and at other times the evangelists come in to

Chiang Mai for teaching and training sessions.

Although the Lahu Sheleh are showing increasing interest in the Gospel message there are none that have been prepared to follow Christ so far.

Apart from these evangelists in the Mae Hong Son Province many Christian Lahu have a desire to witness to their non-Christian neighbours and visit neighbouring villages to preach and teach as they are able.



North Thailand landscape

# EYE TRIPS

IN November, Adrian and Sylvia Hopkins, together with a nurse from Pimu, travelled to Ntondo on the shore of beautiful Lake Tumba in Zaire's South Equator district.

They did not, however, have time to relax on the beach or swim in its waters. During their eight day stay they saw 170 patients and performed 50 eye operations.

There is no resident doctor at Ntondo so Adrian's visit was something of an event. For some days before his arrival people began to arrive from many of the villages around the Lake in the hope of recovering some sight.

About 100 people were housed and fed during the week when the operations took place and Adrian worked long hours in order to help at least one eye in each operable patient.

'Needless to say this caused considerable chaos at the usually quiet hospital,' reports Steve Ayres from Ntondo.

'I had to wire up a temporary lighting system for the wards and especially the operating theatre.

'Normally Ntondo has no electricity, so the sound of the small generator and the sight of real lights added to the excitement of the week's events.'

Adrian Hopkins is hoping that he will be able to undertake monthly 'eye trips' to different situations in the future. These will be shorter visits using Missionary Aviation Fellowship planes now that Pimu air-strip is functioning.

Dr Adrian Hopkins at Pimu Hospital





# TRANS-PANTANAL PROJECT



NOW working in Mato Grosso do Sul, Frank Gouthwaite has been made Assistant Director of the Social Assistance Department of the state Baptist Convention.

One of his responsibilities is the Trans-Pantanal Project.

'The western border of the state,' Frank reports, 'is the River Paraguay. This is Pantanal's main artery, or rather its varicose vein, its main branches being the River São Lourenço along the north border of the state, and the River Taquari, which crosses the northern part of Mato Grosso do Sul.'

'In many places the rivers follow dual courses and the whole area is usually under several feet of water at this time of the year (December). This year is the once-every-eleven-years exception – something to do with sun spots!

'The population is widely scattered. People live in isolated cattle ranches. Houses are usually at the side of a more or less manageable waterway, so the main thrust of the project is to reach these people by boats based on the River Paraguay.'

'Pastor Jose Valamatos has been travelling by boat from his base in Corumba and has visited, in the last year, all the riverside homes from Arnolar to Fort Coimbra, a distance of 375 miles, as well as building two boats.'

'On these visits he has given used clothing, mattresses, blankets and other things to needy families and also given medical help.'

'Over 150 people have indicated some sort of decision to give their lives to Christ as their Saviour and Lord. As a result a congregation has been

established in Porto Esperança (Port of Hope) with a full time evangelist, Antonio. It is hoped soon to open a second preaching point with its own worker in Fort Coimbra – a fort complete with cannons, and 300 soldiers as part of Brazil's protection against possible aggression from Bolivia or Paraguay.'

'The early results of this river-based work have been spectacular. Inroads to the Pantanal are also being made by the land-based pastors in the towns on the southern and eastern edges of the Pantanal.'

'There is still much to do. It is seen as a ten year project, but as the project is a

year ahead of its schedule it has hardly required any interference – you don't mess with a motor that runs. Plans, however, include two training workshops, one in Porto Esperança and one in Ladario.'

Frank and Peggy Gouthwaite





## AFRICA

After many years, the BMS will soon have missionaries in Angola. Colin Pavitt, a builder, has completed language study in Portugal and is due to leave for Angola. Colin is recovering from an operation in hospital and is doing well. Pray for reconstruction and redevelopment work in Angola - a country torn apart by the tragedy of war. Pray particularly for the Petroangola Centre, a trades training centre in Luanda, the capital of Angola.

Pray for Africa; for the hunger and poverty caused by natural disasters, ignorance, and by the working of the world's economy; for those uprooted from their home countries or tribal areas and are living as 'strangers in a strange land'; for those areas afflicted by civil conflict and rebellion, where people are living in insecurity and fear; for the government leaders of the new African nations, that they may be wise and just in all their dealings.

**BMS PRAYER PARTNERS THEME**  
29 March-4 April  
**BMS PRAYER GUIDE**  
Day 14

## EDUCATION IN BANGLADESH

The Baptist Sangha School for Blind Girls', in Mirpur, Bangladesh, celebrated its 10th anniversary at the beginning of 1987. Mrs Monju Samaddar is in charge of the school, the adult blind carpet workshop and the Braille printing unit.

It is a boarding school with 70 girls, so there are hostel staff as well as the teaching staff and the printing unit employees.

A new project of integrated education for the blind is planned to begin in 1987 at the Baptist Mission in Dinajpur, two or three blind pupils will come into the hostel and school there, gradually the number will increase over several years.

Mrs Marandy and three teachers from other BBS Schools have gone for training as Resource Teachers for the blind in South India January-April 1987. Mr Hemendra Marandy is Headmaster of the Dinajpur Primary School.

Remember, too, the Primary School in Jessore, the Barisal and Faridpur Boys' and Girls' High Schools with Mr Shishir Halder and Miss Lila Halder, the respective Head Teachers.

The Christian Primary Education Centre (CPEC) is the school for missionaries' children in Dhaka. Nan Passmore teaches at the school as required.  
**BMS PRAYER PARTNERS THEME 1-7 March**  
**BMS PRAYER GUIDE Day 10**

## DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN INDIA

As well as the hostel for school children at Balliguda, there is also a home for tribal children.

This project to provide vocational training for needy boys who have not been able to benefit from regular schooling so that they may be able to lead more meaningful lives, be equipped with skill and ability to be self-reliant and become aware of the need of others and seek to help them.

There are 45 boys in this project. The Rampur Rural Development Project, also in the Kui Hills, is an uplift project in one of the most backward parts of Orissa. It seeks to help under privileged people develop skills for their own welfare and for the benefit of the community.

Remember Mrs Bhagyabati Naik, leader of Women's Work in the Phulbani District. Carole Whitmee is Superintendent of the Naba Jyoti Girls' Hostel in Balangir. She also runs the local Girls' Brigade. Carole asks prayer for a renewal in the church and for a desire by the people to read and obey the Word of God, that all might be blessed from an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.  
**BMS PRAYER PARTNERS THEME - 8-14 March**  
**BMS PRAYER GUIDE Day 11**

## THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN BRAZIL

In the south of Brazil there are theological institutions at Curitiba, Cuiaba, Campo Grande and Porto Alegre. All have Brazilian Principals and staff members. BMS traders have helped in all of them. The institutions throughout Brazil have more than 3,000 students who are receiving training after responding to God's call to be workers in His Kingdom.

The training of pastors and leaders is one of the great needs of the Brazilian Church today. Keith and Barbara Hodges are situated at Cuiaba. Keith teaches at the theological seminary. Roy and Margaret Deller live in Porto Alegre, where Roy teaches at the Seminary and where both are involved in pastoral and evangelistic work.

Neander Winter is the Principal of the Seminary. The students in training often make great sacrifices in order to study.

Roy writes about those undertaking night study. 'The age range is considerable from single students in their early twenties to married students with grown up children. The courses are held in the evenings five days a week, with four hours of lectures each evening.'

'Some of the students travel at least half an hour back to their homes after classes. They rarely arrive home before midnight and are up for work early next morning. The amount of dedication necessary is incredible and there is considerable sacrifice on the part of the family.'

**BMS PRAYER PARTNERS THEME 15-22 March**  
**BMS PRAYER GUIDE Day 12**

## THE HOME BASE

There are numbers of people engaged in different facets of the work at the home base, including the Area Representatives in the different parts of the country. Their work is vital as they make contact with auxiliaries, ministers, missionary secretaries and visit local churches, helping to foster and develop ongoing interest and commitment to world mission. Pray that the churches may have a deepening vision of their role as a part of the worldwide church.

Carey Gannon and Gareth Hutchinson are Area Representatives for Wales. They relate to the over 800 Baptist churches dealing both in Welsh and English. Carey Gannon is still recovering from a bad car accident two years ago and, more recently, is convalescing from a hip replacement operation. Ron Armstrong serves the Scottish Baptist Churches as Area Representative. Remember Roy Turvey Area Representative for the North; Peter Briggs for the Midlands, Peter Amies for the South West; Leslie Gregory for the South East; Jim Clarke for the East and Derek Mucklow for London and also the Area Representative Co-ordinator.  
**BMS PRAYER PARTNERS THEME 22-28 March**  
**BMS PRAYER GUIDE Day 13**



# A TASTE OF...

**‘How many of you have been abroad and wondered what it would be like if you fell sick or needed surgery?’ asks Frank Mardell. ‘It’s bad enough if the car breaks down but. . . .’**

IN 1977 I worked for several months in the Accounts Department of Chandraghona Hospital and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I remember our BMS surgeon coming up to my office to ask for prayer for patients who were in a critical condition. We always liked to pray at these times, yet for me it was often somewhat theoretical. Then on a visit for a Council meeting I asked Bob Hart for a consultation and suddenly it became clear that I needed an operation to remove a cyst. This time it was for real.

Arriving off the train with Rose Mary we were given lunch by Walter and Judy Nazrek, who are leprosy workers with the Christoffel Blinden Mission. They live in our former BMS headquarters house in Chittagong and co-ordinate the leprosy clinic work in the port city. Then we waited until Dr Ken Hatano, the Japanese leprosy specialist, finished his clinic work for the day before travelling, in the clinic vehicle, the 35 miles to Chandraghona where our Leprosy and General Hospitals lie on the banks of the Karnaphuli river.

## **Postman**

My first task next morning was

to deliver mail from Dhaka to Sister Jean Pullin, there on medical orientation training for her future work. She was just about to leave in a landrover for Maramnagar, with the Under Fives Clinic team, led by Shefali Khyang.

Later in the morning, Bob examined me again and then sent me off to the laboratory for blood and urine tests. There Stephen Mitra, the laboratory technician, said, ‘OK sir, come back in half an hour. I’ll have the tests ready by then.’

Bob sent me off over the river to see the tribal market, probably to take my mind off the impending surgery. And it did! What an experience! Tribal women, some smoking pipes, were selling baskets of various fruits. Alongside them Bengali Moslem and Hindu traders set up their stalls. There were patent medicine and some really odd things like the pots of ‘live fish’, rather like eels, which wriggle all the time. They fetch a high price, because people believe the red blood that comes out of them has power healing properties.

On the way back to the Harts’ home I looked in on the Physiotherapy Unit. Ong Twy Khyang, whom everyone calls

Chek, was there with a patient having neck traction. After a TB condition, he had developed severe pain in his arm. It was so severe that he was quite unable to sleep at night.

Then Alison MacDonald, of the Leprosy Mission, came in. She is at present doubling as physiotherapist for both the Leprosy Centre and the General Hospital. We were all highly amused by the patient’s snoring which was extremely loud. Alison explained that as soon as he is put on traction the pain is much relieved and he immediately falls into a deep sleep. He comes every working day and so has a wonderful sleep each time he comes.

## **Trivial Pursuits**

After supper we had another healthy diversion – ‘Trivial Pursuits’! We did quite well except for the ‘entertainments’ section. As missionaries we are away from the UK so much that we can’t keep up with such things.

The appointed hour for surgery was 9 a.m. the next day, after Bob’s ward round, and first on the list of 25 operations for that day. It was to be by local



anaesthetic, but with an intravenous injection of a concoction of Pethidine and Largactil to calm me down.

The student nurses, Obhoi and Monica, had some difficulty finding a suitable vein so Chinkra Marmathe, the Theatre Charge Nurse, took over and in seconds I was pleasantly dreamy. Bob then gave the local and explained what he was doing right through the operation rather as some dentists try to do.



*Frank and Rose Mary Mardell*

### **Surgery prayers**

Before beginning the team prayed for God's blessing and help and I gave a fervent 'Amen' at the end. At various crucial stages the nurses gripped my hands, showing their caring and concern and in about 40 minutes it was all over. The stitches were in and there was very little bleeding.

During the operation Bob was assisted by Junior Staff Nurse Charles Baroi. Nepal Biswas, the theatre technician, helped to transfer me to a trolley and Joyanta Chakma provided the drugs needed, from his stock in the dispensary, to assist recovery. At that point the relief was wonderful and I, too, promptly fell asleep.

By 4.30 p.m., with Rose Mary's help, I was ready to take a shaky walk down to the hospital entrance where David Kerrigan had prepared a car to take us up to the house. Just one more job in his exceptionally busy timetable. The old Toyota saloon wasn't beautiful, but it made it up the one in five slope to the house and I just had to totter a few yards into bed.

### **Loving Care**

'A taste of our own medicine?' 'Own' doesn't just mean BMS. It means medical care from the team which under God has developed from the original work of BMS doctor, Gottfried Teichmann, back in 1907. There is still an old carved table in the

home of Bob and Mary Hart with the initials G.O.T. painted underneath.

Today, Dr Swehlamong Chowdhury, the Medical Superintendent of both hospitals since 1966, can be justly proud of their work and the Christian influence they exert, not just in the hospitals, but through the mobile clinics and the recommendation of the hundreds of patients, some of whom come from long distances.

The primary reason for the hospitals being where they are is to serve the hill tribes, some of whom are incredibly poor. Yet they receive just the same loving, caring treatment which I received in the name of Christ.

# **YOUR OWN ...MEDICINE**





# EYE OPENERS!

## THIRD WORLD THEOLOGIAN MEET

AN assembly of 70 Third World theologians, held in Mexico City in December, agreed that Latin Americans must devote more serious attention to the 'liberating theologies' of Asia and Africa.

The Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians brought together 70 of its 111 Protestant and Catholic members from Asia, Africa and Latin America for the eighth time since the association was founded in 1876.

Participants included Brazilian Leonardo Boff, Peruvian Gustavo Gutierrez, and the Rev Alan Boesak, the South African Dutch Reformed pastor who has been a leader in the struggle against apartheid.

The association sent a statement to the South African government condemning the apartheid system and drafted another in solidarity with the Sandinista government of Nicaragua. Members followed the lead of Nicaraguan lay theologian, Jose Arguello, in condemning the US backed contra attacks on Nicaragua and called for 'greater commitment on the part of Christians for peace, justice and the defence of life'.

Speaking at a public seminar on 'Theology and Economic Crisis' Arguello said attacks on Nicaragua are 'the greatest challenge Christians and



Nicaraguan citizens face. . . . Today in Latin America, our faith demands that Christians reject aggression against the Nicaraguan people'.

Arguello told the audience that the US backed contra war compounds Nicaragua's economic problems.

'If we are going to talk about how Nicaragua's economic crisis challenges theology, we must first talk about how US aggression challenges both theology and the church,' he said.

The church in Nicaragua is suffering persecution, but not from the Sandinistas, Arguello argued.

'There is a persecuted church in Nicaragua. . . . This church exists throughout our border region, in towns where delegates of the word are shedding their blood and giving their lives and bodies for their people's cause. I believe that those of us who attempt to do theology are not worthy to undo the sandal of one of these delegates of the word, who daily risk their lives in their commitment to bear witness to the Gospel in the midst of their people.'

In the Mexican media, the Latin Americans at the conference received by far the greatest publicity, whether it was Gustavo Gutierrez speaking at a public seminar on the nuances of poverty and the prophetic role of the poor or Leonardo Boff opting for a new model of church, the result was standing ovations and newspaper headlines the following day.

In their work sessions the theologians renewed their commitment to expand the horizons of liberation theology by encouraging greater participation by Asians, Africans, women and members of ethnic minorities. Jose Oscar Beozzo, a Brazilian parish priest and church historian, said the basic commitment of the theologians 'is to the vast majority of Third World people who are being denied a full life because of hunger, imperialist aggression, the foreign debt and continuing conflicts'. He urged increased dialogue among Latin American, Asian and African theologians – both Christians and non-Christians – in order to develop a more global concept of liberation theology.

The fact that Latin America does not have a monopoly on 'liberating theology' was made clear by the Asian and African theologians. According to Jesuit Theologian Samuel Rayan of India, 'the theology of the land, a theology of life and liberation . . . is not altogether new and is not confined to Latin America alone'.

'To the enslaved, God dares not come except through the struggle for



# What's happening in the Church around the World

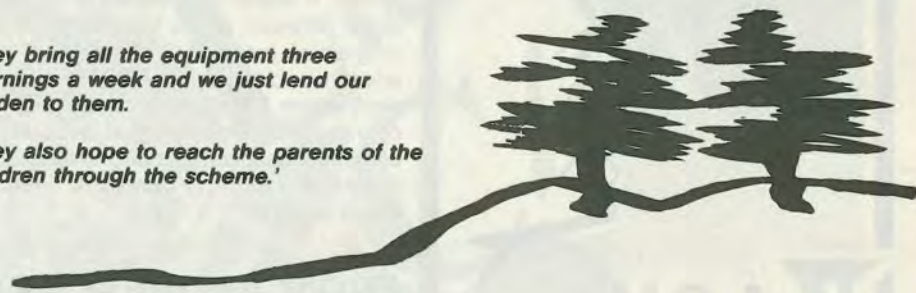
## TREE SCHOOLS

*A NEW project has just been started in Sri Lanka by the Save the Children Fund. It is 'Tree Schools' for pavement children.*

*Peter and Margaret Goodall report that the pilot project has been set up in the grounds of Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church in Colombo.*

*'They bring all the equipment three mornings a week and we just lend our garden to them.'*

*'They also hope to reach the parents of the children through the scheme.'*



liberation,' Rayan said. 'To landless people in Asia and Africa, God cannot be revealed except through the promise of restored land.'

**Mvenke of the Cameroons stressed African liberation theology's concern with the issue of cultural identity and colonial domination. 'The central question for us in Africa is whether or not the "good news" we have received is truly "good news" for us.'**

**'Liberation theology, in other words a liberating reading of the Gospel, should return us to our own identity. . . . The system of colonization, the system of slavery was based precisely upon the denial of our identity,' Mvenke said.**

**Perhaps most striking is the wealth of insight women theologians are bringing to liberation theology as it reaches beyond Latin America.**

**The 25 women theologians attending the assembly agreed that 'the situation of oppression of women in the world is a sinful situation'. Injustices committed against women happen as much inside the church as in society at large.**

*Latinamerica Press*

## CHRISTIAN WITNESS IN THAILAND

WITH only 1 in 100 people in Thailand professing to be Christian, the unity of the body of Christ is the key issue in the church.

'The problem of divisions and conflicts among Christians is a disgrace to the name of Jesus Christ,' says Boonratna Boayen, General Secretary of the Church of Christ in Thailand. 'It causes others to disrespect the name of Christ.'

'There are some Christian groups who are not willing to show respect to other groups. They insult others saying that they teach falsely, that they don't have the Holy Spirit, that they have no life. They use various methods to draw members of other churches to become their members. The end result is a split in the church.'

The church faces a number of problems in Thailand, and an apparent lack of unity among the over 50 Christian denominations feeds the accusations levelled at it.

'One problem is a growing opposition to the Christian religion,' continued Mr Boayen addressing the CCT Executive Council, 'There are a number of reasons. For example, there is dissatisfaction with some things that Christians are doing. Those outside the church don't know that there are many different groups, and so, if one Christian group does something they don't like, they blame all the Christians.'

'Thailand has given her people religious freedom. Religious freedom should promote unity among all the religious groups. It should enable us to have respect and give honour to each other, to study and to know each other, so that the society in which we live can have peace and co-operation among the various members of that society.'

'The unity of the church is one principle that the churches must hold on to as an important principle because the Church of Jesus Christ is united with churches in other places both within its own country, in the region and in the world.'

'This does not mean that we must all be in one church, which is impossible. To have unity means that we need to be able to work together, understand each other, and encourage one another in our mission. This can be accomplished by having a common purpose of developing the spiritual life of the people and developing the physical life in a suitable way.'





## FROM A M FLINT

IN the December *Herald* there was an article by David Boydell on BMS activities in France.

It occurs to me that Baptist Churches in England could help and share fellowship with French Baptists by twinning with individual churches in France.

The Lutheran churches in West Germany have extensive twinning links with their counterparts in East Germany and give them much help.

The situation here is somewhat different, but we could assist the French and build up friendships on a church to church basis. France is near enough for visits to be arranged.

I have been involved in town twinning activities between England and Germany and have found this very worthwhile.

*The Society's committees will no doubt take note of this interesting suggestion, but surely the very nearness of France might itself cause problems. What about all those other churches related to the BMS which are a continent or so away? Twinning is not such an attractive or practical idea for them, but they must not be forgotten.*

## FROM MRS GLADYS SHIRE

I think the *Herald* is a really lovely missionary magazine, so full of interesting articles and such clear print.

I am greatly interested in the new move of the BMS to return to France. Also I do hope that I may soon read an article about the BMS not only helping, but really involved with our homeless persons here in Britain as well, of course, as our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ throughout the world.

Maybe the disappointed missionaries you wrote about the other month could find their calling here at home with our homeless.

*Unfortunately the constitution of the BMS does not allow us to engage in work in Britain. It reads: 'The object of this Society is the diffusion of the knowledge of the religion of Jesus Christ throughout the whole world beyond the British Isles.' The work which Mrs Shire is suggesting is of course the responsibility of Baptist churches, associations and unions in Britain, and in many cases it is already being tackled.*

## FROM ANDREW GRAY

I have never been happy to see adverts in the *Herald* for holidays, which can, to certain destinations, be rather expensive. However I took exception to the advert for a holiday in Brazil in the December issue on two counts.

The obvious cost of such a holiday seems to me to be hardly what the *Herald* should be promoting. But what distressed me more was the actual position of the advert. To find such in the middle of a report by a member of the recent delegation who visited Bangladesh seems to me very bad taste and a lack of editorial forethought. To anyone who has visited the parts of the world in which the BMS operates it is obvious that we must take a hard critical look at what we in the West consider acceptable.

*The holiday to which Mr Gray refers is one of a series organized by the BMS to enable Baptists from Britain, especially young people, to learn about the conditions in Third World countries and to see, at first hand, how British Baptist churches, through the BMS, are involved effectively in mission there. Readers of the Herald will remember the excellent reports we printed from a previous visit to Brazil and since then from visits to Bangladesh and India. We are hoping next month to report on the latest 'trek to Nepal'.*

*We believe that these visits, costly though they may be, are extremely valuable. Not only are the participants more aware of overseas needs, but they are communicating them to their local churches. Several are also considering full time Christian service either at home or abroad as a result of what they have experienced.*

## HOW TO WRITE

## MISSIONARY

## LETTERS

by Alvera

## Mickelsen

published by Evangelical Literature Overseas, Wheaton, Illinois, USA.

HOW quickly the time comes round again to produce another missionary prayer letter! Some missionaries dash them off effortlessly, others wrestle for hours and send off the fourth or fifth draft in desperation – and with relief.

This little book of 44 pages, written by a professional journalist, can be read in half-an-hour, but it could be a Godsend to the average missionary.

The author gives sound, practical and encouraging advice. She deals both with the content and with the format of a good missionary prayer letter. She emphasizes the potential and deals with such themes as 'Catching Attention', 'Preparing Material', 'Planning Layout', and gives samples of 'do's and don'ts'.

This could be a useful gift for a missionary. Available from EMA Books, 186 Kennington Park Road, London SE11 4BT. It is priced at £2.25 (5p a page), but this includes both carriage from the USA and British post.

**Ron Armstrong**



**THE**

# Lisala Baptist Church Ladies Choir



**FROM**

**KINSHASA,  
ZAIRE**

**They are visiting  
Britain during April  
and will be singing at  
the following venues:**

## **WHERE AND WHEN?**

- |                  |  |              |  |
|------------------|--|--------------|--|
| <b>April 6-9</b> | The Baptist Assembly, Bradford                               | <b>20</b>    | Cambridge, Zion Baptist Church,<br>7.30 p.m. |
| <b>10</b>        | Glasgow, Adelaide Place, 7.30 p.m.                           | <b>21</b>    | Kettering, Fuller Baptist Church             |
| <b>11</b>        | Edinburgh, Bristo Baptist Church,<br>7 p.m.                  | <b>23</b>    | Reading, Wycliffe Baptist Church             |
| <b>12</b>        | Dundee Central Baptist Church –<br>United Service, 6.30 p.m. | <b>24</b>    | South Wales – to be announced                |
| <b>14</b>        | Accrington, Cannon Street                                    | <b>25</b>    | South Wales – to be announced                |
| <b>15</b>        | Normanton Baptist Church                                     | <b>26</b>    | Bristol, Broadmead                           |
| <b>16</b>        | Huddersfield, New North Road                                 | <b>27</b>    | Exeter, South Street                         |
| <b>17</b>        | Birmingham, Church of the<br>Redeemer                        | <b>28</b>    | Plymouth, Mutley                             |
| <b>18</b>        | Nottingham, Mansfield Road                                   | <b>29</b>    | Eastleigh Union Church                       |
| <b>19</b>        | Histon Baptist Church, 6.30 p.m.<br>(United Service)         | <b>30</b>    | Harrow, College Road                         |
|                  |  | <b>May 1</b> | Bromley, Park Road                           |





# LOCAL •AMBULANCE• SERVICE

The sound of a wailing siren and screeching tyres is one that we in Britain associate with our rescue services. The sound of the familiar two-tone is one of the few times in our society when we bow to the need of someone else, and let the dashing van pass us on the road.

In most areas of the world, the siren is unheard. When illness strikes, the privilege of hospital care is only available after a huge effort of many days walk.

In Nepal, the lack of general health care means that the small hospitals that do exist are a precious commodity, and the only source of hope for many.

The difficulties of getting to hospital are compounded by the dearth of roads and hilly terrain. At Amp Pipal Hospital, where Ian and Sally Smith are based, patients arrive in all sorts of ways: pushed, pulled, dragged and carried. When the road gives way to a sandy track and the track becomes a steep mountain





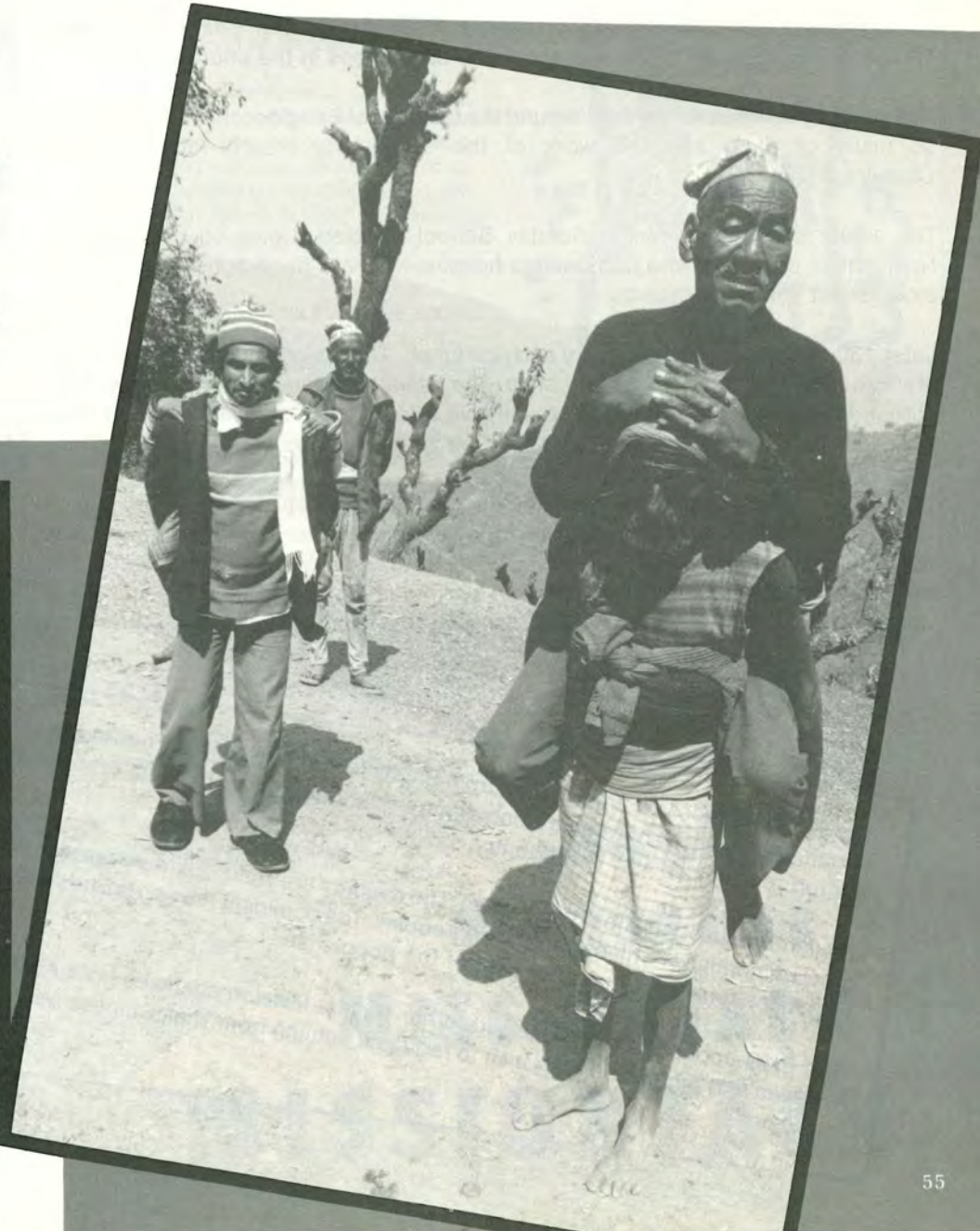
path, the only way of getting to hospital is on the strong back of a relative or slung from a pole carried by two friends.

What these patients don't see are the problems behind the scenes. Maintaining good relationships among hospital colleagues, a continuous turnover of staff members, medicines unavailable or delayed in arriving, people dying of diseases that can be cured elsewhere, community health programmes that through contact with village folk identify a growing need – all these things cause frustration and tension.

And still they come, people with broken bones, failing bodies and ailing spirits to a refuge of healing, of hope, to a place where they know they can find caring people who will take time to tend to their needs.



*Ian and Sally Smith visiting Nepali family*



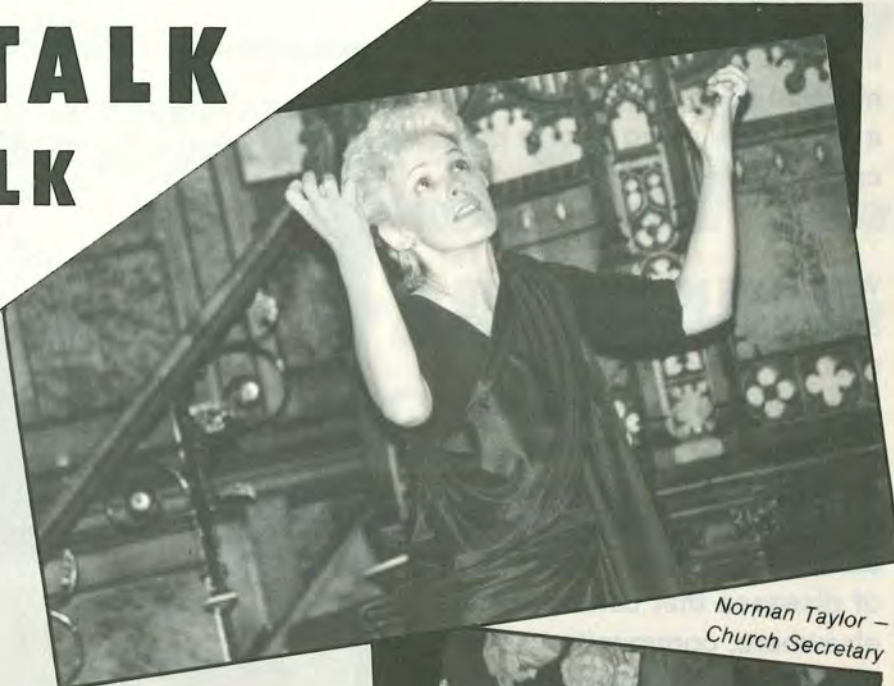


# MISSIONTALK

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Norman Taylor – Church Secretary

## THE BANGLADESH CONNECTION

THE Bangladesh connection was strengthened recently when BMS missionary, Sue Headlam, shared something of her work with her home church.

A congregation of 400 people arrived at Horfield Baptist Church, Bristol, on Sunday 18 January in spite of the ice and snow and burst pipes in the church.

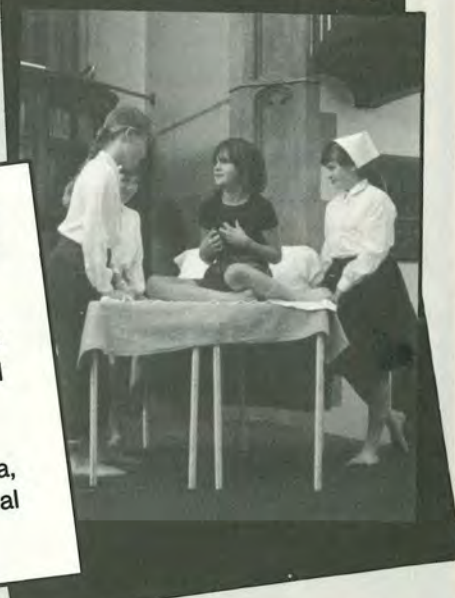
The morning service was centred around the children of Bangladesh and the need of so many of them and the work of the Community Health Programme at Chandraghona.

The Junior Department of the Sunday School enacted a play on the plight of Nomushkar, one child who had been in hospital care at Chandraghona for several months last year.

Later 130 people stayed for a curry and rice lunch. The majority sat on the floor and ate with their fingers, Bangladeshi style. The minister of the church, the Rev Tony Turner, who had visited Bangladesh with his wife in 1986, showed slides of their experiences. Competitions were also held for all age groups.

During the evening service the Horfield Dancers movingly depicted the social stigma which can be attached to leprosy. The Young People's group, 'Kyrie', sang, and Sue shared details of several Bangladeshi Christians' lives, the sacrifice needed and of their devotion to Christ. This was followed by a meditation with slides to help people visualize the needs and to focus their prayers for Christians and church in Bangladesh.

It was a really happy family day.



Junior Department – Nomushkar's story

The BMS has received an invitation from Baptist Church groups in Thailand to send two missionaries or missionary couples for evangelistic, lay-training, medical and church planting work in that country.

Thailand has a population of 52 million. The majority are Thais but there are also large group minorities of Chinese and Tribal peoples. The dominant religion is Buddhist and Christians form about one per cent of the population.

The BMS hopes to co-operate with other Baptist Mission agencies from Australia, Sweden and America in response to requests coming from Thai, Chinese and Tribal churches.



# NESTA BEATRICE SODDY

NESTA SODDY was a member at Park Street Baptist Church, Luton and was, with her husband, associated with Luton all her life. She was appointed to the BMS in 1934, following her fiance out to India, where she and Gordon were married in 1936.

She learnt Bengali first in Barisal, but continued to learn for the whole of her life overseas, for she had great literary and linguistic gifts.

She worked with Gordon, in the Boys' School at Bishnupur, in Dhaka, in Calcutta, in Chandraghona, in Barisal and finally, when Gordon became Field Secretary for East Pakistan, in Chittagong. When they returned home in 1974 she and Gordon were invited to become joint pastors of Markyate Baptist Church near Luton and it was while cycling back home from pastoral visiting that she was killed at the end of the year in which she and Gordon had celebrated their Golden Wedding.

Nesta had skill in languages and a love of literature. She had an orderly, systematic way of working efficiently, without fuss, and with a deeply caring spirit. She made her outstanding contribution to the work overseas through her skills. Her degree in French fitted her to learn a new language and she mastered Bengali as few missionaries have done. She used that skill to help other missionaries in reforming the language school, revising the system and the syllabus. Her love of literature and her realization of the lack of good Christian books in Bengali had led her to train a young Bengali for this and she gave a great deal of time to promoting the literature centre at Chandpur. She was a regular contributor to the Bengali magazine for Protestant churches in East Pakistan and much sought after as a speaker at church meetings and rallies.

During the war and the build up to the great Bengal famine of the 40's Gordon and Nesta maintained a relief work that was in addition to their work in a difficult school situation in Bishnupur. When they worked at Chandraghona she developed an interest in leprosy work and when they were posted to Chittagong she helped in the setting up of outpatient clinics for the victims of that disease.

*Nesta had skills, efficiency and a caring spirit. They were all exercised in quiet, devoted, prayerful dependence on God and nourished by a very private and disciplined prayer life. We thank God for her and commend Gordon and their daughters Alison and Frances and their families to the comfort of their heavenly Father.*

# CALENDAR DISTRIBUTION

BMS Calendars were distributed to elderly members of Astwood Bank Baptist Church, Worcestershire, at the end of last year. Younger members visited most of the folk in their homes, several of whom are housebound. These visits are carried out at several times during the year. The innovation of a calendar will provide a visual link with the church and BMS throughout the year. Copies were purchased from the BMS Area Representative for the Midlands, Peter Briggs.

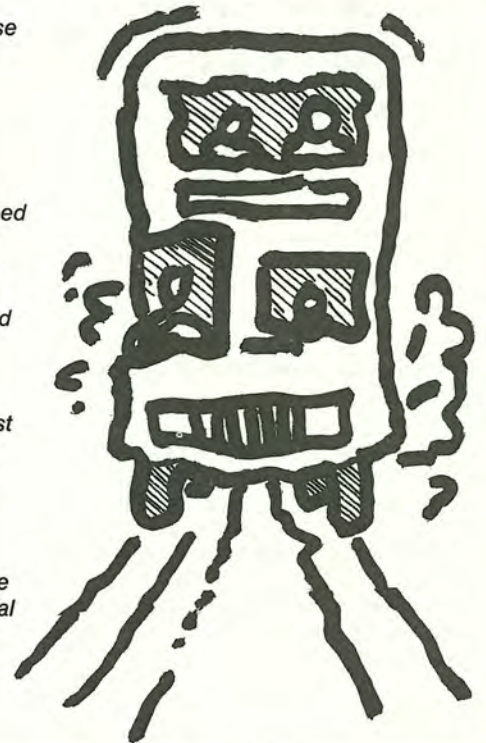
## A BUS MINISTRY

*'MORE and more we are beginning to realise that the vocation of our community can be summed up in the word "reconciliation";' writes David Berly, pastor of Lille Baptist Church in the north of France.*

*He says that they are building bridges with non-believers. Many of them are being helped by the street ministry as they come to the 'Cafe-Chretien', a double-decker bus, or as they are challenged by the Gospel through mimes, songs, testimonies and all presented where the people are, in the shopping precinct.*

*Bridges are also being built with the poorest members of society. Another bus, parked near the station, is open from 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. each day apart from Sunday.*

*'There are hundreds of people in Lille in acute social distress. The services which we offer them in this place of warmth — medical services, advice on employment — are designed to help them reintegrate into society.'*



### APOLOGY

Apologies to Mike Bonser for not identifying him correctly in last month's *Herald*. The photo on page 37 captioned 'Stephen Jennings studying' was Mike Bonser teaching. Sorry Mike!

**MISSIONTALK**  
**MISSIONTALK**  
**MISSIONTALK**  
**MISSIONTALK**



# MISSIONTALK

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## BOOK SHOP

*Because of complex legal and bureaucratic red tape the doors of a new Baptist book shop at Perpignan in south-west France have not yet opened for business.*

*It will be the first branch of the only Baptist book-shop in France. However, the store has already begun an effective witness within the city of Perpignan where there are more than 100,000 inhabitants.*

*As part of a strategy for developing new churches, the French Baptist Federation's Home Mission Department asked its Paris book store, '7-ICI', to locate its first branch in this coastal town. French Baptists hoped that by sending Southern Baptists, Allan and Trudy Carpenter, there the book store could become the basis for developing a Baptist church in Perpignan.*

*While investigating the possibility of renting a shop, the Carpenters were able to contact people interested in starting a Bible study group. After meeting for only a few weeks they are already conducting Sunday morning services for about 20 people in their living room.*

*At the end of November they held their first baptismal service. A 26 year old woman was baptized in the Mediterranean. She and her fiance, both new Christians, will soon provide the group with its first wedding. The members of this new Baptist group are in contact with many other new people.*

*The Perpignan bookstore ministry is still being planned. The French Home Mission Department's planting programme has already led to the creation of a new Baptist church even though the shop is not yet open.*

*'It's all God's doing,' says Trudy Carpenter of this unexpected and rapid development.*

## LISALA BAPTIST CHURCH LADIES' CHOIR

**DURING** the month of April Baptist churches up and down the British Isles will be echoing to the infectious, rhythmic movement and song of an African choir. About 45 women, representing a larger choir of 60, are expected to arrive from Kinshasa, Zaire at the end of this month.

They will start their tour at the Baptist Assembly in Bradford, from 6-9 April, before moving to Scotland. They will then make their way back into England, performing in the North, the Midlands, the East, the West, the South East and the South West as well as spending two days in South Wales.

The choir belongs to the Lisala Baptist Church in Kinshasa. This is one of the

older central churches in the capital and now has two main worship services every Sunday morning each congregation numbering 800. The church has recently bought a large plot of land in a neighbouring district in order to build another church. This will take some of the members away from the Lisala church.

All the singers are church members. The majority are housewives who have to cope with family and household jobs and also do some trading in the local market to provide much needed income for the family. The choir sings regularly at church services and are in great demand at special functions such as Regional Thanksgiving Services. On one occasion they travelled up the Zaire river to Bolobo to sing at the opening of a new section of the hospital.

They hold special Musical Evenings which are a means of Christian witness and evangelism. Their ministry is much appreciated in Zaire and we are sure that, after over 100 years of receiving, through the BMS, the Lisala choir will be able to contribute something of the vigour and joy of African Christianity to British Baptist Church life.

## BUILDING PROBLEMS

*'THE biggest event in Pimu recently,' reports Adrian Hopkins, 'has been the hospital falling down.*

*'Well not quite. But fairly sudden movement of the foundations made the building unsafe and we have had to prop up the roof and knock down a wall that could have fallen down causing a nasty accident. We are now having to demolish the rest of the building.*

*'The children's ward now occupies the students' classrooms and the women's ward is mixed in with the men's. The students are having their classes in their refectory and teaching laboratory.*

*'Richard Allan has started getting information on construction details and making provisional plans.'*



## MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

**Mr and Mrs M Godfrey** on 16 December from Upoto, Zaire.

Mr F S Fry	3,019.56
Miss Alice Myers	25,000.00
Mrs Dora Ruth Pike	2,200.00
Mrs F L Skidmore	5,862.06
Mrs Susan Woolford	20.00

## Arrivals

**Miss R Williams** on 2 December from Yakusu, Zaire.

**Miss P James** on 3 December from Cuttack, India.

**Miss I Strang** on 5 December from Kathmandu, Nepal.

**Mr and Mrs J Davis** on 9 December from Yakusu, Zaire.

**Mr and Mrs S Mantle** on 9 December from Yakusu, Zaire.

**Rev A T MacNeill** on 14 December from visit to Brazil.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretaries acknowledge with grateful thanks the following legacies, and gifts sent anonymously (to 16 December 1986).

Legacies	£
Mrs Gladys Hilda Counter	500.00
Violet Evelyn Alice Cox	3,437.50

## General Work

Anon: £100.00; Anon: £10.00; Wolverhampton: £2.00; Anon: £25.00; Anon: £150.00; Anon: £15.00; Cymro: £50.00.

# BAPTIST HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP

## WESTHOLME, MINEHEAD

Our own seafront hotel – 31 comfortable rooms, some en suite facilities – excellent food and happy fellowship – games room – own car park.

Ideal for both individual and church family holidays.

## HOLIDAY FLATS – MINEHEAD

On seafront, near shops and beautiful Blenheim Gardens, really spacious, well equipped, Colour TV, own car park.

## FELLOWSHIP HOLIDAYS ABROAD – 1987

**MALTA – 21-28 April** – Leader: The Rev Douglas Monkley

**CYPRUS – 26 May-9 June** – Leader: The Rev Frank Wiltshire

**USA – 14-29 August – Denver and the Grand Canyon** – Leader: The Rev Dan Weller

Brochures from:

Baptist Holiday Fellowship Ltd (MH)

1 The Esplanade, Minehead, Somerset TA24 5BE Tel: (0643) 3473



# BACK PAGE BILL BOARD

## BAPTIST ASSEMBLY BRADFORD

Tuesday April 7  
Annual BMS Members Meeting  
2.30 pm in The Great Hall  
Bradford University

Wednesday April 8  
Annual Public Meeting and  
Valediction of Missionaries  
7.45 pm St George's Hall

Thursday April 9  
Missionary Sermon — preacher  
Michael Griffiths — and  
Communion Service  
11.15 am St George's Hall

## BAPTIST ASSEMBLY BRADFORD WOMEN'S RALLY

'God at Work in the World'

Wednesday April 8  
2.30 pm  
St George's Hall

Tickets available from:  
Women's Department  
Baptist Missionary Society  
93 Gloucester Place  
London W1H 4AA  
Please send SAE with your  
application

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE with the BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY

These are some of our urgent needs:

- FRANCE** Two pastors/pastoral couples for evangelistic and pastoral/church planting work.
- THAILAND** Two missionaries/missionary couples for evangelism, lay training and church planting.
- CHINA** Experienced English teachers with TEFL qualifications for work through the Amity Foundation.
- BANGLADESH** A pastor/pastoral couple for evangelistic, lay-training work.
- SRI LANKA** A pastor/pastoral couple for involvement in a lay-training programme.
- BRAZIL** An experienced couple for the job of hostel parents at a hostel for missionaries' children
- ZAIRE** A pump erector to supervise the installation of new water systems for church hospitals.
- ZAIRE** A doctor for a church hospital in the interior of the country.
- ZAIRE** A practical person with abilities for organizing logistic support.

For details about any of these opportunities and other general needs please write immediately to:

Miss J Maple  
Personnel Secretary  
Baptist Missionary Society  
93 Gloucester Place  
LONDON W1H 4AA

## There is still time to book for this year's BMS Summer Holidays

PENZANCE  
July 25 - August 8

EASTBOURNE 'A'  
August 1 - 15

EASTBOURNE 'B'  
August 15-29

PITLOCHRY  
August 1 - 8

For details write to  
93 Gloucester Place  
London W1H 4AA