

MISSIONARY

HERALD

October 1987

*Responding to
changing
conditions in
the Kond Hills*



Editorial Comment

YOU can't be involved in the work of world mission for very long without realizing that this is indeed One World. Nations and institutions are linked together in a complicated web of political, economic and religious connections. But the sad fact is that changes on the world scene seem to have a much more dramatic effect on the lives of people in the underdeveloped and developing countries than in the richer nations.

The Gulf War and the fluctuating price of oil may alter the price of our petrol and increase the cost of goods in British supermarkets. In Zaire the same increase can bring transport to a halt and make many goods impossible to obtain. Brazil's inability to pay back loans may reduce dividends for bank stockholders and increase interest rates for individual borrowers in Britain, but for the ordinary Brazilian it means having to cope with impossible rates of inflation and not being able to pay the rent. Illegal Tamil immigrants seeking refuge may be an irritation to Canada and the UK, but we are far away from understanding what it is like to live in an island divided both by language and religion.

So perhaps it's right to spend time this month, during One World Week (18-25 October), to think about the inequalities of the world and the part we are playing as Christians to make this one world God's world. 2 October is the BMS birthday. In nearly 200 years of work the Society has many times been involved in action to remove the injustices burdening ordinary people. Witness William Carey's campaign to bring an end to the burning of widows in India, or William Knibb's efforts to free the slaves in the West Indies, and, in the early 1960's, the Society's attempts to publicize what was happening in Angola.

That same ministry of love, reconciliation and social action is still ours today as we share, in word and in deed, that Gospel without which there can be no oneness in the world.

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MISSIONARY
HERALD
THE MAGAZINE OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY



FEATURES

OCTOBER 1987

- 183 PERSECUTION AND
PERSEVERANCE
— in the Kond Hills of Orissa
- 184 STANDING FIRM
IN THE FAITH
- 186 ONE MONTH TO GO —
to reach this year's target
- 187 MESSAGE OF LOVE AND
RECONCILIATION
The needs of a community
torn by strife
- 189 ENCOURAGING ONE
ANOTHER
— the power of the pen
- 190 EYE OPENERS
- 192 STANDING UP FOR
YOUR RIGHTS
How a missionary faced up
to local corruption
- 194 MISSIONTALK
- 196 CAN TEACHERS BE
MISSIONARIES?
- 198 CALL TO PRAYER
- 199 MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS
etc.

We share in the work of the
Church in:

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

PERSECUTION

&

PERSEVERANCE



...in the Kond Hills of Orissa

*The second part of Bruce Henry's
account of his visit to Asia in May*

IN India life was very different. After the lush vegetation in the wet zone of Sri Lanka, I flew into a parched landscape in the middle of India's hot season. I landed at Madras Airport and then travelled for 24 hours by train to Berhampur and on, by road, to Udayagiri in the hills of Orissa, at an altitude of 2,000 feet.

Daily thunderstorms had cooled the air considerably, which made travelling more pleasant. I stayed with an Indian family, who were longstanding friends and former colleagues. Their home was a bungalow formerly occupied by BMS missionaries. That, like almost everything else around, was very familiar to me. And so was the language, Kui. I was back in an area and among people with whom my wife and I had shared 23 years of our life as BMS missionaries.

The country had developed enormously since we left it 19 years ago. No longer were there any overseas personnel, and the Kui people (i.e. Konds and Panos, who both speak Kui) had introduced new

working patterns – an indigenous response to changing conditions and the fact that most of the churches in the Kond Hills (an area the size of Wales) are now part of the Church of North India. Young people were noticeably in positions of leadership and the churches were growing and expanding. I was clearly among an active and enthusiastic Christian community.

During a ten-day stay at Udayagiri, I visited several nearby villages, staying in one of them, Badenaju, overnight as the guest of a family well known to me.

I attended Sunday worship at Nuasahi in a packed congregation. Everyone sat on the floor, men on one side and women on the other. I was asked to convey greetings from my home church and to give a short message of encouragement. On all these occasions I was told about a severe persecution the churches had gone through in recent months.

When I was in the bungalow with my hosts, people came from many places just to chat

and share some of their experiences. They were keen to have news of former missionaries.

'How is so-and-so? Have you seen him/her recently? Please give our greetings to them when you get back.'

People were full of stories about the recent assault on the Christian community. They described how they had been under personal physical attack by militant Hindu gangs.

One leader graphically described how he and two friends had been ambushed and threatened with beating by a group of men who rushed out of the jungle in a lonely place. He said that he and his friend talked their attackers into a more conciliatory mood and were then able to escape.

Some groups told me that their church buildings had been burned down. The whole Christian community had been under fire, including Church of North India, Roman Catholic, Baptist and

continued from previous page

Pentecostal churches. I travelled to various parts of the area and heard the same story.

So when the annual assembly of the Udayagiri area took place, I was keen to see what kind of meetings they would be and how well attended. In fact, the occasion was a triumph. Up to a thousand people came for the meetings which lasted three days.

The assembly was held in a huge hall made of poles and leaves. It was called a *pandal* and could easily be dismantled in a day!

The meetings were inspirational and biblical. Some speakers had been invited from outside the area, others were local. The messages were amplified with loudspeakers and there was even strip-lighting rigged up for evening meetings. A music group of young men and women, with various instruments, added a very happy feature.

Again I was invited to bring greetings from UK and to say a few words. I was thrilled with the enthusiasm and energy of the whole community, despite the testing of recent times.

The attack on the Christian Church was instigated by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). This is a militant Hindu organisation dedicated to restore Hinduism, whatever that means, particularly to areas where there has been significant numerical increase in Christianity.

As certain tribal areas, including these hill tracts of Orissa, have seen much increase by conversion from animism to Christianity, such areas have become the spearhead of RSS activity in an attempt to stem the advance of Christianity and persuade, or coerce, Christians to embrace Hinduism.

The RSS really means business. I saw graffiti in huge anti-Christian slogans written over walls in several towns of Orissa. The RSS has claimed much success in reconversions. However, I heard and saw little to support this claim and it was repudiated by Christian leaders.

Only one instance came to my knowledge. An isolated little group of Christians had apparently recanted under extreme pressure. It should be pointed out that this kind of activity by the RSS is totally against the Indian Constitution, which allows people of all faiths to profess, practise and propagate their religion. Unfortunately, the RSS has adherents and supporters in high places. . . .

I was told that the RSS had made a replica image of Jagannath, the god who is venerated in the great temple at Puri. This image was conveyed on a vehicle to various centres in the area as a means of whipping

up anti-Christian feeling. Eventually the authorities forbade this provocative behaviour.

However, much damage has been done. I heard of 19 church buildings, of the mud-and-wattle type, which had been burned down by gangs of RSS supporters. These buildings belonged to various Christian denominations. This had the effect of bringing all the Christian community together as fellow-sufferers.

I kept a detailed diary of my experiences, both in India and Sri Lanka and I now quote from it.

Saturday 2 May 1987

' . . . but things have quietened down now. A number of reasons may explain this:

- a. 'The attack has clearly lost momentum.
- b. 'Its objectives have not only failed but the reverse effect has been achieved. The Church has gone on increasing numerically and many of its divisions have been laid aside . . . RC's and Protestants uniting in prayer and fellowship. Thus the Church has been strengthened under persecution.
- c. 'Some Hindu groups locally have opposed the RSS activity. "We have

lived peaceably with Christians and others; why should this peace be disturbed?"

- d. 'At least two RSS leaders have become Christians and have been baptized.
- e. 'A crowd of RSS supporters and leaders were attacking Christian institutions . . . in the Burbi area. Some of them were armed with firearms, I heard. The police surrounded them (was there a tip-off?) and many were arrested. This action by the police has clearly been a warning to the promoters of violence.
- f. 'Finally – very important – the Christian community has not reacted with violence. The churches have borne the onslaught with prayerful courage and patience, although there has been much fear among isolated Christian groups . . . and now the Church is, I believe, strong and wise enough to know where its true resources and defence lie. The Lord will not forsake his people nor his Church.

The restraining and protecting hand of God has been at work among his people and he has led them into a new experience of unity with fellow Christians. The Lord is indeed 'mightier than the breakers of the sea'.



Standing firm in the Faith

THE difficult situation which Christians in Orissa have been facing has brought a response from the National Council of Churches in India. At a meeting held at Nagpur in March it 'noted with deep concern the reports which had appeared in some newspapers about intimidation and persecution of Christians in Phulbani and Berhampur'.

The Council also expressed appreciation 'to the Governor for the patient and compassionate hearing given to grievances of the victims and for the actions taken by the State Government, though somewhat belated, to extend protection to Christians'.

'We appeal,' says the NCCI, 'to the members and leaders of the Hindu community to respect the human rights and constitutional guarantees of freedom of religious worship and propagation extended to all Christians of India. We request them to abide by the higher Hindu ideals of tolerance and respect for all religions and to restrain those who seek to violate these ideals.'

'We request the State Government to provide compensation for the property destroyed and make sure that the Christians and other minorities are not harassed or subjected to violence, and are given timely protection.'

The NCCI has also assured the Christians of Orissa of solidarity and prayerful support. 'We are confident in the Lord that the Christians of Orissa will stand firm in their faith, will bear their cross with joy and peace, forgive their persecutors, love them and pray that God may forgive them.'



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ONE MONTH ONLY

and £800,000 still to go

It seems right to share a concern with you. This is not lack of faith on our part, but a sense of responsibility that you might be well informed.

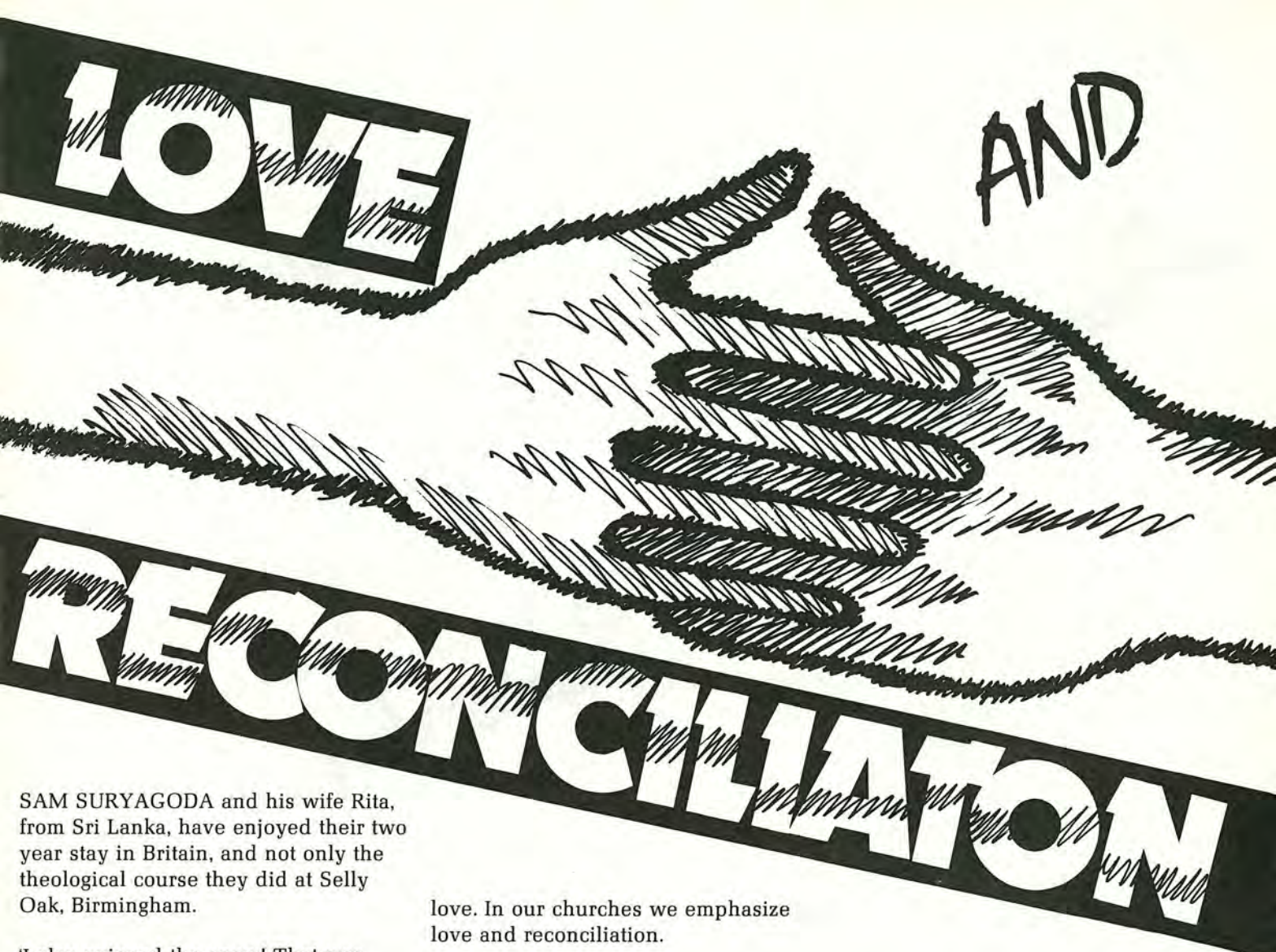
November is the start of another financial year for the BMS. That means we have only four weeks left in order to reach our target figure of £371,414.

Once again Baptist churches in Britain have been giving generously to the work of overseas mission through the Society and so far this giving has increased by 6 per cent. But since we are asking for a 10 per cent increase, it means that we are running behind.

These are exciting times for the Baptist Missionary Society. New doors of opportunity are being opened by God in Thailand, France and El Salvador and already we are beginning to receive enquiries from those who feel God is calling them to serve in these countries. New work is also opening up in countries where we have been working for many years.

If we are to take up these opportunities, as we must if that is the way God is calling us; if we are to train, equip and send a new generation of workers overseas; if we are to continue to work in partnership with national churches in at least twelve countries; then we need the full backing and support of the churches at home.

We believe that you and your church will wish to reflect on this situation as we present it to you and respond to it positively over the next few weeks.



SAM SURYAGODA and his wife Rita, from Sri Lanka, have enjoyed their two year stay in Britain, and not only the theological course they did at Selly Oak, Birmingham.

'I also enjoyed the snow! That was something strange for me.'

'The children enjoyed it too,' said Rita. 'The first time we saw snow, it was marvellous! We all made a big snow man.'

What did they think of Britain?

'I have visited a lot of places,' said Sam. 'At the same time I worked as an Assistant Minister in a Baptist Church for one year. That was a great experience, because I visited so many people and we shared many problems.'

'I was a Baptist minister in Colombo before coming to Britain. Of course we know Peter and Margaret Goodall very well. Peter helped me tremendously and arranged for all my scholarships.'

What are the main issues facing the Baptist Church in Sri Lanka?

'At this moment the Sri Lankan Church is looking at reconciliation and is finding the Gospel in that way now. British churches emphasize faith and

love. In our churches we emphasize love and reconciliation.

'The churches can be a vehicle for reconciliation in Sri Lanka. The two main communities, Buddhist and Hindu, face many difficulties in trying to start a work of reconciliation.'

What can British churches learn from Sri Lanka?

'That's hard to say because our problems are different. Perhaps people in Britain also need to find reconciliation.'

'When we go back to Sri Lanka we will find certain difficulties. How will we preach the Gospel? It is difficult to preach there now because the communities are divided, including the Christian community, between the Tamils and Sinhalese.'

'We didn't expect that from the churches,' Rita said. 'It is very sad to hear.'

'We've had a good time in Birmingham,' Rita went on to say. 'We met lots of friends from all sorts of

countries. We can't get those experiences in other places, so it's been very interesting.

'I did a diploma course at West Hill in Christian Education. It was very interesting. I wrote my dissertation on slow learners in Christian Education. I did some research work to see how in Britain teachers handle slow learners. Most of the time, slow learners in our country are neglected. I have learned lots of ways of helping them now.'

'Back in Sri Lanka I shall be responsible for Sunday School work. Where Sam is the minister, I will take on the Sunday School. If I get the chance to improve Sunday School work it will be a wonderful opportunity to serve God. This is the main benefit I have got from being in Britain.'

Sam Suryagoda has been working for an MA degree in Islamic studies. The family returned to Sri Lanka in September.



December

August

September

January

February

WE'VE BEEN KEPT UP-TO-DATE

... because a church kept its promise

IN 1976 my wife went out with the BMS to work in Kinshasa for two years. At that time her home church, Parkstone Baptist Church in Poole, promised to write to her once a week.

After our marriage we went back to work in Kinshasa and continued there until July of this year. For the whole of that time, almost eleven years, our church has written to us regularly, a different person taking a turn each week.

We have really enjoyed receiving these letters and, through them, have been kept

up-to-date with all the news of the fellowship. It has meant that we haven't lost touch with people from the church, even though we have been away for long stretches of time.

We've been really encouraged by this practical way in which our church has supported us. Perhaps your church could consider writing regularly to other

missionaries. Letters from home mean so much when you are away.

ANDREW NORTH

• ENCOURAGE • • ONE • • ANOTHER •

‘Letter writing is one of the most neglected areas of encouragement,’ says Douglas Brodie.

IN the New Testament we see what an important means of communication letters were and how they were used to encourage believers. So, to whom should we be writing today?

At the beginning of Peter’s first letter the Apostle writes, ‘To God’s elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia.’ So perhaps our first duty in writing is to believers (cf. Gal. 6:10).

In the present-day church missionaries are scattered throughout Europe, Africa, India, the Far East and South America.

Many are in very isolated places and others are going through difficult times. A letter from someone at home could be a real blessing to them.

Some years ago I heard a young missionary couple who were home on their first furlough. The husband was very frank, and as well as speaking of the blessings he spoke of the hardships and the times that they felt like giving up. He said there was one thing which helped to encourage them. It was when they went down to the little post office and saw a blue airmail letter. This showed that somebody cared!

A little research into the missionaries’ background will help to provide topics to write about. It is no use sending the latest Rangers v Celtic score if your missionary detests football and is keen on photography. Of course, church news and what is happening on the home front will always be welcome.

You might also be very surprised in how interested missionaries would be in you personally. One letter I received from a missionary was a particular blessing as he wrote, ‘... we pray for you every morning at breakfast time.’

If you don’t have missionaries on the field from your church, read the Missionary Herald and pray about which missionaries to write to. You can always write to Mission House and ask to be put on the mailing list for a particular missionary’s prayer letter. It is better to write to one or two regularly than to overburden yourself and then give up.

These are just some suggestions, but perhaps already the Lord has spoken to you reminding you of someone to whom you should be writing. But remember that, when you write letters as a ministry, you should not expect regular letters in return. You are writing for the recipient’s encouragement – not your own.

October

June



BRAZIL'S DEEPENING DEPRESSION

BRAZIL's government is struggling to keep the country from economic chaos. In June, the President announced an economic austerity programme called the 'New Cruzado' plan. It was a last-ditch effort to pull the country back from the brink of economic disaster by slamming the brakes on inflation, now running at 1,200 per cent a year. But the plan has been rejected by most Brazilians. In a recent poll 58 per cent of the population doubted the plan's ability to turn the economy around. Violent demonstrations erupted in Rio at the end of June and an angry crowd stoned a bus in which the President was riding.

The 'New Cruzado Plan' involved a price freeze for 90 days, devalued the currency by 9.5 per cent and eliminated the automatic pegging of wages to inflation. It also cut government

spending, stopped government spending on wheat, milk and alcohol fuel, raised public utility costs, and put up bus fares by 50 per cent.

The 'new plan' replaced the 'old' one launched in February last year. Massive support for it ensured its initial success, but before long, large suppliers and middle-men, whose profit margins were shrinking, began to resist the controls. Goods at official prices became scarce and could be found only on the black market.

By the end of last year, the government, faced with a business community threatening 'civil disobedience' and an inflation rate hovering around 12 per cent a month, was forced to end the price freeze.

In February the government announced that it was suspending interest payments on its foreign debt because of a steep drop in exports and foreign reserves. It said it intended to renegotiate its debt repayment schedule so as to protect domestic economic growth. This was coldly received by creditors who applied strong-arm pressure to force the country to back away from this independent stance.

Meanwhile, instead of rising to their real market value, prices shot sky high in the wake of rumours of renewed controls. Brazilians' real buying power shrank rapidly. Brazil's creditors have welcomed the new plan.

GOING PLACES . . .

In 1985/86 the Women's Project, 'Going Places', set out to provide transport for pastors in Angola. Here is just one of the bicycles that was purchased. It is helping a pastor get out and about to visit the people in his district.



What's happening in the Church around the World

MISSION AND DIALOGUE

THE National Council of Churches in India organized a study conference at the Ecumenical Christian Centre in Bangalore. Thoughts were centred on the theme *mission and dialogue in the local church*. According to an NCCI report, the meeting was an attempt to help the church 'cope with the

increasingly pressing demands of the religiously pressing demands of the religiously plural Indian situation'.

Christians are about 2.5 per cent of the Indian population of about 780 million, most of which is Hindu.

ECONOMIC CRISIS AND MISSION

IN a recent letter, BMS missionary Eric Westwood, who works with the Brazilian Overseas Mission Board, speaks of the problems caused by the chaotic nature of the Brazilian economy.

'After a year of tight price controls, suddenly everything exploded and prices have gone leapfrogging. In February a daily newspaper cost three cruzados; today (June) it costs 15. Worse still, house rents have taken the same course and literally thousands of people have found themselves on the streets, having received 100 per cent wage increases to pay 500 per cent increases!

'However, the government has shouted "stop", calling for a three months' truce in price and wage increases. The day after, many prices in the local supermarket were up 50 per cent - just in case.

'What has this got to do with missions? In order to cover the living and working costs of missionaries overseas, the Brazilian Overseas Mission Board has to buy dollars and send them out. In

February, the dollar was costing a little less than 14 cruzados. Last Friday, the exchange rate was approaching 50! As the work of overseas missions depends largely on the annual offering taken up in all the Baptist Churches during March and April, it means in practice that inflation has already eaten away two thirds of this year's income.

'At a recent meeting of the Brazilian Overseas Mission Board, eight new missionaries were appointed. In July they will have their training period, ready to leave for the field. The same meeting, which decided to continue in faith in the sending of these missionaries, decided to cut back on every other expenditure, pruning down in every area except missionary support. This means a hold on a permanent training centre planned in conjunction with the National Missions Board. In terms of simple human economics, there is no way the Board can see through to next year. "We are trusting in the Lord who multiplied the loaves and fishes." '

FRENCH CONFEDERATION

THE 83 congregations of the French Baptist Federation, and the 50 of the Union of Evangelical Free Churches, have formed a confederation, United Evangelical Churches, to work together on evangelism, with youth, and in the mass media.

NEW BWA MEMBER

THE Council of the Baptist World Alliance, meeting in Amman in July, accepted the Evangelical Baptist Church in the Ivory Coast as its 137th member. It also approved a BWA budget of about one million US dollars and reviewed preliminary plans for the 16th Baptist World Congress planned to meet in Seoul in 1990.

BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION

A PAN-AFRICAN Christian Broadcasting Association has been formed. The General Secretary of the group is Wanjiko Boro, a Kenyan.

CONSULTATION

THE Christian Conference of Asia expects to hold an Asia Mission Consultation in 1989. Its theme is to be 'The Mission of God in the Midst of the Suffering and Struggling People of Asia.'

According to a CCA announcement, the consultation will mark the culmination of 'Bible studies, sharing stories of varied experiences in mission, wider consultations within and among churches throughout the continent, where Christians are a small minority.'



On my last visit she was not in uniform. I told her what I wanted. She did not reply. I waited patiently. She had on a low cut dress in the dark printed fabric so popular here. The sleeves were large petal affairs drawn under her muscular arms to meet on the top of the shoulders.

She sat down and eased off her high heeled shoes. The metal desk was coming apart from its base. There were several dirty filing cabinets. One was full of Coca Cola. On a shelf was a roll of handwritten documents tearing open along an elastic band. Two new pairs of army boots at the bottom leaned against an old radio.

I sat on a narrow bench against the wall and waited. I have had to learn never to bluster and demand – they love it when you show signs of falling apart – so you sit quiet and composed, prepared to sit there indefinitely, but not to pay.

Her metal office chair had worn away the concrete in two holes. A window above had been sealed with brown paper. She took a pile of documents and proceeded to sign them in an elaborate signature. I watched, mesmerized. I sat still. It was very hot and the perspiration was running down my neck and legs.

The soldier who had escorted me into the office put his head in the window hole behind me.

'You have to pay for a licence,' he said.

'No,' I repeated politely.

I thought, 'I must not hate this hard-faced woman. She probably desperately needs the 50 zaires and she would be welcome to it. But I will not aid corruption.'

I pray for her. Eventually she reached for my licence.

'Just for one year,' she said, 'and you pay next time.'

'I need one for three years,' I said.

'No,' she replied.

I nod and take my precious licence. I am relieved, elated and I can drive again. I walk back to my house in the blazing sun and the dust.

STANDING UP FOR MY RIGHTS

Continuing the account of a missionary's attempts to renew a driving licence.

I HAVE had to return to the *Bureau des Routiers* three times now, and I have less fear. I speak French more fluently and I am used to standing up quietly for my rights.

When I went back a month later for a renewal of my driving licence I was received in a different dirty shack by a large soldier.

I first thought, 'How odd? This soldier has hardly any hair and then I realized she was

a woman with a close plaited hair style.

I parried the usual demand for a Bible

'Certainly I will give you a Bible if you come to the Mission, but not in exchange for a permit.'

She was wearing the severe army uniform and her face was hard. She demanded money. I said my piece and sat very still and waited. Eventually she signed the permit.



BY HANDS BULLOCKS & PRAYERS

By **Dr. E.G. Wilkins**

Price **£8.95**

THIS is the story of the building of Moorshead Memorial Hospital in the Kond Hills, Orissa, India and of the subsequent work of the hospital.

In 1906, when Dr R Fletcher Moorshead, BMS Medical Secretary, went to the Kond Hills he saw the appalling need and was determined that a doctor should be sent to start a hospital. However, it was not until 1930 that Dr and Mrs Hugh Gray were sent to Udayagiri only to return two years later because of ill-health.

When Dr Moorshead died in 1934 it was decided that an appropriate memorial would be a hospital in the Kond Hills.

Drs Gordon and Honor Wilkins arrived at Udayagiri in 1936. Udayagiri means hill of the dawn, or sunrise. 'This symbolized for us the start of our new work and hopes for the relief of suffering,' writes Dr Wilkins. On arrival they took over and worked on the plans for the new hospital. There were many difficulties, but by 1939 the hospital was opened. The outbreak of war prevented further building at that time.

This is not just the story of the construction of a hospital, it is the story of Gordon and Honor's 15 years in India, of the birth of their three sons and of Honor's attempts to keep cows for milk supplies. It is the story of the long war years when they did not see their families in England. They arrived back home ten and a half years after they had left it. When asked by the customs officers if they had acquired anything overseas Gordon replied, 'Yes, three sons.'

Returning to India in 1948 they had to face many changes. Independence had come to India and East and West Pakistan had been born.

Many names in the book will be well known to older BMS supporters and others will enjoy reading of missionary life in the 40's. Those early years at Udayagiri were days before many of the modern drugs and antibiotics.

The book finishes: 'The hospital is now approaching its Golden Jubilee and its future is in the hands of the Church of North India. Prayers are still needed, for it is amazing, but true, that God uses all of us, but only when through prayers we align ourselves with His will.'

Copies, with hard covers, maps, diagrams and 16 pages of illustrations, are obtainable from the Malvern Publishing Company, 32 Old Street, Upton on Severn WR8 0HW, who allow 35 per cent discount and free carriage, cash with order.

Men in the service of God

70 years of the
Baptist Men's
Movement

70 years of the Baptist
Men's Movement
by **Kenneth.W.Bennett**

Price **£1.50**

THE Baptist Men's Movement has its roots firmly placed in the BMS starting life as it did as the Baptist Laymen's Missionary Movement and holding its inaugural meetings in the Old Mission House at Furnival Street.

This book tells the story of the movement from its beginnings until the present day. In word and in picture some of the leading figures in Baptist life during this century are portrayed.

It traces the beginnings of the very successful auxiliaries of the movement – Operation Agri, the Baptist Housing Association, Tools with a Mission and, right up to date, the tape service for the visually handicapped.

The book contains an appendix which lists the officers of the movement from 1917 to 1987.

Copies of the book are available from the BMM Office, 93 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4AA, at £1.50 plus 20p for post and packing.

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

*Emmanuel Baptist Church, Delhi
'Kenneth in the Belfry!'*



DING DONG DELHI



Pastor Osmond John and family

THAT was the caption in a Lewisham newspaper reporting on the presentation of a church bell by the Baptist Church to Emmanuel Baptist Church in Delhi.

The story began in 1985 when Kenneth Anderson, on a visit to India, went to the Delhi church. The Rev Osmond John, pastor of the church, explained how it was founded. It was started by a group of Christians who played badminton and formed themselves into a church. The church grew so much that eventually they had to have a proper building. The provision of windows and electric light came as an answer to prayer, but there remained the desire to have a church bell.

'Some time later,' said Kenneth Anderson, 'I was preaching at Lewisham Baptist Church. I learned how, when they were in a smaller building, they purchased their present one from the Church of England. But they were not allowed to use the bell. I told them of the desire of the Emmanuel Church in Delhi. So eventually they decided to make a present of it.'

'It is one thing to be given a 40 pound bell in Lewisham, but quite another to get it out to Delhi. Then came the offer of free transport if it could be crated. So I made a crate using the wood of our garden table-tennis table.'

'Unfortunately it had not arrived in Delhi by the time of my next visit, although I was able to tell them about it. In February this year I visited the church again and saw the belfry with the newly installed bell. It was a great privilege at 10 a.m. on Sunday February 15 to conduct a short dedication service and ring the bell. I spoke briefly about Christians ringing true and ringing out — making the Gospel known.'

Kenneth Anderson often travels in Asia in connection with his work as a consulting engineer.

'I have been able to get many openings to meet and encourage the work of the churches,' he says.

'It is wonderful to see how the Lord is using Asians to run the churches, schools and much of the work founded by missionaries. We can thank God for raising up many men and women of vision and dedication.'

*Emmanuel Baptist Church, Delhi
Crowd from congregation outside church*



DAY OF PRAYER

THE United Mission to Nepal is calling its friends and mission partners around the world to observe a special day of prayer for Nepal on October 25.

November 2 is the Baptist Women's Day of Prayer. A programme, including an order of service, scripture readings, testimonies and ideas for prayers, has been issued by the Baptist World Alliance around the theme *God's Command: Be Peacemakers*.

REUNION

A GROUP of former BMS missionaries, who had served in various parts of Asia, met at Hereward Wake House, Northampton, for the week-end of June 13-14. They were able to share news from the various fields and to spend time in prayer. They also exchanged information relating to current activities, which have developed as a result of their earlier missionary experience.

Over the past ten years or so, some five or six similar occasions have taken place, having grown from small beginnings, but always because of popular demand. Any former missionary, who would like to participate in these gatherings, is most welcome.

The next occasion is likely to take place in June 1989 at St Edward's Conference Centre, Gt Malvern, Worcestershire. The time together could possibly be extended to include a period of holiday for any who would welcome this. Those who are interested in any aspect are invited to contact

**Revs. Norman and Edna Outlaw,
63 Britten Drive,
Poolbrook,
Malvern,
Worcs. WR14 3LG**

as early as possible so that preliminary booking arrangements may be made.

FEED THE MINDS

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Tel: Guildford 577877.**

SLIMMER AND HEALTHIER

'If you're going to slim and feel better for it, why not let someone else benefit as well?'

That's what Keith Hawton, treasurer of Swaythling Baptist Church,

Southampton, thought when he went on a sponsored diet and raised £75.41.

'I feel sure that the loss of weight has been good for my health,' he said, 'so I would like the proceeds to go to medical work overseas.'

FLOODS

WIDESPREAD flooding has been affecting northern Bangladesh destroying crops and making people homeless. The SHED (Social, Health and Education) Board of the Bangladesh Baptist Sangha is working to bring some assistance to the area and has asked for financial assistance. As a result an initial £3,000 has been sent by the Society from the BMS Relief Fund.

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

Can Teachers be Missionaries?

... asks
PAT WOOLHOUSE

THAT's a question often spoken, or implied, in conversations on deputation and elsewhere. Can a teacher, as opposed to a pastor or evangelist, have as the primary aim the leading of folk to Christ and building them up in the faith. My own experience, in the Christian secondary school at Kimpese in Lower Zaire, is that the answer to the question is a resounding, 'Yes!'

Our Christian schools in Zaire are generally valued for their high academic standards and for the honesty with which they are run as well as the moral standards that they instil. Any Christian teacher has many opportunities in the classroom to share his faith.

The state curriculum gives two hours a week to the teaching of either ethics or religion, the choice being left, in principle, to the pupils. My former

headmaster said very firmly, 'As far as I am concerned, our pupils made their decision when they chose to come to this school.'

Every pupil coming into the Kimpese school, then, receives formal instruction in what the Bible teaches for two hours a week throughout his stay with us.

However, you don't have to be an RE teacher to show your faith in the classroom. I spend most of my time teaching English to the senior classes. By the time pupils reach their final year, they have a fair grasp of the basic structures of the language, and my main aim is to get them using it and increase their vocabulary. We use the text-book, recommended by the State, which is divided into four sections: Witchcraft and Sorcery; Wisdom and Knowledge; the Family; Politics and Freedom. Fancy

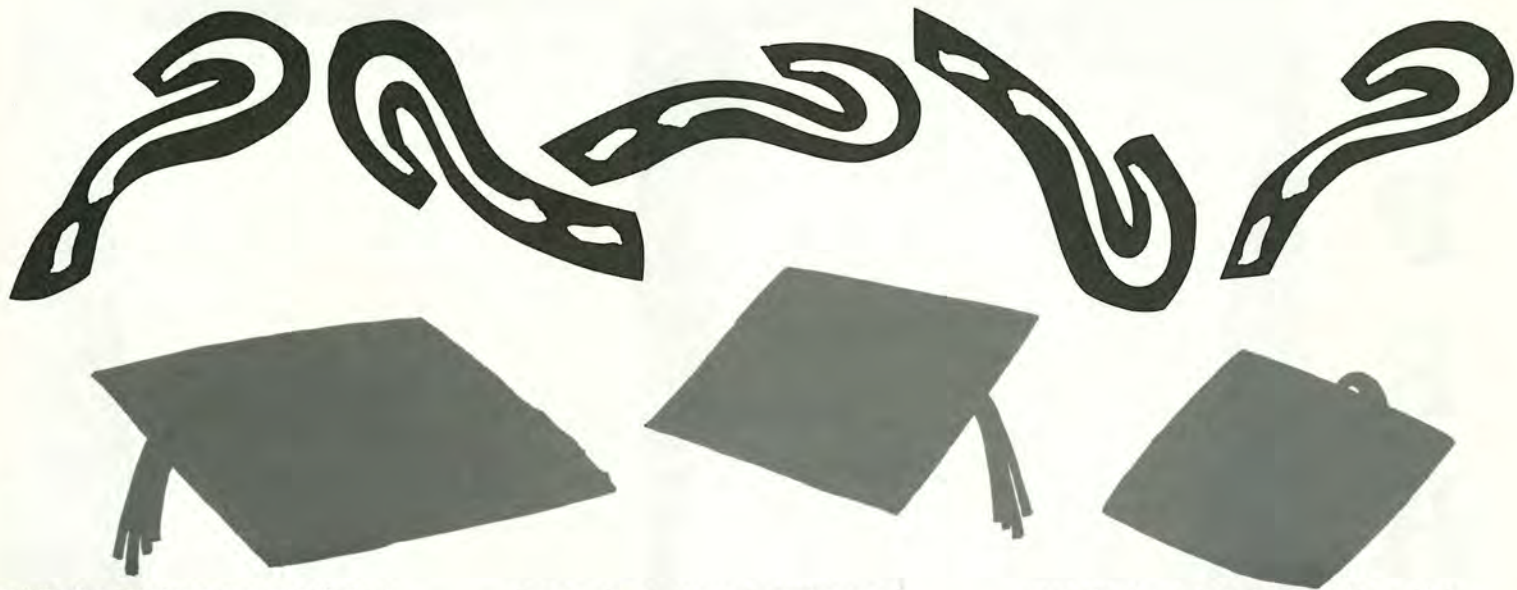
being asked to discuss the rights and wrongs of polygamy, or the real power of fetishes. What an opportunity!

Out of the classroom, a Christian teacher has many other opportunities to share, with his pupils, what he believes. Many of our youngsters, away from their parents for months or even years at a time, treat their teachers more or less as substitute parents. They take to them their moral, financial and spiritual problems. This is both a responsibility and a privilege.

Our school day, six days a week, begins with Christian worship, usually led by a member of staff or a senior pupil – a hymn, a Bible reading and a short message followed by a time of prayer. On the seventh day, Sunday, the first two years are expected to attend Sunday School taught by Bible School students,

2 Corinthians 5 ✕ James 2





while the third years upward share worship with the rest of the parish.

Both Campus Crusade and Scripture Union groups meet regularly, the latter attracting in the region of 60-80 youngsters most Sundays. It is in such groups that we try to build on the basic teaching given in RE lessons and during morning prayers, teaching the 'how to' of Bible study, encouraging personal quiet times and training in evangelism. This leads on naturally to weekend trips into villages, which can be anything up to four or five hours' walk away, in order to share the Christian message with others.

These more educated young people are the leaders of the future and through our Christian schools we are trying to ensure that there will always be Christians available to fill responsible roles in every part of society. Many of them will not easily be reached in any other way. Even if they are in contact with churches when at home, many less well-trained pastors find that they, with their limited French, are hesitant about reaching out to them. Sadly, many of our young people tend to despise those who aren't at ease in

French. There is a generation and education gap in many churches that the Christian schools are trying to bridge.

And what about our national teacher colleagues? Do we have any role to play in helping them? Professionally it is very obvious that we do. In most cases we have the privilege of being trained teachers, whereas many of our colleagues may be completely untrained. Their ideas of the professional standards to strive for are largely decided by the schools where they themselves studied, and sometimes the example of colleagues who have been educated in other parts of the world can be helpful.

Some come to work in a Christian school because they are themselves committed Christians. Others are seeking and ready to listen to committed colleagues, whether nationals or missionaries. However, I often feel also that as expatriates we have a special role. We all know how one bad apple quickly sends the others rotten. There is the less familiar fact that a few grains of

uncooked rice help to keep the salt dry and flowing smoothly. We are like those grains of rice. It is easier for us, just because we are foreigners, to stand out against the pressures of corruption, for example, but our stand may be just what colleagues need to encourage them to stick to their principles.

I am convinced that there is a very real and urgent job to be done for Christ through the Christian schools of Zaire. It has been a privilege to share in that work over a number of years and to see the way that the Lord is choosing to build his Church through committed Christians in education.



Ephesians 4 + Luke 6 = ?



PRAYER DIARY

EDUCATION IN INDIA

4-10 October

MANY people in India are very keen for their children to have the opportunity of going to Christian schools because of their high reputation for a good education. Two of the remaining missionaries in India are involved in education work. Pansy James is at Cuttack, who has responsibilities in the Steward School, where she has special charge of the nursery classes. Carole Whitmee is at Balangir and is closely concerned with the work of the hostels. We remember all Christian teachers that by their lives, as well as by their words, they may share with the pupils the good news of Jesus as Saviour.

NEW AREAS OF WORK

France, Thailand and

El Salvador – 18-24 October

DURING the last 18 months the Society has accepted the call and challenge to work in these three countries. Pray that the right candidates will be forthcoming for the work in France and Thailand – two couples in each country, initially. The Rev David Mee has been accepted for service with the BMS in El Salvador and early in 1988 hopes to be leaving for there, first for language study and then to work with the El Salvador Baptist Association. We pray that he will be given all the wisdom, grace and courage that he will need.

SRI LANKA

25-31 October

SRI LANKA's tensions and hostilities continue to be in the news. In the midst of this the Church seeks to be a reconciling force. Across the road from Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church, in Colombo, is the hospital where victims of the bomb-blast at the bus-station are still being treated. The National Association of Church Women in Sri Lanka has made funds available for Cinnamon Gardens Church to help them. Every day lunch packets are provided for the patients and the relatives who stay with them. The church also provides soap, milk foods and vitamins, when necessary. Individual members of the church are visiting them when they can.

HEALTH WORK IN ZAIRE

11-17 October

NEW and existing Community Health projects run by church, government, commercial and private agencies are being grouped together in an attempt to provide a logical and efficient national service. In many areas, Christians have been asked to take the main responsibility in administration of the necessary change. This demands integrity, wisdom and sensitivity in dealing with the powerful and influential, as well as the poor and weak, all of whom need to share in the provision of a basic health promoting service.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN ZAIRE

1-7 November

WE praise God for those who are called to the ministry. Because they will become leaders some apply for training, or are pushed by their local Church Region to apply, for the wrong reasons. So the Church in Zaire has established a set of criteria to help the churches in the way they select ministers. The student, his wife and family, receive a nominal sum to help them buy food, but prices are high and often food is scarce. So they have to find ways of earning money as well as devoting time to their studies and to practical work in the local churches. At Yakusu Roz Williams and Mama Kuvituanga help in the preparation of student wives and also run a nursery school for their children. At Bolobo, the Rev Lituambela and Irene Masters hold joint seminars for husbands and wives on the subject of the Christian family where traditional roles are tested by Christian values.

MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

Arrivals

Rev and Mrs D Holmwood on 6 August from Piraquara, Brazil.
Miss C Trundle on 9 August from Pimu, Zaire.
Miss V Watkins on 9 August from Upoto, Zaire.
Mrs C Green on 21 August from IME, Kimpese, Zaire.

Departures

Rev R Deller on 10 August to Porto Alegre, Brazil.
Rev and Mrs K Riglin on 18 August to Kingston, Jamaica.
Mr and Mrs A Brown on 19 August to Kinshasa, Zaire.
Miss B Olding on 19 August to Kinshasa, Zaire.
Miss M Swires on 12 August to Campo Grande, Brazil.

Rev and Mrs D Punched on 20 August to Curitiba, Brazil.
Mr C Pavitt on 27 August to Luanda, Angola.

Births

On 12 August, in Nepal, to **Mr and Mrs M Roake**, a son, Andrew Michael Stuart Roake.

General Work

Via Charities Aid Foundation: £25.00; Anon: £25.00; FAE Aberdeen: £10.00; Anon Durham: £20.00.

Legacies

	£
Ada Broadbent	571.48
Mr Hugh Hurst Broom	100.00
Mrs Dorothy N Caulder	500.00
Mrs Clarke	200.00
Miss Priscilla Cocker	3,500.00
Miss H M Coulson	500.00
Mrs Dorothy G Cox	100.00
Miss Louisa Mary Davey	226.73
Mrs Margaret Lauchlan	1,221.12
Miss Elsie Agnes Denne Mendham	250.00
Miss Winifred Mary Minnett	200.00
Miss E L Trerise	100.00
Mrs E M Wheatcroft	100.00
Mrs K J Wintle	5,648.32

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretaries acknowledge with grateful thanks the following legacies, and gifts sent anonymously (to 20 July 1987).

BMS LONDON BAPTIST MISSIONARY UNION AUTUMN MEETING

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church London

Monday 5th October 1987 7.30pm

Refreshments in Friendship Centre from 6 pm

YOUNG PEOPLE'S AND PROMOTION SECRETARY

— AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE WITH THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY

A good communicator with a deep commitment to world mission is required. As well as initiation and stimulation of general educational and promotional activities, the person appointed will carry special responsibility for young people's work. This will involve general supervision of the Society's work among the 15-25 years age group, with the conduct of conferences for such and training conferences for their leaders. Applications should be accompanied by a curriculum vitae and names and addresses of at least two confidential referees who will be able to comment on the applicant's relevant experience.

Applications by **9 October** to Rev R G S Harvey, BA, General Secretary, Baptist Missionary Society, 93 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4AA, marking envelopes 'Confidential Application'.



NOTICES

MAKE MISSION LIVE!

Workshops for
**Missionary Secretaries, Ministers,
Youth Leaders, etc.**
and all interested in mission education

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

TRURO - Saturday 7 November
at Truro Baptist Church

Further details from:

Rev Peter F E Amies
9 Newport Close
Clevedon
Avon
BS21 5DZ
Tel: 0272 875563

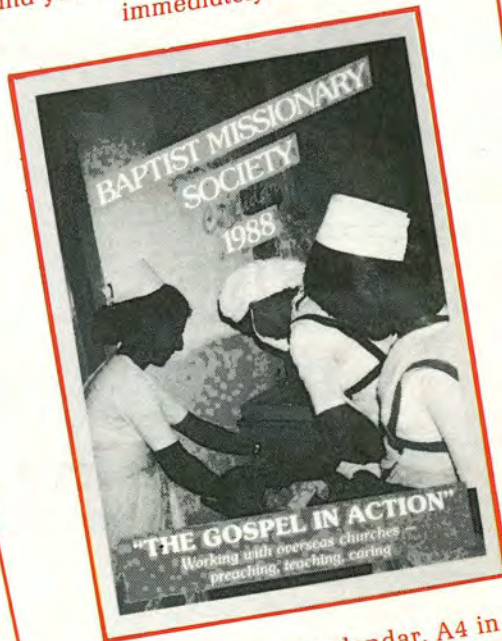
BMS PRAYER GUIDE

The 1988 Prayer Guide will be ready for despatch on 1 November. We are keeping to the design format of the present year, retaining prayers, but we are going back to a yearly prayer cycle as in previous years.

We are keeping the price at 50p - 45p if you order before 30 September - because we believe that this is a vital way of upholding the work of the BMS and the national churches with which it is in partnership.

1988 CALENDARS

These are now available!
Yes really! Just write into Mission House
and your order will be despatched
immediately.



It is an engagement calendar, A4 in size
with 14 full colour photographs
illustrating the areas where BMS is at
work.

The cost? £1.50 or £1.75 by post.

COLOUR POSTERS

The first two in our new series of full colour A3 size posters are now available at £1.00 each, inclusive.

By popular request we have reproduced the cover photograph of the March 1986 *Herald* featuring the two young girls from Nepal.

The second poster is of a Baptism scene in the Kond Hills, India.