

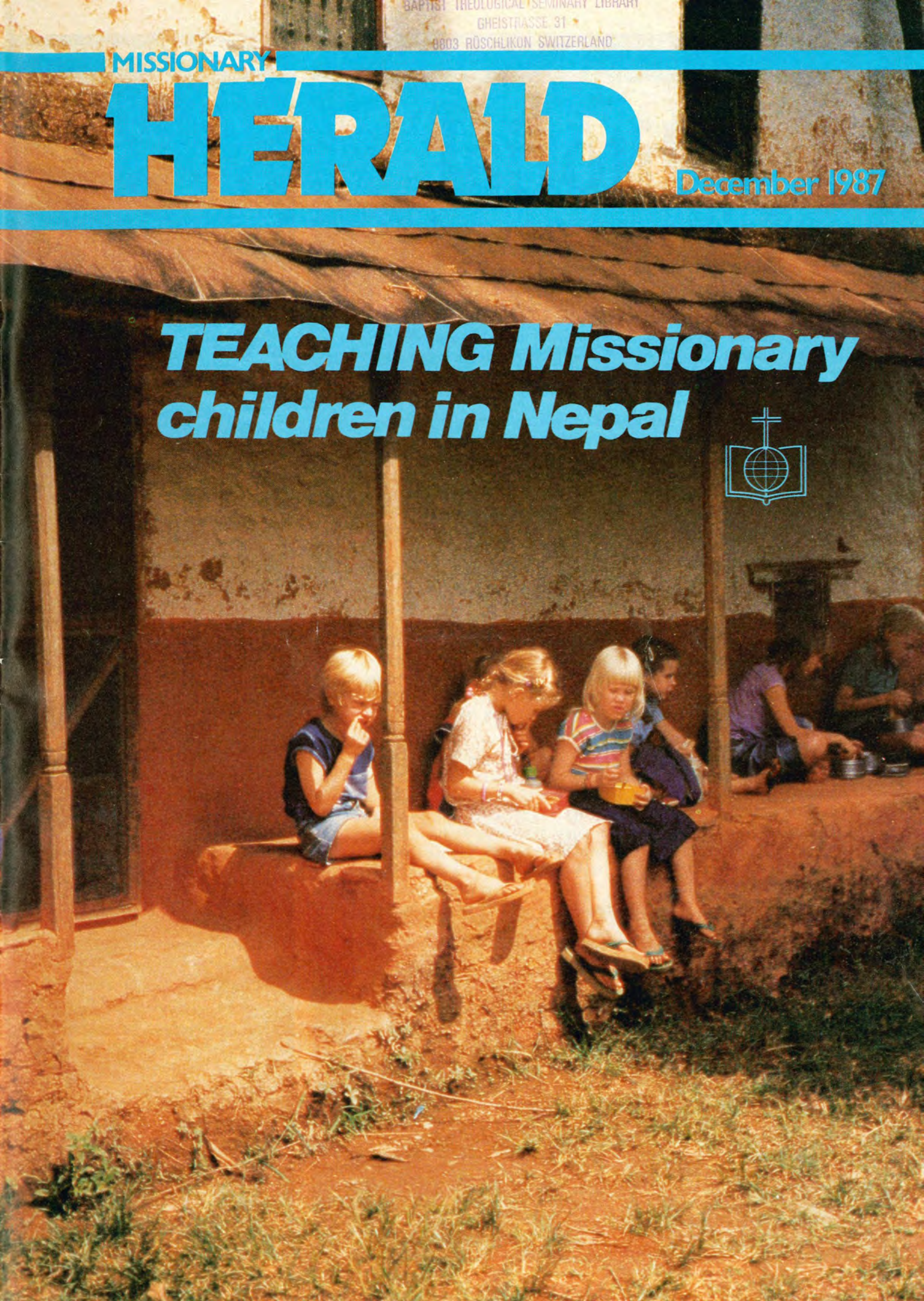
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MISSIONARY

HERALD

December 1987

TEACHING Missionary children in Nepal



Editorial Comment

CHRISTMAS is traditionally a family occasion, at least it is for us in Britain. Where we can get together with our parents, brothers, sisters, children . . . we do so. If various members of the family circle are absent, then we telephone them or make sure that they receive cards and presents. We don't like to feel that anyone is left out.

But it is not so easy for our missionaries to maintain contact. Mail is often sporadic. Some of our personnel in Zaire have received Christmas cards the following Easter, and two or three years ago a Christmas parcel was delivered in Kisangani several years after the intended recipient had returned to the UK. However, the late cards do brighten up missionary homes for they are often left on display until the new batch arrives.

The BMS does try to make sure that, where possible, the children of missionaries at school in Britain are able to visit their parents overseas. But do remember to write to your missionary links in good time for Christmas if not this year then next year.

Christmas is a family occasion and as far as Baptists in Britain are concerned that family is a worldwide one. We've printed a few paragraphs from missionary letters, this month, to give you an idea of how Christmas is celebrated by our church partners overseas. Remember them too, most of them celebrating without all the goodies we seem to think are essential.

Christmas is a missionary occasion – yes, really! What greater missionary event has there ever been than the birth of Jesus. He is Immanuel, God with us, God reaching out to mankind through His Son for the salvation of the world. It's strange then that, as usual, churches draw a line on deputation bookings at the end of November. It is as though we draw in upon ourselves at Christmas-time instead of expanding our vision to include all that God is willing for our world.

MISSIONARY HERALD
THE MAGAZINE OF
THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY
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ISSN 0264-1372

© 1987 Baptist Missionary Society
Photoset and printed by
Stanley L Hunt (Printers) Ltd
Rushden, Northamptonshire

MISSIONARY
HERALD
THE MAGAZINE OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY



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Brazil, Zaire –
EVERYWHERE!

We share in the work of the
Church in:

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



WHAT ABOUT THE MISS KIDS?

'When a couple with children begin to feel they are being led by God into service overseas one of the major matters for consideration is the education of their children,' says Judith Steed, recently returned from Nepal.

'Will there be a primary school where we go?'

'Will there be a secondary school?'

'Could we bear to send them to boarding school?'

'Will our children have other Western children to mix with at school or at home?'

'Would we be able to teach them ourselves if necessary?'

'Will the education there enable them to slot back into our system at home?'

'Will they be disadvantaged?'

All these are very valid questions and should be seriously considered. It would not be right for children to receive an inadequate education as a result of their parents' missionary call.

But there is no reason for the missionaries' child to have an inadequate education. In fact there are occasions when better schooling and more opportunities are available on the mission field than at home. Circumstances vary from family to family depending on the country to which they are sent and their location within that country.

I have been teaching primary aged children of missionaries in Nepal in two different locations and met with the full range of educational options. One of these options in Nepal is the tutorial group. This is a small school set up in recent years by the United Mission to Nepal as a response to the need for primary schooling on its projects in more remote parts.

I was first assigned to the tutorial group in Butwal, a small industrial town area near the Indian border. Approximately 16 missionary families lived there and up to 15 children of mixed nationality attended the group where I taught alongside another teacher.

There are a number of government schools and Nepali private schools in Butwal but these are never a viable proposition for an expatriate child. It may help the social integration of the missionary child with Nepali children and this

is a desirable objective but the nature and standard of education is unsuitable and would put the child at a disadvantage for entering the system back home. This needs to apply to all countries where missionaries are working. It would depend on the quality of the education.

So for many missionary kids of Butwal the tutorial group is essential. It provides both an education and social experience as valuable as any they may have received in their home country. Of course there are limitations to what such small schools can offer but these are more than made up for by advantages unique to the situation. For example, the children are learning in a caring Christian environment and the group is small enough to care for individual needs.

The children are from various countries: Canada, Sweden, Australia, Holland, Britain. This international setting is in itself a rich experience. In addition there are many opportunities to learn from the natural environment. Ask a junior child in England where clay comes from they would likely answer, 'Third shelf down in the stockroom in a plastic bag.' Any child in my tutorial group class would tell you from experience that it can be dug from the hillside and needs

cleaning and refining and wetting to the right consistency before it is 'ready to use'. They could also tell you there is no mystery in a kiln and you only need some bricks and sawdust to fire your clay pots and models.

After a year in Butwal I moved to the Andhi Khola project in the hills to set up a new tutorial group. There were to be 14 children needing a teacher. It was a simple Nepali house with mud walls and floor and tin roof that I turned into a school. We worked with limited but adequate books and materials, using the project work and the natural resources of the hills for studying whenever possible and the children really enjoyed their school. One set of parents remarked to me that it was just the kind of education they wanted for their children.

A small school is not the only way a child can learn in a remoter location, sometimes there will not be a school. Then there is a choice of home tuition or boarding. There are very good Correspondence Courses available which children study at home under parental supervision. Their work is sent off to the Correspondence teacher for assessment. Many children enjoy learning this way and make good progress but a lot of discipline is needed on behalf of parent and child to ensure the work is done well. It is not suited to all families. An obvious disadvantage to home tuition is the lack of playmates and chance for social integration.

Sending a child to boarding school is never an easy decision. It is often necessary with older children and may be with younger ones.

Parents must have complete confidence in the school the child is to go to and both child and parents need to be emotionally ready for the separation. Practical problems need overcoming too. It may mean three days travel between home and school as it did for some families in Nepal who had children boarding at Hebron School in India.

Boarding is more usual for children over eleven. Good boarding schools for expatriate children can be found in most countries but as children approach the time for sitting public examinations some parents feel the best thing to do is to return home and settle their children into the home system. Unfortunately this may mean a long break or an end to their missionary service. Other families find the solution is to put their children into a boarding school in the home country and the most difficult part of that is that they may only get together as a family twice a year. Even so it is working well for those I know doing it.

Perhaps the last hurdle to overcome is that of furlough. If care is not taken when planning, children could go without months of schooling. Furloughs can often be arranged so the child can have a certain number of complete terms in school in the home country.

Missionaries' children have to cope with parents' responsibility to minimise the effects of this instability on the child and to ensure as much as possible that the child gets a consistent education.



Left: Missionaries' children in Nepal making Christmas cards

Top, centre and below: classroom and teaching activities



EDUCATION IN NEPAL 6-12 December

Standards in education are generally low and teaching methods poor. College and school places can be obtained by bribery. The United Mission is involved in various areas of education including teacher training and secondary school teaching. Some teachers are posted in remote areas.

Richard Cameron is acting headmaster of the Gandaki Regional School at Pokhara, whilst David Banback is on furlough. The Christian members of staff provided by the UMN seek to demonstrate God's love and Christian principles as they work with Nepali colleagues to teach and train some of the most promising boys and girls in the country.

DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY WORK IN ZAIRE 13-19 December

Logistics is a major headache in Zaire. Medical services especially depend on a reliable system of ordering drugs and equipment or vehicle spares. It helps to have specialist people responsible for this. It also relieves doctors and other medical personnel from these jobs in order to concentrate on their own. The radio network is tremendously important for helping work and boosting morale. Building and technical maintenance of generators and vehicles are essential tasks done in collaboration with Zairian personnel. Please pray for: Richard and Jo Allan, maintenance, Pimu; John and Ruth Davis, builder, Yakusu; Tim and Angela Hinchliffe, engineer, Yakusu; Richard and Sue Hoskins, logistics and maintenance, Bolobo; John and Margaret Corbett, radio project, Kinshasa.

CHURCH WORK IN ZAIRE 3-9 January

In a visit to any church you would encounter an enthusiastic congregation led by choirs of men, women and other groups with their refreshing Africa-style, music-cum-drama. The CBFZ counts 173,430 members in good standing, 6,879 members under discipline and another 14,790 registered catechumens.

What a responsibility therefore lies on the Pastors and Deacons of these churches to equip their members to be mature in Christ so that the Church can be the vital influence in society which it is commissioned to be by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pray for the Pastors that, with incessant calls on their time for pastoral and administrative needs, they may make time to be quiet, reflect, study the Word and pray. Pray that they may feed their people with the Living Word.

MEDICAL WORK IN NEPAL 20-26 December

As well as the big new hospital at Patan, the UMN has personnel working in smaller hospitals and village dispensaries in distant villages. All travel in Nepal is arduous – pray for missionaries as they go to visit these medical centres – Kin Liu travels to help lab technicians set up better testing facilities, Isobel Strang goes around to help trainee physiotherapists. Stuart Little, with his family, has returned to Tansen, pray for them as they settle back into life there and Stuart again exercises his skill as a dentist.

CHURCH WORK IN ASIA – BANGLADESH 27 December-2 January

Give thanks for the church in Bangladesh and the evidence of the work of the Spirit. The new headquarters of the BBA at Mirpur, Dhaka, bringing all the offices of the various parts of the work under one roof has helped to develop a greater understanding and efficiency. Pray for all those in positions of leadership, especially Poritosh Biswas, the General Secretary, that they may have vision and be strong in the Lord. Pray that the church may boldly and faithfully witness to her Lord and Master.

P R A Y E R D I A R Y



The Chorale of the Church of Christ in China (Hong Kong Council), led by Rev Yung Kok Kwong (General Secretary), were invited by the Guangdong provincial Christian Council and 3-Self Committee to visit Guangzhou, Taishan and Zhongshan in July on a musical tour. Immediately upon their arrival, the word spread among the Christian community like a cool breeze on a hot summer day.



The Chorale, conducted by Dr Hayward Wong, a veteran in the music world, was established a couple of years ago. With assiduity and the spirit of professionalism, it now enjoys a good name in Hong Kong, Macau and even in Southeast Asia. The visit this time was under the theme of 'Praises through the Ages: Hymns of All Nations'. The repertoire included a capella hymns from medieval Europe, 19th and 20th century church music from Europe and North America, Negro Spirituals, and hymns written or adapted by Asian and Chinese Christians.



On the evening of 19 July, 1987, the Chorale gave its first performance at the Dongshan Church in Guangzhou (Canton). The 24 members of the Chorale, dressed in black and white, each holding a red folder, made a striking sight on the stage. Following the movement of Dr Wong's baton, the group displayed its talent in China for the first time. The audience of several hundred was enchanted. Finally, the Chorale joined hands and voices with the choir of Dongshan Church. The joint ensemble of over 80 people sang with one voice the Chinese hymn, 'Lord, I want to Love You More' and the 'Gloria' by Mozart.

FRIENDSHIP THROUGH SONG

A choir from Hong Kong visits China

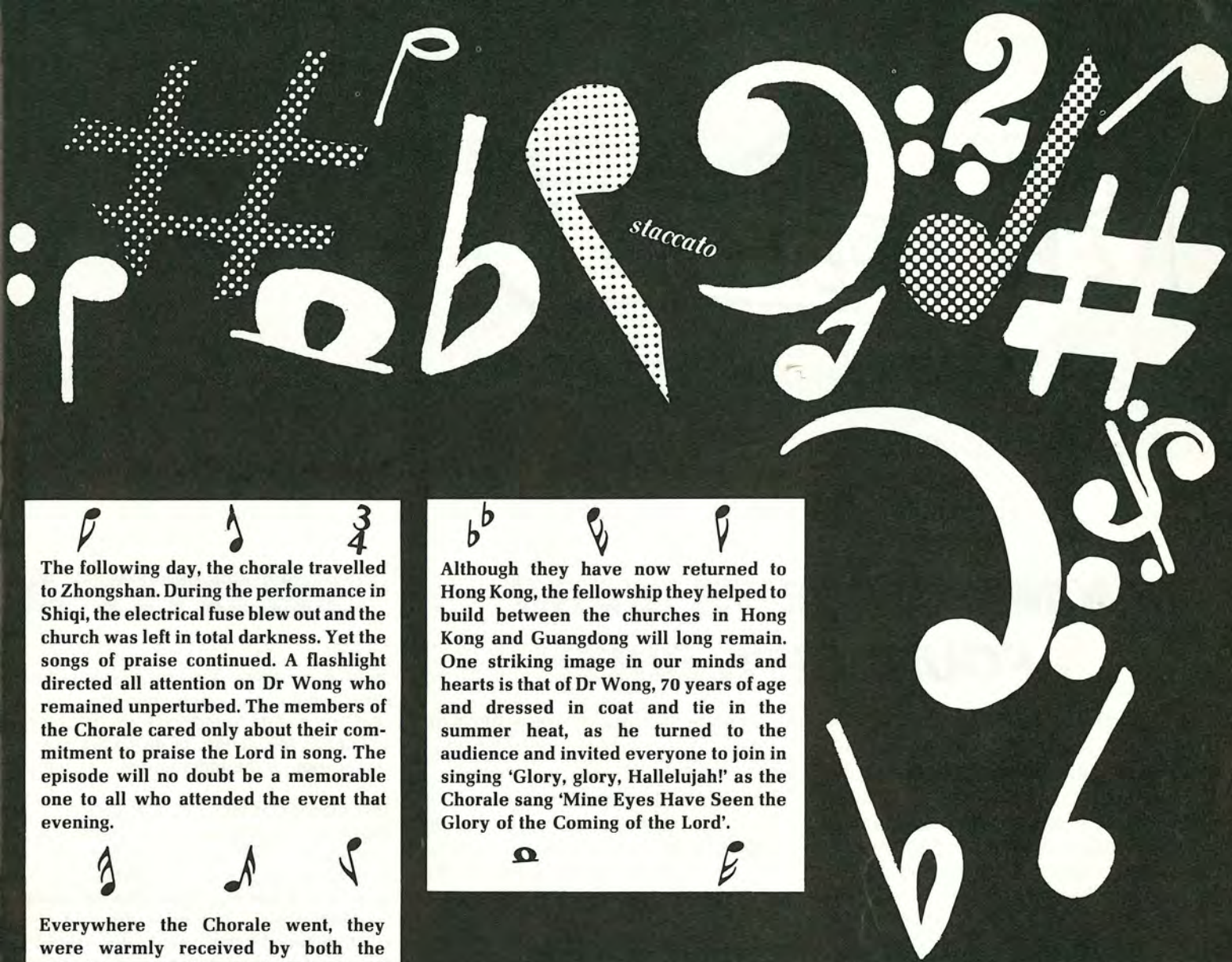


On 20 July in the town of Taishan, Christians came not only from within the county, but also from the neighbouring counties of Xinhui and Kaiping. The summer heat was no deterrent to the enthusiastic crowd which packed the



church. The joint choir of Taishan churches also offered to sing three hymns that evening. Although inexperienced, their simplicity and earnestness received loud applause from the audience.





The following day, the chorale travelled to Zhongshan. During the performance in Shiqi, the electrical fuse blew out and the church was left in total darkness. Yet the songs of praise continued. A flashlight directed all attention on Dr Wong who remained unperturbed. The members of the Chorale cared only about their commitment to praise the Lord in song. The episode will no doubt be a memorable one to all who attended the event that evening.



Everywhere the Chorale went, they were warmly received by both the churches and the local Bureau of Religious Affairs (government office). In addition to their lovely voices, they also shared gifts and souvenirs. They thoroughly enjoyed meeting and singing with the local choirs in China and in establishing friendships in Christ's name.



Although they have now returned to Hong Kong, the fellowship they helped to build between the churches in Hong Kong and Guangdong will long remain. One striking image in our minds and hearts is that of Dr Wong, 70 years of age and dressed in coat and tie in the summer heat, as he turned to the audience and invited everyone to join in singing 'Glory, glory, Hallelujah!' as the Chorale sang 'Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory of the Coming of the Lord'.



The Lord's Prayer

(一) 主 祷 文

我们在天上的父，愿人都尊你的名为圣。愿你的国降临。愿你的旨意行在地上，如同行在天上。我们日用的饮食，今日赐给我们。免我们的债，如同我们免了人的债。不叫我们遇见试探，救我们脱离凶恶。因为国度、权柄、荣耀，全是你的，直到永远。阿们。

(参太6:9—13, 路11:2—4)



KIMBANGUISTS MARK FOUNDER'S BIRTH

IN September, Kimbanguists marked the 100th anniversary of Simon Kimbangu's birth with special ceremonies.

Several Kimbanguist leaders were granted the National Order of the Leopard. There were several exhibitions and conferences during the week, and the inauguration of a conference hall and centre to accommodate world visitors.

In a message to mark the anniversary, Diangienda Kuntima, the Kimbanguist spiritual chief, said that it was to be celebrated in 'dignity, calm and honour', without expecting special miracles. 'We do not celebrate expecting to

experience miracles,' he said, 'because we live them each day.'

He urged Kimbanguists to love their neighbours, respect the Ten Commandments, and work actively to build materially the denomination. Its estimated five million members are found around the world, especially in several African and European countries, including Zaire, Congo, Angola, Zambia, Gabon, Central African Republic, Burundi, Kenya, France, Belgium, and Portugal.

SECTS A

JUST at the time when the Kimbanguist church in Zaire is celebrating the centenary of its founder's birth, Maurier, a Catholic Missionary in Africa takes a closer look at the Independent Churches.

The success of these independent churches is not to be explained 'only' by reaction on their part against the missionary churches. The protest movements that can be identified among the sects are . . . very often directed at existing social situations . . . for example, the massive urbanization experienced in Africa over the last 20 years. The rural population which began to flow into the towns found in small, recently established religious communities a

NURSERY BUILDING BOMBED

IN August a powerful explosion rocked the Faith and Hope Lutheran-supported Christian settlement of Nejapa in El Salvador. There were no injuries, but the community's nursery building was seriously damaged. Most of the 150 or so people in the settlement are children, many of them orphans adopted by refugee families.

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'NO' TO DEBT REPAYMENT

TRADE UNION leaders from 56 federations representing 26 Latin American and Caribbean countries gathered in Brazil last May to analyse the region's debt crisis.

'The consequences of the huge \$382 billion foreign debt affects the continent's poor and working classes through the crude reality of deteriorating living standards, health care and education, they reported. In 1985 almost 150 Latin Americans were classified as living in absolute poverty because their monthly income was below \$40. Recessive economic policies have led to massive joblessness: in 1980 an estimated 34 Latin Americans, or almost 30 per cent of the

region's workforce, were either unemployed or underemployed.

'In the past five years (1982-86) the region has transferred outside the country resources valued at \$132 million — more than it received in loans and investments in that same period. . . .

'One of the decisive factors in the debt's phenomenal growth has been the abrupt and criminal rise in interest rates mandated by the region's creditors; some countries are now paying interest rates of 21 per cent — several times greater than the rate agreed upon when the loans were first made. This policy of US imperialism, which underwrites that country's fiscal deficit and its huge military budget with the wealth generated throughout the world, has led to a growth in the foreign debt that is no longer tolerable. . . .

What's happening in the Church around the World

NEW AND INDEPENDENT CHURCHES IN AFRICA

welcome often warmer than what the structures and liturgies of the large churches could offer them.

Nor is the Africans' gradual reassertion of their cultural identity against the challenge of outside influences unconnected with the establishment and development of new sects which show clearer signs of indigenous elements. Many members find themselves more naturally at home in the sects than in those large churches with liturgies that are considered uninspiring.

Not seldom, where a leader appeals to his own powers of healing – whether

these are real or are just thought to be extraordinary – he or she will succeed in attracting . . . crowds. . . . The same thing happens around women or men who proclaim a happy future for a whole people through a succession of prophetic oracles or visions or dreams. The more they give women a new role, the greater is the success of the independent churches. At all events, women play a leading part and some have even founded new churches. . . .

It is possible to identify four major types of sects and religious movements from the results of the specialists' research. First is the MESSIANIC TYPE. The founder proclaims a dramatic and revolutionary change in how things stand, a world-wide disaster, the coming

of a saviour endowed with superhuman powers who will establish a kingdom of prosperity and peace and will expel from the country the forces of foreign domination. . . .

A second type of religious movement focuses on CONVERSION. . . . These new churches can be observed to Africanize Christian ceremonies and liturgical vestments. Frequently they devote themselves to a real witch-hunt and campaign against pagan fetishes. Quite – indeed very – frequently, their hierarchical structure is modelled on that of the Roman Catholic church and includes priests, bishops and cardinals. . . . We may also include among these churches those with the designation 'Ethiopian churches' . . . which no longer allow any white leaders among their ranks, but entrust leadership to blacks only, having on some occasion separated from their mother churches. . . .

The THAUMATURGICAL CHURCHES are a third category. . . . A native healer with some prophetic gifts has only to appear and in a short space of time he will attract crowds of people who, in some way or other, are oppressed, either physically or mentally. . . . Some sects at times focus so much on healing miracles that they forbid their converts any recourse to native remedies, modern medicines or hospital care.

. . . Finally, Gnostic sects . . . which offer an interpretation of the world, a secret doctrine, or a set of mysteries into which one should be initiated . . . are not the preserve of the ancient world or of the Middle Ages. . . . In Africa, those who belong to these movements are recruited primarily in educated circles. . . .

BHOPAL COALITION

A seven-organization coalition for Justice in Bhopal, has urged the creation of an independent commission to administer an interim relief programme for an estimated 200,000 victims of the 1984 gassing tragedy at the Union Carbide plant in which more than 2,000 people died. Among supporting groups named by the coalition are the Ecumenical Christian Centre and United Evangelical Lutheran church (India), Catholic Social Services (Pakistan), and United Church Board for World Ministries (USA).

'Capitalization of the debt is the latest tactic proposed by our creditors to collect the debt. They want to convert the debt into investments that include the appropriation of our factories, mines and farm lands; this strategy will eventually erode our national sovereignty.'

'The debt is the most glaring manifestation of present-day imperialism: it is international usury, illegitimate and illegal because the terms of repayment, especially interest rates, are set and modified unilaterally by the international banking community and the governments it represents. . . .

'The Trade Union Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean on the Foreign Debt declares that it is against paying the debt and commits its resources to convincing our peoples to take up a similar stance.'

THINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT

... but then Ruth Murley took
a closer look

OVER the last few weeks I've listened to a number of missionaries from Zaire as they have talked about communications difficulties – 'Flat batteries – no fuel – no electricity – no water – flooded roads – broken bridges – battle-scarred landrovers (or none at all) – stolen motorbikes – no planes – scarcity of drugs – accusations of malpractice – inflation – students unable to pay school fees – corruption. . . .'

And I said, with all the wisdom of my grey hairs, 'It hasn't changed in 20 years.'

PROGRESS

Then I listened a bit harder and began to discover that things have changed. There has been progress, but those talking to me were so involved that they hardly noticed.

They casually mention the Zairian doctors working in the hospital. They speak of the strength of the Nurses' Christian Fellowship and the involvement of the two doctors who are helping to lead it. They mention Bosele, a nurse, who left just after qualifying much to our disappointment. He's helping today with the eye work.

Then there's Etabe, a good average student, who became an excellent



Ruth Murley, Medical Department, BMS

dispensary nurse. He's teaching Public Health in the Nurses' School.

There aren't as many trips to outlying villages now, not just because there isn't a landrover and the roads are impassable – no, the work is going on very nicely thank you and it's being done by Zairian nurses.

TRANSPORT

'Once a solar fridge has been installed, to preserve the vaccines, and paraffin procured for another, the various centres (within the health zone) will be even more independent,' wrote Margaret Bishop from Yakusu.

And from Pimu, Cheryl Trundle wrote: 'A solar-panel fridge and lighting

system was installed at one of the reference centres to assist with storage of vaccines and minor operations. . . . The airstrip has been invaluable for transport of supplies and equipment as well as missionaries.'

HEALTH EDUCATION

Solar fridges and lighting systems! Air strips! Things *have* changed!

So all is now well. . . . Or is it? What of the future? In Britain, we're told, there wasn't a real change in the nation's health until there was decent sanitation, clean water and reasonable housing. So it was interesting to read something else that Margaret Bishop wrote: 'Steve

Dr Nzongo, Pimu, Zaire





Student carrying out specimen analysis in Nursing School

Mantle's work teaching and showing how to protect local wells and springs may well achieve far more than all the medical workers and health education over a long period.'

Zaire has a long way to go, but the Christian hospitals can be pleased with their achievements. Or can they?

A recent article in the magazine *Saving Health* made me stop and think. It was entitled 'The Forgotten Half' and was written by Malcolm McNeil of the Church of Scotland.

'What would you think of a Primary Health Care programme that served less than half of the people in its catchment area and, more or less, ignored all the others? Not very impressive?



Students in Nursing School being instructed by Adrian Hopkins

'Now how would you feel if it were suggested that this might be your Primary Health Care programme? Impossible? Insulting?

'Yet a brief look at most PHC programmes in developing countries shows, quite clearly, that the health services never reach a large percentage of the population.'

Malcolm McNeil paints the picture of a typical mission health service in a developing country. It is very proud of its work, which is also valued by the Ministry of Health. There is a great deal of outreach work and community health work is now involving local people in all of its projects. Immunization rates are

climbing and pregnant mothers are now coming to the clinics for ante-natal checks. The new family planning service has been less successful, but now increasing numbers of women are asking about it.

But when the time comes for the annual assessment and planning meeting there is uproar, because one of the local elders has suggested that the health service is ignoring more than half of the people. Could this be true?

As we look at the work with which the BMS is associated in Zaire, we have to admit that it is true.

Most of the primary health care programmes are directed at the needs of mothers and small children. That's

INBALANCE

quite reasonable when resources are stretched, but should we continue to ignore the needs of teenagers, the men and the old people? Do they never have avoidable health problems?

Few people in Britain could imagine a hospital without physiotherapy or occupational therapy. A 'medical service' with no psychiatric expertise and little thought, time, or money allocated to rehabilitation, would earn legitimate criticism. And what about medical and educational help for the deaf, the blind and the disabled? Our own health care system may have many faults, but its scope is wide.

In Zaire there are too many people in need, who are being ignored. Happily most of them don't know what they are missing. But we know! Should we not feel a little bit more uncomfortable?

Things are getting better. Changes are taking place. Perhaps Christian hospitals can be pleased with the progress being made, but there's a long way to go yet.

Ruth Murley served for many years as a BMS nurse at Pimu, Zaire. She now looks after the Medical Department at Mission House.

BRAZILIAN BAPTISTS

Brazilian Baptists, they are our Partners in World Mission, says Eric Westwood

The Brazilian Baptist Convention was first organized in 1907, formed by 83 churches.

On 7 June, in that first assembly, a resolution was passed to form a Foreign Missions Board and to send immediately representatives to Chile and Portugal with a view to co-operating in the work of the Gospel in those countries!

Today, 80 years on, the World Missions Board, as it is now called (the name was deliberately changed to take out the negative flavour of the word 'foreign') is active in 17 countries and has over 100 serving missionaries. It is the largest organized overseas missions board based in South America. The Brazilian Assemblies of God have more missionaries overseas, but work on an entirely different basis of selection and support.

At first, growth was very slow, being but a nominal presence abroad. For some years financial help was given to support a Chilean pastor, but the first Brazilian missionaries went to Chile in 1986! For almost 40 years the only mission field was Portugal, where a succession of Brazilians worked in various activities, especially seeking to open new churches. In 1946, the first workers entered Bolivia, concentrating on the Brazilian side of the Andes, penetrating what was still very difficult countryside.

The real growth has been in the last 20 years, as the home churches themselves have grown numerically and economically. The fragile sapling that expressed the missionary vision right from the conception of the Convention has now become a vigorous tree reaching out across the world.



Eric Westwood and his family

Priority has always been given to the needs of Brazil's neighbours in South America. In most cases, the Baptist community is considerably smaller than in Brazil, and partnership welcomed. After Bolivia, work was started in Paraguay, particularly in the towns of the interior. In recent years, Brazilian missionaries have entered Uruguay, Argentina, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, and, finally, Chile. Plans and contacts are being made now to complete the circle in the Guianas and Surinam.

Obviously, the family ties with Portugal have meant that Brazilians have prayed, given and

served to win the Portuguese for Christ. Missionaries continue serving in various towns in Portugal, and much of the work accomplished in the Azores is the result of Brazilian investment. From Portugal, the work has moved into Spain and, also, into France, where a Brazilian couple have been working with the Baptist Federation for the last ten years!

Links with Portugal have led Brazilians to serve further afield, with missionaries in Angola and Mozambique. When the Portuguese moved out and into South Africa, an appeal was made for Brazilian pastors to establish work in these new communities. The Portuguese have emigrated far and wide, creating large communities in Canada and the USA. Canadian Baptists asked Brazil to provide helpers and three couples (two of

whom studied at Spurgeon's) are now working alongside Canadian pastors, serving amongst the Portuguese communities.

Last, but not least, the decision was taken to send a couple to Macau, another Portuguese colony. Brazilian Baptists have followed with enthusiasm the progress of this family, especially their zeal to learn Cantonese in order to be able to communicate with the Chinese. Reports of the first baptism were received with joy and praise to God.

Brazilian Baptists are increasingly aware that they have a role to fulfil in world mission. Having received much, they sense the

responsibility that is theirs to give. Their strengths are:

1. The potential in human resources. Many young people are offering for Christian ministry and mission, the Seminaries and Bible Institutes are full to overflowing, so much so that there is not adequate staff to train as one would wish.
2. The evangelistic zeal and gift which has characterized Brazilian Baptists. The principal aim of Brazilian missionaries going overseas is to evangelize and establish new churches. Some have returned a little disillusioned by the diffi-



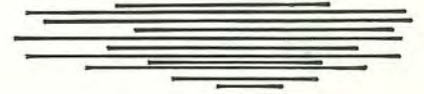
culties encountered in other countries and cultures, but the distinctive Brazilian contribution remains in this area.

Their weaknesses are:

1. Economic. The variations in the Brazilian national economy play havoc with planning for overseas mission. This year's budget, projected when the dollar was costing around 13 cruzados, looked suddenly meagre when in a few weeks of economic instability the dollar rose to more than 39 cruzados! But it is a weakness which leads to strength, because it reminds God's people of how dependent they are on Him.
2. The fact that often there are only one, or two, couples in a country creates difficulties, both for the missionary, who feels isolated from his fellow-countrymen, and the Board, in terms of administrative support. Steps have been taken to alleviate these difficulties by creating Area Co-ordinators, who have an administrative and pastoral role covering several countries — in addition to their other missionary tasks!

3. The lack of specific training for the task of overseas Missions. Until this last year, no special orientation was given at all for the Brazilian worker going overseas. The Board has now set up a training programme, in conjunction with Brazilian National Missions, in which new candidates will study missions, both in theory and practice, seeking to broaden their understanding of what their task is and how it can best be undertaken.

Brazilians are now fully fledged partners in world mission. We thank God for their involvement and their special vision for the task.



David Martin, Assistant Overseas Secretary

3. The fact that Brazilians still have access in some places where North Americans and Europeans are finding closed doors. Brazil is still seen as Third World, and its missionaries are often more acceptable because of this.
4. The flexibility and boldness to risk making mistakes. The rapid expansion in terms of new fields has created difficulties in terms of back-up and orientation, but the Brazilian flair, also seen in its football, leads to a bolder approach in evangelism and mission.



New missionaries for South Africa, Angola, Bolivia and Chile training with the World Missions Board

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

BAPTIST YOUTH ORCHESTRA

A NEW Christian youth orchestra will make its first appearance before an international audience of 10,000 people in 1988. The new 'Baptist Youth Orchestra' will play and lead worship services each evening during the 11th Baptist Youth World Conference in Glasgow, 26-31 July, 1988, under the theme, 'Jesus Christ Rules'.

The orchestra's Artistic Director, Geoff Colmer, a former professional orchestral musician is currently preparing for the Baptist ministry at Spurgeon's College. He said, 'This orchestra promises to be one of the most significant ventures to emerge from the arts within the Baptist Union.'

The auditions will be held in five centres throughout Britain between November 1987, and January 1988, and applications are already being solicited. In order to be chosen, applicants must have musical ability and must be worshipping in a Baptist church.

'The orchestra will combine excellence in performance with creativity and sensitivity in worship,' said Colmer. Further details from BYO, 16 Shirburn Road, Torquay, Devon TQ1 3JL.

DON'T MISS THE BOAT

GET your registration forms in now for the 11th Baptist Youth World Conference in Glasgow or there might not be enough room.

'Because of American bookings — 3,000 are guaranteed — and the promise of many European bookings, we are concerned that British young people, who leave booking to the last minute, may miss the boat,' said Rev Ian Mundie of the Baptist Union of Scotland.

While enquiries are pouring in from the rest of the world, British young people have been slow to respond. This may be because they think they have plenty of time to do it next year, but that is not so.

'We are confident of having a fairly full booking for the conference by February or March,' Ian Mundie said. 'So our message is, "Get a move on!" We can only accommodate 10,000 young people, so it's my hope that there will be a cut-off number of 9,500. This leaves some space left for young people from currency restricted countries in Africa and Asia to attend at the last minute.

The organizers are hoping for a 3-4,000 strong British delegation. This can be met if every church sends two young people. Many

churches are paying the registration fee and some the accommodation of their young people to attend this unique conference.

HELP SOMEONE TO GO TO GLASGOW

IF there are no young people in your church attending the 11th Baptist Youth World Conference for you to support, there is another way of helping someone to have this chance of a lifetime.

Through the Baptist World Alliance Scholarship Fund you can enable someone from a developing or currency restricted country to attend. Some churches, unable to send young people but wanting to be involved in some way have already affiliated to the scholarship fund.

One idea from America is the Second Time Around Club for all those over the age of eligibility (35). Some church members are choosing an age they would like to be again between 16-35. They are then deducting that age from their real age and matching that figure with dollars for the scholarship fund. Is that an idea your church could pick up?

Every conference delegate is given the opportunity of giving to the fund through their registration form. Many are doing just that. The registration fee for delegates from developing or currency restricted countries is £25. How can your church help?

HOSTING THE WORLD CHURCH

ONE of the exciting parts of the Youth Conference will be the opportunity of meeting real Christians from very different cultures and traditions. There is no better way to discover what it means to be a part of the world church.

There are several groups coming from various parts of the world, who want to be involved in mission in Britain either before or after the conference. Many, especially from North America, have been trained in Holiday Bible Club work, puppetry, drama and other ministries. If your church is planning a visitation programme in your area, or simply a redecoration scheme for your church premises and you needing willing help, then this could be for you.

Take the opportunity of hosting a group of young people from another

GORDON SODDY

ON Friday, 9 October, a thanksgiving service was held at Markyate Baptist Church, Luton, for the life of Rev Gordon Soddy.

The service was led by Rev Roy Freestone and Mr Stanley Mudd spoke on behalf of the BMS. The General Secretary of the Bangladesh Baptist Sangha, Rev Poritosh Biswas, at present on a fraternal visit to Britain, expressed thanks to the BMS for sending Gordon to East Bengal and to God for all He had done through his servant. The other churches in Markyate were represented by Rev Kenneth Guard. He spoke warmly of Gordon's desire for deeper ecumenical relations.

Stanley Mudd described Gordon as a comparatively rare creature — a long-term missionary, who served for 41 years in Bengal. As a teacher at both Bishnupur and Barisal he was 'guru' to many boys who are now the leaders in the church.

'He revealed administrative and accounting abilities, which he

country for a week or so. Let them live with you, your congregation or in your church hall, and involve them in your church life. This will also be an invaluable opportunity for your church family to share with the world church.

If you would like to contribute to the BWA Scholarship Fund, or to find out more about hosting young people from overseas, then write to:

GLASGOW 88

**14 Aytoun Road
GLASGOW G41 5RT**

or

**4 Southampton Row
LONDON WC1B 4AB**

used to give stability and leadership to the Baptist Union in East Pakistan after partition. He also set up accounting systems for the Sangha and Barisal schools, which are still used and are as foolproof as possible!

'The villagers of Bengal respected him, not only because of his great height! He was a popular speaker at annual district meetings. His great concern for truth in all aspects of our lives sometimes led to strong outbursts of feeling, but he was held in high regard by national and missionary colleagues.

'He was gifted as a correspondent and any letter to him would receive a thoughtful, individual reply. In this way he exercised a compassionate and understanding pastoral ministry.

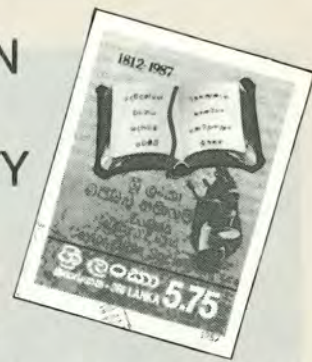
'Gordon walked tall among men and tall with his Lord. This was the source of his goodness and kindness revealed in his spirituality of mind, his uprightness of conduct and humility of spirit.'

STORM DAMAGE

THE storm in the South East of England on the night of 16 October caused quite extensive damage to South Lodge, the BMS residence in Worthing for retired missionaries. The chimneys fell down and most of the roof was ripped away by the hurricane.

The nine residents are being accommodated in various homes in the Worthing area until repairs can be carried out.

CEYLON BIBLE SOCIETY 175th YEAR STAMP



The first day cover issue of the Ceylon Bible Society 175 year stamp issued at a temporary Post Office set up at the Bible Society Office in Sri Lanka. It is only the second Bible Society stamp issue. The first one was in the Philippines.

Peter and Margaret Goodall, from Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church, Colombo, were among those present at special services to mark the occasion.

'It was altogether a very happy service,' they report. 'The Minister of Posts, a Buddhist spoke very highly of the influence of the Bible Society on Sri Lanka during the 175 years. The BMS preceded it by four months, establishing a work in April 1812. But the Ceylon Bible Society is the earliest society ever formed in Sri Lanka.'

APPROPRIATE GREETINGS?

WHEN sending greetings cards to Russian prisoners and their relatives at Christmas or every month, it is not always easy to buy a card with a suitable text. The Nottingham Auxiliary of the BMS produce a card with a dove of peace on the outside with the text, 'On earth ... Peace to all men,' and inside the greeting, 'May the peace of Christ be with you.'

Priced at 10p including envelope, copies can be obtained in multiples of ten from: Stephen Brown, 33 Derby Grove, Lendon Sands, NOTTINGHAM N67 1PE.

**MISSIONTALK
MISSIONTALK
MISSIONTALK
MISSIONTALK**



Jesus the King is born in Bethlehem,

BANGLADESH

Christmas Eve is the turn of the local carol singers at Chandraghona to entertain. Last year everyone gathered in the house of Ken and Mimi Hatano (Ken is the Japanese doctor working with the Leprosy Programme), to await the arrival of the group.

'Any notion of a few heavily-clothed, light-footed songsters delicately picking their way from house to house singing "Silent Night" or some such has to be dispelled at this stage,' said David Kerrigan. 'The singers can be heard at least a mile away, not just the singing but also the drums, the harmonium and of course the fireworks, though bombs would be a more suitable description.'

'By the time the throbbing group of maybe 50 or more had been outside the house the noise was deafening, the singing trance-like; in the centre the two musicians performed their roles whilst the rest danced around them hypnotically clapping their hands, leaping in the air and urgently trying to light the next bomb! Then suddenly the climax – an ear-splitting shout of *Jesu Christo Rajah* – "Jesus Christ the King," and silence descended.

'Some hot tea and biscuits to keep out the cold (well, compared to the summer months it certainly felt cold) and the singers went on their way.'

'Yes, some things here are different yet some are magically the same. It takes a



Christmas is very much a special time for them, and they celebrate it their way. There is a lot of talk these days about the "over commercialization" of Christmas, yet surely we should accept that Christ's birth has about as much relevance to 95 per cent of the population in the UK as it does to the 95 per cent who are Muslim in Bangladesh. That being the case let them celebrate "Christmas" in their way – our way. We are not a poor society in the west so why pretend to be so. To accept that however is to highlight the real Christmas problem – Christmas and Christ's birth no longer mean the same thing to that 95 per cent. Who is working in that mission field?'

lot to beat the excitement of children on Christmas morning – even if it's 5 am! After church, instead of the pleasure of roast turkey we had the pleasure of visiting over a dozen houses on the compound and sharing their Christmas Day, Bengali-style, with lots of sweet tea, curries, sweet-meats and yet more sweet tea! We really do have a lot to learn about hospitality from Bengali people, even though they have a little to learn about the capacity of the average foreigner to consume so much sweetness in one day!

'The great advantage in having a different kind of Christmas is that we do see what Christmas means to other people. For Bengali Christians, a tiny minority in a very poor country,



CHRISTO RATAH

Bangladesh, Brazil, Zaire . . . everywhere

BRAZIL

Last Christmas was Mary Parsons' first one back in Brazil after being home in Britain for some years. She said that Brazilians liked our custom of displaying the Christmas cards.

'Christmas day began at 6 am with a loud knock at the door. Dona Nila was ready to go to the maternity hospital to have her baby, the tenth: there was not too much time to waste as the journey would take an hour. After a "Happy Christmas" wish to Rosangela, my visitor, we set off for Antonia.

'It was a beautiful morning as we sped along the meandering dirt road towards town: just right for taking photos of the exquisite scenery, but not prudent to stop today!

'Dona Nila safely admitted to hospital, we made the journey back home to Potinga. There was time to exchange presents and enjoy Christmas dinner with Joyce and David Stockley and Rosangela.

'The latter half of Christmas day brought much activity. In the afternoon a baptismal service was held when six young people and one adult were baptized. Then in the evening we had a presentation of the Christmas programme.

'A nativity play was performed by the adults, followed by the recitation of



Christmas poems and singing from the children. The church choir also did very well with a short Christmas Cantata. People from the neighbouring villages attended. At the end of the service all received a bag of sweets!



ZAIRE

For Richard and Jo Allan last year was their first experience of Christmas at Pimu.

Good Christian men rejoice! with heart and soul and voice give heed to what we say, Jesus Christ is born today!

'It hardly seems possible to think of Christmas while we sit here in temperatures of up to 112°F they wrote.

'Indeed, it's very difficult to get ourselves geared towards the festive spirit when every day off is like a "summer holiday". Whilst at home Christmas cards, decorations, toys and foodstuffs will have been filling the shops since the beginning of October, out here the idea of draping shiny bits of paper and coloured balls on a tree sounds almost preposterous.

Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now. Christ is born today.

'But is it just the lack of snow, television extravaganzas and commercial glitter that will make Noel in Zaire so different from Christmas in Britain? Think of Jesus, the babe born in a stable. What picture does that bring to mind? A sturdy old barn, like the one you dream of converting into a million dollar home? The horse-sweat

smelling stables where you take the children for riding lessons? The old wooden shed at the bottom of the garden? Or may be you have a completely different image of that scene.

'But now think of a building of sticks held together with mud, which is gradually being eaten away by termites. The roof is made of leaves which are also full of insects and lizards. In this house there are no lights, no water and the only comforts being a wooden chair or two and a rickety old table, there may be some sort of bed, or perhaps just a mat on the floor. No, this is not a home for animals, but for human-beings, a stable would never be so lavish. I wonder what picture Zairians have of the animal shelter their Saviour was born in? I wonder which picture is nearer the mark, yours . . . or theirs?

'For no matter what differences lie between our understandings of the first Christmas, there is one thing we can all share in common.'

*Now ye need not fear the grave,
Jesus Christ was born to save, calls
you one and calls you all to gain His
everlasting hall. Christ was born to
save!*



UPOTO, ZAIRE

'Christmas seems very far away here,' Valerie Watkins wrote from Upoto last year. 'The houses on the mission won't be decorated until just before Christmas and then with flowers. If paper decorations are put up, they will usually be empty cigarette boxes on pieces of string.'

'The only hint that Christmas is approaching has been that the dates have been decided for the usual Christmas festivities. There will be a school sports day. . . . We will have our musical evening when we'll be expected to sing in English and on Christmas Eve we'll have another rendition of the Nativity play, which contains some very slap-stick humour, performed on the steps of the church. (I'll have to plaster myself in insect repellent in an attempt to ward off the mosquitoes.)

'On Christmas morning we'll have a very long service and then all the mission folk will eat Christmas lunch together - usually rice, a green vegetable called mpondu, fish and meat in a sauce - under a canopy of palm-leaves.'

GENERAL COMMITTEE 1988-89 NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the BMS General Committee for 1988-89 are now required and should reach Mission House no later than 31 December 1987.

Each Association is entitled to nominate, and the churches in each Association are entitled to elect a number of committee members appropriate to that association. However there is no restriction on the number of nominations that can be made. The name of any person nominated, but not elected by the direct votes of the churches, will then appear on the list for co-optation.

In addition to nominations for election it is also possible for nominations to be made for election by co-optation only.

You might like to bear in mind, when making nominations, that the General Committee needs to be representative not only geographically but also in terms of sex and age.

When sending in nominations please include basic biographical details and a clear indication of the district of the Association from where the person comes.

TEACHERS FOR CHINA

Teachers of English, graduates with TEFL qualifications and experience are, we hope, going to be needed again for two year appointments, from August 1988.

Churches and missionary societies are again expecting to work together in response to a request from the Amity Foundation in China.

A second category, of graduates to be used in English conversation, is also expected to be needed.

If you are interested in working in China please write to:

**The Personnel Secretary,
The Baptist Missionary Society,
93 Gloucester Place,
LONDON W1H 4AA**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretaries acknowledge with grateful thanks the following legacies and anonymous gifts (to 28 September 1987).

Legacies	£
Mrs H A Binning	250.00
Miriam Gilman	10,000.00
Miss Sarah F Thomson	1,000.00
Mrs E M Wilkins	250.00
Mrs K J Wintle	98.21
Miss R F Wright	250.00
Mr John Yates	100.00

Bangladesh Relief Work

Anon: £5.00.

General Work

Anon: £10.00; FAE Aberdeen: £20.00; Anon Durham: £25.00; Cymro: £80.00.

MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

Arrivals

Miss A Wadey on 25 September from Pimu, Zaire.

Rev and Mrs G Myhill on 1 October from Nova Londrina, Brazil.

Departures

Miss A Cottam on 22 October to Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Mr and Mrs J Davis on 28 October to Yakusu, Zaire.

Mrs M Deller on 29 October to Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Deaths

Mr Gordon Soddy

on 26 September 1987 in Luton, Beds.

BAPTIST HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP 1988

WESTHOLME, MINEHEAD

On Seafront — 30 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 — SPRING 1988

AUSTRALIA	2-29 January	Rev D H Weller BD
HOLY LAND	9-20 April	Rev M Banfield BA
RHODES	13-20 April	Rev Douglas Monkley

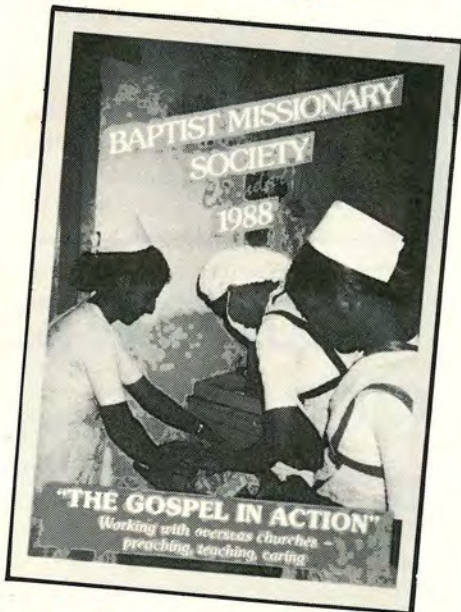
For Brochures, please write to:

**Baptist Holiday Fellowship Ltd (MH),
1 The Esplanade, Minehead, Somerset TA24 5BE**

NOTICES

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.

NEW BMS WORLD MAP

A new full colour **BMS World Map** is
now available. The map has the
continents marked in different colours,
with BMS-related countries highlighted.
This will make a colourful and
informative addition to your church
notice board! Write in for your copy
today.

MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

SENT OUT TO TEACH

— a new full colour
leaflet highlighting
the churches work
in education

AVAILABLE NOW

1988 BMS PRAYER GUIDE

Do your church members take prayer
seriously! Urge them to use the **BMS Prayer
Guide** to help focus attention on the world
church! The 1988 Prayer Guide returns to the
weekly format and includes devotional aids. At
only 50 pence a copy, the BMS Prayer Guide is
a 'must' for your church family. Write in today
with your order!

1987 APPEAL LEAFLET

The **1987/88 BMS Appeal Leaflet 'Stand With Them'** is now ready!
The leaflet highlights the importance of world mission today, and
our participation in it. The leaflet is prepared with no special dates
marked — it can be used with flexibility to fit into your church
programme at your convenience.

Also, two leaflets called **PRAYING FOR MISSIONARIES** and
PRAYING FOR NATIONAL CHRISTIANS have been produced for
use alongside the Appeal Leaflet. Praying for people we don't know
is often very difficult. These two leaflets will give helpful hints on
how to bring prayer for missionaries and national Christians alive.