

MISSIONARY

HERALD

BAPTIST MEDICAL SEMINARY LIBRARY
8H STRASSE 21
RÜSCHLIKON SWITZERLAND

March 1988

20p

**Water, water,
everywhere...**

...but is it safe?



Editorial Comment

THERE'S quite a lot about water in our pages this month. The cholera epidemic which affected Bolobo, Zaire, for many months last year is a disease passed on by polluted water. It occurred in other parts of Zaire too. There were quite a number of cases reported in the Yakusu area, several hundred miles upstream from Bolobo. It appears that the disease was carried down the river Zaire and those areas which took their drinking water from the river were those that suffered badly.

So the various water projects, set up to provide pure drinking water, are vital to the health of the people. One of our BMS nurses in Yakusu said, a few months ago, that she believed the water project there would prove more beneficial, in the long term, to the region's health than most of the other projects in the health zone. This, of course, was the experience in Britain a century ago. Piped water and proper sanitation removed many diseases that people had accepted as normal.

The Water Aid project for the Zairian hospitals is therefore seen as vital. The Society and the Baptist Community of the River Zaire are extremely grateful for the help that this agency is giving towards the health of the Zairian people.

But, reading the article about Bolobo, it soon becomes evident why the BMS insists on talking about healing for the whole person — body, mind and spirit. You can have excellent hospitals, the latest drugs and medicines, and the best medical skills available, but what if the fears and superstitions of the population make those in need turn away from the help that is offered? The Gospel is about offering love and care to those in physical need, but this cannot be separated from sharing the 'good news' of Him who can release men and women from bondage to witchcraft and fear.

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

General Secretary
Rev R G S Harvey

Overseas Secretary
Rev A T MacNeill

Editor
Rev D E Pountain

Enquiries about service
overseas to:
Miss J A Maple

ISSN 0264-1372

© 1988 Baptist Missionary Society
Photoset and printed by
Stanley L Hunt (Printers) Ltd
Rushden, Northamptonshire

MISSIONARY

HERALD

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY



FEATURES

MARCH 1988

- 43 **WATER AID**
Helping Hospitals
- 44 **TALKBACK**
- 45 **FROM A MISSIONARY'S
DIARY**
All about rats
- 46 **MISSIONTALK**
- 48 **AFTER THE FLOODS**
Mopping up in Bangladesh
- 49 **SPEECH THERAPY**
A volunteer's experience
at Vellore
- 50 **PRAYER CALL**
- 52 **FLYING TO BOLOBO**
A laboratory technician
shares his skills
- 54 **EYEOPENERS**
News of the Church
and the World
- 56 **CHOLERA, WITCHCRAFT
AND THE CHURCH**
Combating an epidemic
at Bolobo
- 59 **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

• WATERAID •

HELPING HOSPITALS

'There can be no return to health without clean water'

IN Zaire BMS contributes to the work of four hospitals operated by CBFZ and one operated jointly with other churches, and spread widely across the country, at Kimpese 160 km west of Kinshasa, Yakusu near Kisangani 1,500 km up river, the terminus for the river boats, at Bolobo one of the crossing points from Congo across the river, Ntondo on the shores of beautiful Lake Tumba and at Pimu, surrounded by 200 km of marsh and jungle.

As in many other African countries, there is no shortage of water from the sky, but there is a shortage of uncontaminated water fit for people to drink. This is one of the principal problems at these hospitals, and it is difficult to ensure a return to health without it. Only at Kimpese, where much modernization has been done, is there a satisfactory supply. At all the other long established locations, the fairly basic water supply systems have deteriorated over many years to a position where maintaining a supply is a major headache to Zairian and BMS doctors and nurses.

In 1985, it was decided that something must be done to improve matters and Angus MacNeill, BMS Overseas Secretary, approached WaterAid, a UK charity which was founded and is supported by the British water industry,



Digging a well

Hospital at Tondo



to seek advice. WaterAid not only supports drinking water and sanitation projects overseas by supporting indigenous self-help groups, but will also provide short term technical advice whenever possible.

WaterAid was happy to help and David Horn, formerly a District Engineer with South West Water in Devon and now a WaterAid Engineer, set out for Kinshasa. Andrew North had arranged to provide hospitality and transport for a six week tour of the hospitals.

Luckily, in a country the size of Europe, but with hardly any surfaced roads, the use of planes operated by the Missionary Aviation Fellowship made such a visit possible. The jungle airstrips cleared by villagers have brought them into close contact with the 20th century and save many hours of bumping through the mud in hard pressed Land Rovers.

At each of the hospitals David discussed the local problems with the doctor or nurse in charge and then made wide ranging recommendations: improving the extensive roof rainwater collection systems (where rain is taken from gutters to tanks) at the sites; digging a new well and installing a handpump at Ntondo, and drilling boreholes at Yakusu and Bolobo where solar powered pumping plant will

(continued from previous page)

be installed so as to avoid the constant problem of relying on expensive and difficult-to-get supplies of diesel fuel. By using a combination of these methods of rainfall collection it should be possible for all the staff and patients to enjoy sufficient water even through the dry seasons. A requirement of 20 litres per head per day was agreed; this is one-seventh of the quantity used at home here in Britain, but more safe water than is generally available in most African countries.

Things are now moving ahead. Funds to pay for the project (£195,000) have been made available and a young man named Stephen Rusk, an ex-VSO with a practical background of experience in Africa, has been appointed to go to Zaire in February 1988 for two years to carry out and supervise the work. Alan Brown in Kinshasa is already purchasing the materials so that Stephen can get off to a flying start, and we wish Stephen well in his assignment.

ABOUT WATERAID

WATERAID, AN INDEPENDENT REGISTERED CHARITY

- helps poor Third-World people help themselves towards safe drinking water and basic sanitation
- was established in 1981 by the organisations and people of the British water industry

WATERAID PROJECTS INVOLVE

- 'self-help' in construction
- simple technology, easy to run and maintain
- independent assessment and monitoring
- low cost — sometimes under £5 per person benefiting

We have supported work in 27 countries and helped several hundred thousand poor Third-World people towards safe water and basic sanitation.

We can call on the expertise and goodwill of Britain's water specialists, and receive substantial indirect assistance from the water industry. This helps keep administrative costs under 10%. Headquarters has just eight full-time paid staff.

Regional Representatives in each Water Authority co-ordinate our fund raising activities. They work as unpaid volunteers.

Engineering Advisers (senior British water engineers, who also work unpaid) take charge of our country programmes, making regular supervisory visits overseas.

We have our own experienced engineers resident in Ghana, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Nepal.



Dear Editor,

On page 4 of the January 1988 issue of the Herald, there is a photograph, taken about 100 years ago, of a white man, standing, and a black woman, seated. The caption reads, 'Congo Pioneer George Grenfell.'

The woman is unnamed and apparently invisible; the relationship between the two is not explained though one might expect them to be husband and wife.

On pages 6 and 7 there are two photographs of husband and wife missionary candidates. The accompanying article highlights only the men's names; yet in the case of the first couple at least, they have an equal partnership in mind — 'Stella and I see it very much as a joint job, her educational skills combining with my theological training.'

It really is time that we took issues of sexism (and racism?) seriously, in the name of justice and the Gospel. Has nothing changed in 100 years?

Yours sincerely

Peter Hobbs
Aylesbury

Dear Mr Editor

I was indeed thrilled to see the photo of my father and mother in the January Herald, and am more than grateful that the photo was included in the story of Robert Arthington, bearing in mind, as we, the family, always recall that father went out by special call from George Grenfell, on the death of Tom Comber. So from members of the family as well as from me — a special 'thank you' (though

incidentally father's initials were FG not EG).

Norman Harrison
Helston

Peter Hobbs is quite right, one might expect them to be husband and wife and they are. However, at the time of insertion we were not too sure and did not want to make a stupid mistake. The photograph came from a batch in a box together with the papers and diaries of the Rev F G Harrison kindly loaned to the Society by his family. There was no intention to make her into a non person. To put matters right, next month we shall tell the story of Rose, Grenfell's second wife, who had an important role in those pioneering days.

In answer to the second point, we highlighted certain names only to emphasize different sections of the text. You will note that in February, the report on missionary candidates was arranged slightly differently. Today the BMS appoints both husband and wife as missionaries, so we have moved on in 100 years. When George Grenfell died, Rose, who was not a missionary, had to leave the Congo.

Extracts from Ruth Clinch's diary

06.30 4 May 1986 Kinshasa



THE time has come to write about Rats. I had only seen one rat before I went to Zaire. That was behind our new house, when my husband, normally fearless, cowered inside while my young son and I destroyed its hiding place.

My next experience with rats was in the kitchen at the Protestant Welcome Hostel. I had been given a large tupperware container, a rare gift in Zaire, and had put it in the store to keep the cockroaches out of the flour. The next morning half the polythene rim had been eaten away leaving the lid just a flap – like an opened bean-can. Disgust, anger at the waste, and questions of how to get rid of the rats crowded over me.

I went to the market and bought a rat trap. I called the sentinel to help me to load it.

'Oui Madame,' – he knew all about rat traps. A Zairian is an expert on most things. He's willing to take control instantly in a manner designed to inspire confidence. Sometimes, after much damage has been done, one becomes wiser. The damage this time was to my thumb. To give him his due, perhaps my thumb should have been minding its own business at that moment. We both managed to find it very funny.

Despite burying the trap several times in exciting messes my success rate was nil!

When I entered the kitchen alone at night, as I sometimes had to do, the rats would scurry along the work benches, along the sinks and through the cookers. As I went into the security store they scrambled up the wire mesh, only pausing to register annoyance that I had interrupted them.

I thought, 'These are rats! I'm supposed to be horrified. In England I should be beside myself with disgust.'

I shrugged my shoulders and put out the tins of food for the morning. Shocked or not shocked the rats had to go. It was them or me and it was not going to be me (necessary quality for a missionary – stubborn resolution).

I bought rat poison. My son, who is a chemist, would readily testify to my horror of handling anything chemical or poisonous! I wore plastic bags on my hands to put the poison down and burnt the box and bags myself.

You know the saying, 'I smell a rat.' Well, there are not many smells that beat the smell of a dead rat in the tropics. It had become a personal vendetta – the kitchen staff knew that whoops of delight from me called them to sweep away yet another ant-ridden corpse. I don't suppose it did the ants a lot of good.

Recently one came back. It was on the shelf with the saucepans. Little Tata Nzala leapt to my aid, crashing the pans together as he smashed the broom in an

effort to destroy it *in situ* – while I ran outside squealing with disgust. That one got away!

Nsona, the woman who was employed to cook the Zairian food, came to me for help one day.

'Madame, there are rats in my house. They eat our food, they run all over the baby.'

What could I do? I had learned that the Rattex Rat Extinguisher that I had used was unlikely to kill my clients but I could not quite encourage its careless use in a confined, overcrowded house. I gave her my rat traps. Perhaps she had more success with them than I did.

I had bought my Rattex in a box at the Market, but I was brought up with a shock at seeing a man sitting at a stall handling the pellets counting them into tens and putting them into screws of paper to sell, his cigarette going from bench to mouth every 50 or so.

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

AVC CATALOGUE

THIS has just been updated and gives details of the material available from our Audio Visual Communication department. Copies are being sent to all Missionary Secretaries, but if you need extra copies, please write in for them.

THANK YOU!

THE filled-in questionnaires sent out with January's *Herald* have been coming in thick and fast. We are now busily sorting out and collating the answers in preparation for the Home Organization Committee, but we shall also share with you the results of the survey.

It is already becoming evident that we cannot please all of you all of the time, but we seem to be pleasing most of you quite a lot of the time.

It is also clear that our readership is much larger than we thought since the majority of those who have responded have indicated that they pass the magazine on to someone else – in one case it was 16 others!

Some of you have asked questions or raised interesting points. In future months we shall endeavour to answer them.

If you have not sent in your questionnaire, please do so. By the time you read this the Home Organization Committee will have met, but your replies will still be useful to us as we make our plans for the future.

HAVE YOU SEEN IT?

THE slide tape set linked with this year's Young People's project, The French Connexion, has been received very well. But, although it has been seen by more people than last year's presentation, it has not been booked all that often.

The set should not just be

regarded as a youth production. It gives an overview of Baptist work in France and of the contribution that BMS is preparing to make in that country. It is well worth seeing, especially since the Society is hoping to have personnel in France soon.

BMS RELIEF FUND

A FURTHER £4,000 has been sent to the diocese of Sambalpur, Orissa, India for drought relief. This is in addition to the £1,000 sent earlier, which we have already reported in the *Herald*.

The money will be administered from Diptipur where the West Utkal Agricultural project is centred.

Money has also been sent to Zaire for work amongst Angolan refugees still coming into the country. We shall describe the way this money is being used in more detail next month.

The BMS relief fund enables the Society to respond quickly to emergency needs in various parts of the world. We appreciate very much the contributions that members of our churches make to the fund.



Mary Hart greets the Duke of Gloucester on his visit to Chandraghona Leprosy Hospital (see Feb Herald 88)

FROM HERE TO ETERNITY

THAT'S the subject for a missionary conference to be held at Silver Street Baptist Church, Taunton, next month. The conference is being organized by women members of the BMS General Committee from the South Western Area and the BMS Area Representative, Peter Amies.

Peter will be taking part alongside Gwynn Edwards, the Area Superintendent, Gordon Holmes, representing Christian Aid, and

WIDOWED

MANY people have written to say how much they like the current set of birthday cards linked with the BMS Birthday Scheme. One of them pictures a lady with

Isabel and Stephen Mantel and Anne and Andrew North from Zaire.

If you would like to attend, the date is 16 April and further information and booking forms can be had from:

Miss Pauline Trounson
Coram Cottage
Pound Road
Lyme Regis
Dorset DT7 3HX Tel: 02974 2583

a baby attending an Under-fives clinic centred on Chandraghona, Bangladesh. Sue Headlam has written to us giving some sad news linked with that photograph.

'That lady lost her husband in September.

QUEEN'S AWARD

A MEMBER of the Girls' Brigade at Cecil Square Baptist Church, Margate has been working towards her Queen's Award and as part of it she concentrated on the BMS.

Julie Whiting arranged a cake stall at a recent enrolment evening. She was also sponsored for knitting squares which were made into a blanket for the elderly.

The local church feels that 'she has made a super effort, which should encourage others. In addition to the BMS benefiting the elderly in the area will have a little bit of comfort.'

Julie's work raised £100.85 for BMS funds.

He was run over by a truck that went out of control on the road near Chandraghona. So she is now a widow.'

If, on your birthday, you receive this card, please pray a special prayer for this mother and child.



MISSIONTALK
MISSIONTALK
MISSIONTALK
MISSIONTALK

AFTER THE FLOODS



Floods at Chandraghona

AROUND Chandraghona and Chittagong, in Bangladesh, everywhere is still very damp and muddy after the floods, but most of the standing water has subsided.

'The obvious effects of the floods are the number of families camping on the central road reservation in Chittagong town,' writes Sue Headlam, newly returned to Bangladesh.

'Families have migrated to the town where at least they have a dry bit of pavement. A rather pathetic sight is to see a few cooking pots, pieces of wood and bits of straw matting acting as a shelter – the entire contents of a household.'

TYPHOID EPIDEMIC

'We have a typhoid epidemic on the compound here at Chandraghona and many are ill. I am so thankful that I brought back typhoid vaccine with me to prevent others getting it. We have organized testing of our drinking water supplies. The results are, as we feared, that it is unfit for human consumption. The water supply is obviously being badly contaminated at some point between the tube well and kitchen tap.'

Reporting on the Community Health Programme, Sue said that the immunization section had expanded and that years of motivation have been profitable.

'The weaving project has developed in a way beyond my wildest dreams. They are now producing high quality, traditional, tribal designed cloth. Several women have been trained and we hope that this income generating venture will give women hope and money to help them feed their families. We are exploring sales outlets and branching out into the production of bedsheets and tableclothes.'

VITAMIN A DEFICIENCY

'The high calorie feed programme has faltered because of rumours and scare stories about dried milk powder being contaminated following the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Sadly, since my return, I have seen three children irreversibly blinded through Vitamin A deficiency, something I had not seen for years, but probably due to the floods.'

FOOD PRICES INCREASED

'Food prices have increased making fish, eggs and vegetables less readily available to poor people.'

Many readers of the *Herald* will remember the touching story of Senowara, who was looked after virtually single handed by her seven year old sister after the mother's death. She brought her regularly to the Under-fives clinics.



Weaving project, Chandraghona

Sadly, Sue Headlam reports Senowara's death in September.

'She was unwell and losing weight and then got pneumonia. Her faithful, loving sister, now 13 years old, came for help, but due to the political unrest we were unable to go to her. Their father refused to let her come to the hospital for needed treatment. We can't help wondering whether, if she had been a boy, the story would have had a different ending. We are all very upset about it.'

TEACHING SPEECH AT VELLORE

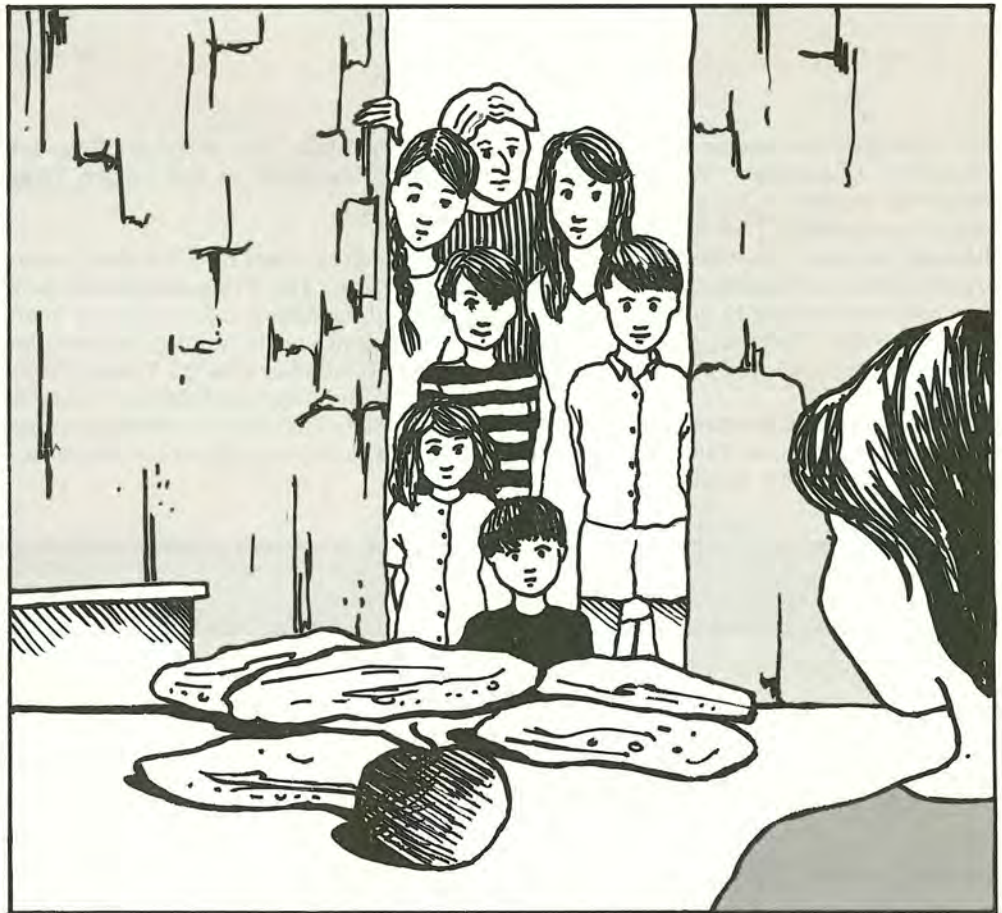
Some extracts from the letters of Claire Gathercole, a volunteer speech therapist at Vellore, South India.

I was invited to the home of one of the children for lunch. She lives in a village near Vellore, so we went by bus. Her home is the usual tiny mud hut. It consisted of one room divided into two by a mud partition. Mind you that was better than the Uncle's house next door which was just a single room in which the family lived together with their cow!

Sunday lunch consisted of five small flat loaves of unleavened bread, made with flour and water, and an apple. No-one else ate but me and my eating was observed by a sea of faces (the extended family) in the doorway. I felt terrible but they were so keen for me to eat though, that I couldn't have refused. They'd have been really offended. It was a far cry from a Sunday roast but probably more memorable than any meal I shall ever be given. It was certainly appreciated, knowing how little they have to offer and to share.

Where the individual children are concerned I am busy drawing up Bliss charts for Magesh, Gainesh and Ali, who now needs a new one. Poor Ali, the more we work with him, the more we realize how enormous his problems are. I think because he has never been able to speak, write or express himself no-one has been able to check whether he has actually been learning anything. Yesterday when we were trying to teach him the Bliss symbols for the days of the week, we discovered he didn't even know what the days of the week were in Tamil. We were also pretty disturbed to find he couldn't count — this is a boy of 15. As far as we know he is not mentally retarded.

It just shows how an inability to speak can hamper education and development. At least we now know so that the teachers can do something about it, but I really wonder how much progress we are going to make at this late stage. He needs a lot of prayer. His motivation is good and he was told that if he worked hard he'd get a special prize at



Christmas. So he became quite active in a class discussion, using imaginative gestures. Gainesh and Magesh are doing really well with the Bliss and enjoying it.

The 'speech class' I take every morning has had a shift of membership. The older children, who I already see individually, have moved to the pre-reading and reading groups, leaving a much younger class of children so it is easier to make the activities more appropriate for each child.

I have now started handing over assessments to the staff — we have a new child, Prijon, and the teachers are going to jointly assess her for

speech therapy and decide what management is appropriate. I'll be helping them of course but I hope they will be beginning to get the idea. Prijon was terrified of me at first — she is now fine and joins in the speech class quite happily.

I was able to go to 'Karigiri' a leprosy research and training centre. The treatment being given to the patients was fascinating and we were able to wander round all the departments, sit in on consultations with the patients and talk with any of the staff. Some of the deformities were grotesque... it gives you a real insight into the leprosy work going on in India. I found I learnt a lot about leprosy too.

• P R A Y E R C A L L •

MARCH 6-12 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND LITERATURE IN ZAIRE

CIT Makiadi is the leader of the Christian Education Department which seeks to encourage growth 'in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ' through various Church activities and organizations. He arranges retreats, seminars and makes visits to different regions, working with Pastors, youth leaders, Sunday School and Day school teachers.

Christopher and Christine Spencer, who have been working at Yakusu, have now moved to their new location of Mbanza

Ngungu to take up responsibility for Christian Education in the Lower River Area.

There is a great need for Christian Literature in Zaire. The Protestant Publishing House and Bookshop in Kinshasa has been re-established and is helping to meet the demand. Remember also the Yakusu Printing Press, the many adult literacy classes, and all those involved in writing, translating and producing Christian literature.

MARCH 13-19 NEPAL

THIS small mountain country is the only Hindu Kingdom in the world. It is one of the world's poorest countries with massive needs in many areas. BMS is one of the 37 member bodies of the United Mission to Nepal, which works in co-operation with His Majesty's Government of Nepal, in meeting some of these needs. Let us pray for the King and Government officials, that good relationships between them and the UMN may be upheld so that projects will come to fruition. Pray that there may be religious freedom as the Church of Christ grows amidst opposition and persecution.

Mr Howard Barclay is the Executive Secretary of the UMN. Lynne Davies, from the BMS, is Assistant to the Central Services Director of the UMN in Kathmandu and Katie Norris, also from BMS, is the Guest House Hostess at Amp Pipal.

Remember also new missionaries to Nepal who are engaged in language training and orientation.

MARCH 20-26 PRAYER FOR SOUTH AMERICA

THROUGHOUT Latin America, people are leaving the rural areas for the urban centres, where they believe life will be better. But the streets are not paved with gold. Ten million children live on the streets in Brazil's cities. They live by begging, robbing and prostitution. They turn to cheap drink and drugs - many being hooked by the age of ten years. In Curitiba there is a Baptist Church Children's Rehabilitation Centre; some of the children testify in a very moving way how Jesus has delivered them.

Because so many children are left to themselves for up to twelve hours a day while mothers go out to work, Baptist churches

have seen the need to set up creches. Mothers can leave their children for ten or eleven hours per day. This should help to prevent some children becoming street children and give them a chance to hear the Gospel.

John Clark is the newly appointed BMS Overseas Representative for Brazil and the Caribbean. His job involves a great deal of travel, and recently he has visited Trinidad and Jamaica as well as different parts of Brazil. Pray for the safety and health of John and Norma. Remember also Waldemira Tymchak and BMS missionaries Jean and Eric Westwood working with the Brazilian Convention's World Mission Board.

MARCH 27-APRIL 2 HOLY WEEK

HOLY Week especially reminds us that world mission is not man's but God's. Thinking of our Lord's passion and death we are brought face to face with the costliness and self-sacrifice of divine love.

As the BMS Prayer Guide points out this week, 'God's mission of love to the world of people is not a slick, well advertized and neatly-packaged public relations exercise. It is sweated out in a hard and mistrusting world, where service is met with indifference, where kindness is greeted with suspicion and where love is rewarded with a cross.'

We remember those for whom Christian witness is not easy, who, faced with hostility from family and fellow countrymen, are threatened with prison and civil disability - those who are realizing the full cost of discipleship.

• P R A Y E R C A L L •

**'Ten million children live on the
streets of Brazil's cities ...'**

DISPOSSESSED

They say I'm a minor,
but I have the experience and face of old age,
because years are marked by the hours one has
suffered.

They say I've been abandoned,
but they forget how, why and who left me orphaned.

They say I'm violent,
but it was the violence of poverty that left me no alternative.

They say I'm a wrongdoer,
but if I snatch purses and wallets
it's because they've excluded me from the banquet
of life.

They say I'm a delinquent,
but delinquency is only the face of an entire
society that is rotten, sick and murderous.

They say I'm a vagrant,
but they don't give me the chance
to stand on my own two feet.

They say I'm indigent
but they can't see that what I lack
is the excess they have in their banks and stores
or hidden in their unproductive lands.

They say I'm biased,
but it's by the sweat of my poor, long-suffering
people that they are able to accumulate success and
fortune.

They say I'm marginal,
but it is they themselves
that have put me in the street
when they deny my parents land to work and live,
then pay them hunger wages.

They say I'm dirty and ragged,
but if I'm a ragpicker and a garbage collector
it's because their children dress and eat like
princes.

They say I'm a thorn in society's side,
but the real cancer isn't me,
it's in their coffers, so well-stocked
thanks to all our unpaid work
and their empty, sterile properties.

They say I'm sickly,
but my illness serves as a remedy
for the health of their well-fed animals.

They say I'm bad company,
but what they take from me
is the awareness that they have caused my ruin.

They say I'm an embarrassment to the city,
but they're looking for an excuse
to lock me up in a correctional institution.

They say my parents are to blame,
but they had no scruples
about throwing them off the land
and into the street.

They say I'm a woman of ill repute,
but if I put up my body for sale
it's because I have nowhere to work with my hands.

They say the only solution is the death penalty,
but fail to realize
that they decreed my death sentence
when they tore me from the bosom of a family.

(From Brazil – translated from the Portuguese)

Lord,
Make us realize
that our Christianity is like a rice field:
when it is newly planted the paddies are prominent,
but as the plants take root and grow taller
these divided paddies gradually vanish
and soon there appears only one vast
continuous field.

So give us roots that love
and help us grow in Christian fellowship
and service
that your will may be done in our lives
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

(The Christian Conference of Asia)



FLYING



Michael Cranefield shares his practical skills as a laboratory technician with nurses in Bolobo.

RECENTLY we went from IME Kimpese to Bolobo for a working trip. The children saw it as a holiday and for them it fulfilled all expectations. For us it was not quite a holiday but we enjoyed it all the same. We packed the sun hats and plastic spades along with the *Manual of Basic Techniques for the Health Laboratory*.

The VDU Screen of the flight control computer in the Cessna Sky Caravan showed the estimated time of landing at Bolobo to be in two minutes. We dropped below the clouds and caught a first glimpse of the town, dwarfed beside the vast expanse of water that is the river Zaire. The Zairian national anthem calls it the 'majestic' river and that seemed a pretty good description.

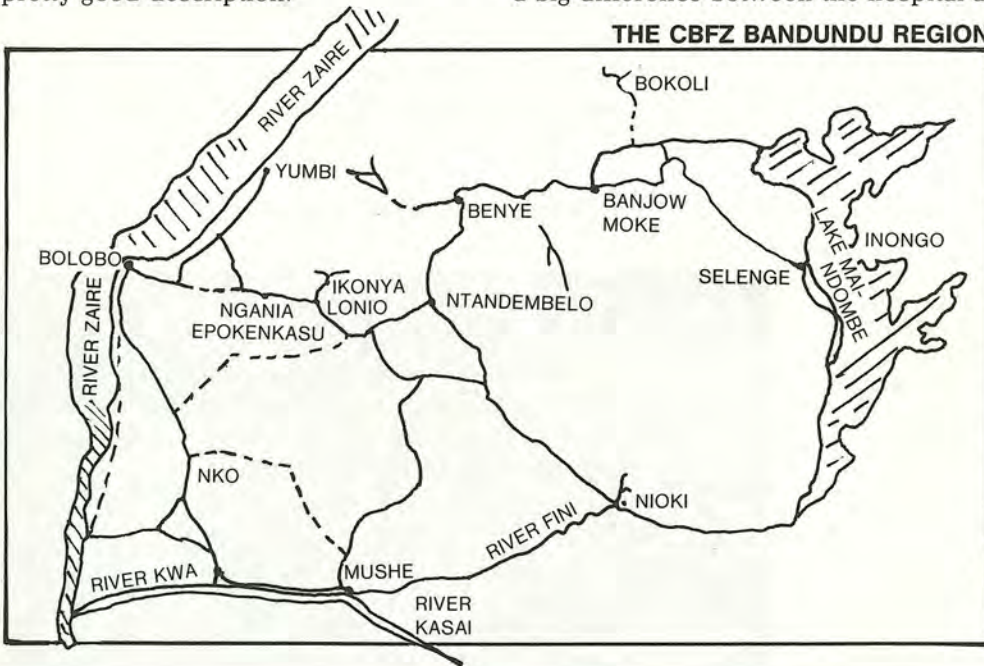
The Missionary Aviation aircraft swept over the small airstrip, the wind-sock making a bright splash of colour against the otherwise completely green-brown countryside. We turned and then came in on a final approach and landed smoothly. A few minutes later we were heading towards the town and then driving through it to the mission seeing the houses, the shops, the small market, the school, the hospital, the church. We arrived in time for lunch and then settled ourselves into the house that was to be our home for a month.

Why had we come to Bolobo from Kimpese? Zaire is a very big country and there are many differences between one part and another; and equally there was a big difference between the hospital at

Bolobo and the hospital of IME Kimpese. At Kimpese we have a training school for laboratory technicians where I am, and have been for four years, a teacher. I believe that we are training laboratory technicians not just for our own hospital but for others too. As a teacher I wanted to get some idea of the conditions that some of our students may one day experience. Having visited Bolobo I hope that I can help to prepare our students for working wherever their experience may be needed.

The two nurses who work in the laboratory at Bolobo Hospital had shown a desire to improve their techniques. With this in mind the head of the hospital, Dr Luzaisu, and BMS missionaries Dr David Masters and Richard Smith had extended an invitation to me to spend a month working in the lab. I was to assess what could be improved, and to show the two nurse-technicians new methods of performing tests, as well as encouraging them to continue with the tests they did well. At IME we have several well qualified technicians, both missionary and Zairian. Our immediate aim is to maintain the service to the hospital and continue in our training role, but I feel also that we should try to help others in more difficult situations than those at Kimpese.

We arrived in Bolobo during the epidemic of cholera and it was something that added a touch of sadness to our visit. Every day new patients arrived; most got better but not all. Then



B·O·L·O·B·O·

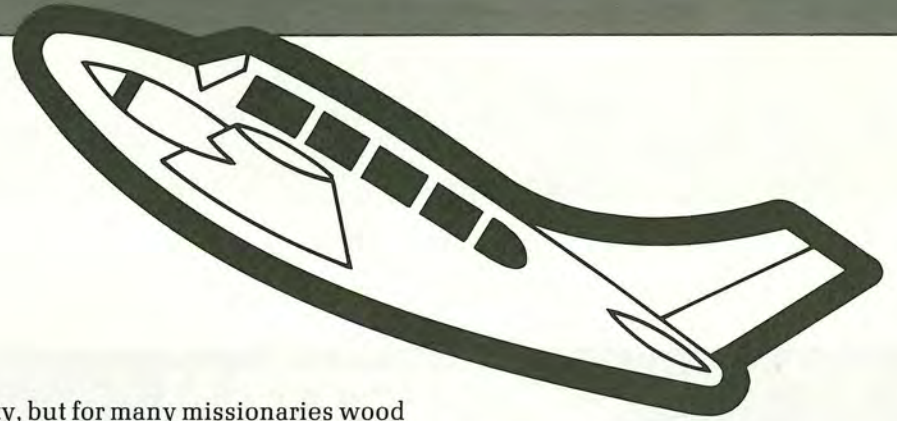


the medicines ran out and more patients inevitably died. There was a visit from the Minister for Health and the local MP, and the Missionary Aviation Fellowship helped by airlifting urgent supplies from Kinshasa. But, in spite of all the efforts made, the epidemic continued long after we had returned to Kimpese.

The hospital at Bolobo is situated beside the river. It was built originally by the BMS, passed for a few years into the hands of a national health organization and then back to the CBFZ. The laboratory is situated in the original buildings while the wards are more recently built. Without electricity, very little equipment and a crumbling building the lab is, by anyone's standards, basic; but a great deal can be done with very little.

Until relatively recently there were no qualified laboratory technicians in Zaire, so it is normal for nurses to perform basic tests, but a nurse's training is not necessarily the best preparation for medical laboratory work. There were a few gaps to fill in the knowledge of those I worked with. There were minor repairs to carry out, improvements to suggest, long forgotten ideas to bring back to the surface. There were no reference books to use, so I prepared a small notebook with all the basic laboratory tests explained, available and ready to hand for checking details after my departure.

Our children enjoyed themselves playing with new friends, washing in the river and taking a trip by canoe. The way of life in Bolobo is very different from that of our home in Kimpese: a wood burning stove needs a different approach from an electric cooker to get it to produce a meal! Jackie enjoyed the



novelty, but for many missionaries wood stoves, collecting rain water and paraffin lamps are a way of life.

We were warmly welcomed by the church, as there is a strong feeling of unity between the churches of the CBFZ. Kimpese and Bolobo are in different administrative regions of Zaire (we had immigration formalities to complete on our arrival) and yet for the Christians in the churches we were simply a brother and sister in Christ, on a visit. We joined in worship in the church, I was able to participate in the morning prayers and

weekly Bible studies of the hospital staff. We were able to talk with those we met about family life, about cholera, about God working in the world today. But more than that, I offered back to God the practical skills and the knowledge He has given me, to use in His service.

IME = The Evangelical Medical Institute at Kimpese

CBFZ = The Baptist Community of the River Zaire



Laboratory work, Bolobo





CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF ASIA EXPELLED

THE government of Singapore ordered the expulsion of the Christian Conference of Asia on 30 December.

'We have taken these actions because the CCA has breached the undertaking it gave in 1974, not to indulge in any political activity or allow its funds to be used for political purposes,' the government said.

On the morning of 30 December, officers of the Special Branch, Immigration and other departments raided the CCA offices in Singapore. The staff was asked to leave and the office was sealed. The bank accounts were frozen.

The government alleges that the CCA has used Singapore as a base to support liberation movements in Asia and has

funded pro-communist movements; CCA news has promoted radical political activities and liberation theology; CCA has provided covert support for radical activists in Singapore.

The CCA has denied the charges but says that if it is no longer welcome in Singapore it will leave. Bishop Ken Mason of Australia, treasurer of CCA, appealed to the government to allow the General Committee of CCA to wind up its affairs.

Some 95 churches and 15 national councils of churches spread over 17 countries in the Asia-Pacific region are members of the CCA. Founded at Prapat, Indonesia, in 1957, its headquarters were in Bangkok until it moved to Singapore in 1974.

DREAMING OF A BETTER LIFE

FIFTY years ago, the great bulk of Latin America's population lived in the countryside. Most people depended on farming, cattle raising or the cultivation of plantation crops for export. Cities were small, and even national capitals were slow-paced and of modest size.

All that has changed. In most countries, the struggle for survival is played out in sprawling, chaotically expanding urban centres. Streets are congested with noisy vehicles, hurrying pedestrians and

vendors hawking fresh fruit, kitchen utensils or old magazines. Every day new arrivals from the provinces set up makeshift shanties in vacant lots, or on the everwidening outskirts of the city.

Today, 70 per cent of Latin America's population live and work in cities. It has become an essentially urban society.

Most migrants are drawn to the cities by dreams of a better way of life — jobs, a

higher standard of living, education for their children. Many have been forced to come by joblessness or the loss of their land.

The transition has not been easy. Urban growth has far outstripped the capacity of established industrial and commercial centres to absorb new arrivals. From 1950 to 1980, the number of unemployed city dwellers increased by more than ten million.

What's happening in the Church around the World

CARIBBEAN

THE Secretary General of the Caribbean Conference of Churches said Caribbean leaders, not the US Government, ought to be assisting Haiti.

Alan Kirton, head of the Barbados based ecumenical church organization, said, 'Too many decisions about Caribbean nations are being made in Washington.'

The violence that resulted in the suspension of Haiti's first elections in 30 years was caused by paramilitary groups in collusion with the government, a group of

church observers representing the Caribbean Council of Churches has concluded.

The observers drew different conclusions from that of a group of Caribbean political leaders who blamed the killings on 'diverse motives of various interest groups'.

Haiti's three-member ruling junta cancelled the 19 November election after armed groups randomly attacked polling stations, killing 34 adults and children.

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, who has pioneered work in the care of the terminally ill and bereaved. She is also at the forefront of the care of AIDS' sufferers in the United States. Her attempts to bring some of the 3,000 babies in the USA, born with the AIDS virus, into their local communities have resulted in threats to her life.

On 13 March, Father Campbell-Johnston, returned to Britain after many years of work amongst refugees in El Salvador, will tell of the cost of those 'who hunger and thirst after righteousness'.

Peacemaking is the theme on 20 March. It will feature lay theologian Elisabeth Adler, who lives and works in East Berlin, where peacemaking is a major concern of the Church.

The final programme is on 27 March when Archbishop Desmond Tutu will offer a perspective rooted in his many years of struggle for a peaceful solution to the conflict in South Africa.

Baptist minister, Edwin Robertson, has written a book called *The Cost of Discipleship*, which offers a valuable background to the speakers and poses a number of questions for individual or group study. The BBC production team would be delighted to hear your views and reflections on questions raised during the series. The address to write to is:

The Cost of Discipleship, Religious Programmes, BBC Television, Wood Lane, London W12 8QT

IN A HAZE

THE annual burning off of the forest in Mato Grosso to make room for crops created such a smoke haze that flying was impossible for a period of about six weeks. This made it difficult for John Clark, BMS Overseas Representative for Brazil and the Caribbean, to go to the north of the state, as planned, and restricted his visit to the state capital of Cuiabá.

'This sort of thing makes David Stockley weep,' said John. 'David is a BMS agriculturalist and has been working on the coastal plain of Paraná to educate local farmers away from these damaging and inefficient methods. Old ideas die hard and there are not enough men like him.'

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

THE BBC has launched a special series for Lent called 'The Cost of Discipleship' and based on the book of the same name by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The series began on Sunday, 21 February at 9.15 am on BBC-1 and at 9 pm on Radio 4 when the speaker was Dr Jean Vanier, founder of the L'Arch Community which cares for mentally handicapped people.

The second programme, on 28 February, featured Jim Wallis, leader of the Sojourner Community in Washington where he lives among the poor.

Programme three, on 6 March, will be about the work of Swiss born doctor,

CHOLERA WITCHCRAFT

and the

CHURCH

'YOU have had the Gospel in Bolobo for almost 100 years, and yet we find here more belief in witchcraft and sorcery than in other places. Where have you failed in your teaching?'

Those were remarks made by a senior doctor, himself a humanist, from the Department of Health in Kinshasa when he went to Bolobo to investigate last year's cholera epidemic.

'Although we have always been aware of the belief in *ndoki* – witchcraft – the epidemic highlighted just how widespread and deeply rooted it is,' writes BMS nurse at Bolobo, Joan Parker.

'We heard how in one village the drum had just beaten for the morning service when a travelling salesman in fetishes – guaranteed to protect against cholera – arrived. The whole population flocked to him, leaving the pastor alone in the church.'

Joan says that many Christians in Zaire do not see this as a rejection of the things of God. After all, are we in Britain any better? How many of us 'touch wood',

don't walk under ladders, and read horoscopes?

'The majority of people in Zaire,' explains Joan, 'still do not understand the causes and transmission of disease and do not see the need to take simple preventive measures. So the epidemic continued much longer than need be.'

'Among those named as responsible for bringing the disease to the area were doctors – weren't they making a lot of money out of it? – and the pastors. Understandably, the people in Bolobo were angry that the team sent up by the Government Health Department did not arrive until the epidemic was virtually over.'

'We now (December) have a vast supply of drugs and fluids to see us through several epidemics, and yet at one time the death rate was high because we had no intravenous fluids with which to save lives.'

The Cholera epidemic dominated the lives of those living in Bolobo from Easter through to September.

'We thank God that He has kept us well during this time,' wrote Joan Parker in August. 'We were not able to be as generous in our prescribing as we would have wished, and we had to make up our own oral rehydration salts. On one occasion we brought up the last 20 kilograms of sugar available in town.'

At one point, BMS personnel in Bolobo thought the epidemic was petering out.

'Unfortunately this proved to be far from the truth,' wrote Richard and Elisabeth Smith. 'We had thought it was bad, but far worse was to come.'

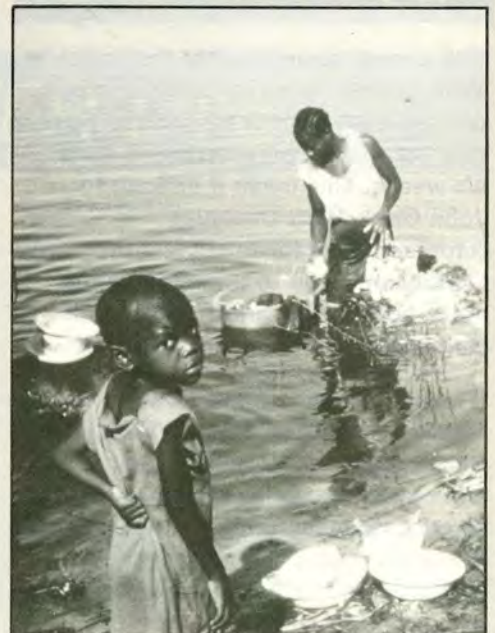
On one Sunday, Richard saw more than 20 cases in 24 hours.

'During this period we had over 50 patients in our ward designed to take no more than 20 or 25 patients. Some found space on a bed with another, but the rest had to lie on the floor on their rush mats with a mixture of water, antiseptic and liquid stools flowing around them!'

Up to the beginning of September the hospital had seen over 700 patients with a mortality rate of about ten per cent.

'However, we know full well that many, many more people have had the disease in the surrounding villages, or on the boats plying up and down the river. We know of others who tried to get to the hospital, but who died on the way,' write Richard and Elisabeth.

Richard saw a man who had come to the hospital with a family member who had



OUT OF THE FOREST

BMS personnel not only take their profession overseas, they also take their Christian faith and, as part of the local church, they share in its mission of outreach and evangelism. . . .

'I was in the forest, but now I have come out into the open.'

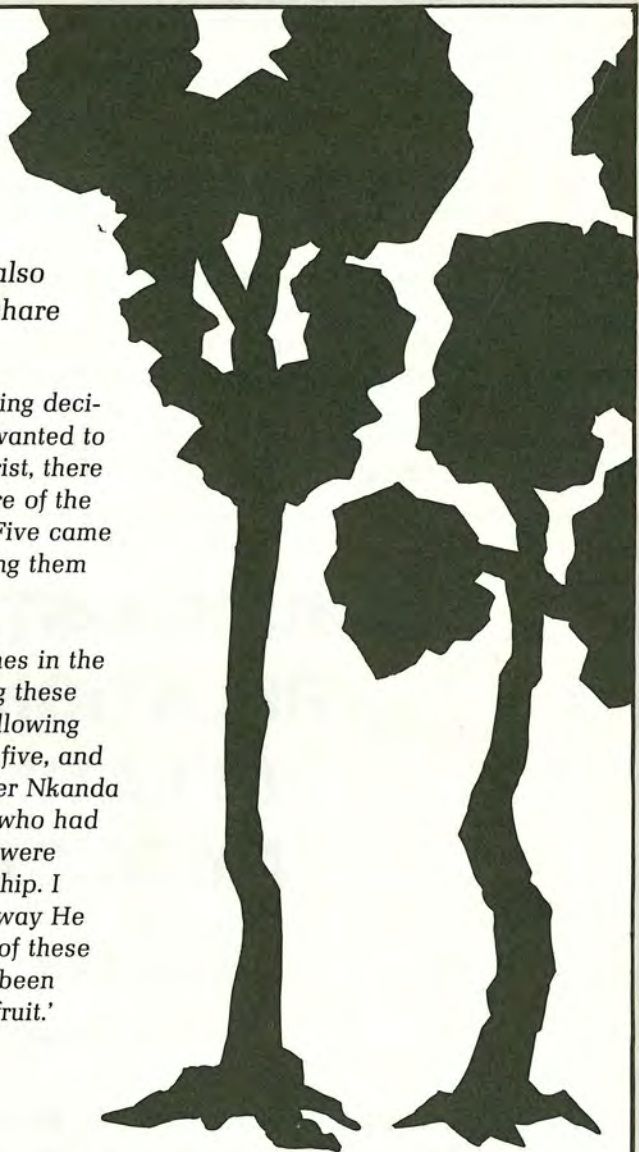
This is how Nkanda, one of the second year student nurses described his conversion experience to Joan Parker, a BMS nurse at Bolobo.

'It was at one of our Friday evening Bible study group meetings,' said Joan. 'I'd had an extremely busy week, and was feeling tired with a headache, and half hoping that it would rain, so that no one would venture out! In fact I was dozing in my chair when the first students arrived. Not a promising start to a stimulating study! But, praise God, He isn't limited by our weaknesses.

'The study went well. There were many questions and a lively discussion. When we came to our prayer time at the end, I felt it was right to present a challenge to the young people.

'We'd been talking about making decisions, so I invited those who wanted to make a decision to follow Christ, there and then, to kneel in the centre of the group as we stood in prayer. Five came forward and knelt down, among them Nkanda.

'Pastor Litwambela, who teaches in the Bible School, has been sharing these studies with me. During the following week, he had talks with these five, and others. The result? A week later Nkanda was baptized and two others, who had drifted away from the church, were received into church membership. I thank and praise God for the way He has been working in the lives of these young people and that I have been privileged to see some of the fruit.'



already lost four other members of his family in his village within just two or three days.

'What words of comfort could one say to him?'

Cholera is a disease spread by infected water, prevented by obeying the simple rules of hygiene, and treated basically by replacing the fluid lost from the body – nothing complicated.

'But when the widespread and popular belief is that it is caused by witchcraft, then what seems to us to be the simple and sensible thing to do is rejected and an element of fatalism creeps in. This makes our job harder as we struggle to convince people to drink sufficient to live,' says Joan Parker.

At one point, a small group of men went around the town, beating a gong and proclaiming that the epidemic was being



Hospital theatre, Bolobo

(continued from previous page)

caused by witchcraft, that it attacks the families of bad people, and that people should not drink the treatment being given them in hospital.

By the beginning of December the cholera epidemic seemed to be over.

'The women's and children's ward, which had housed the cholera patients is now full again, this time with sleeping sickness patients,' wrote Joan.

'There are also a number of youngsters suffering from a particularly nasty form of

ulcer, caused by a germ similar to that which causes TB. The disease spreads under the skin, is very difficult to treat and needs extensive surgery. Once healing begins, there can be the added complication of contractures, especially if sited near a joint.

'Nkumu's ulcer is over her elbow, and her arm was becoming fixed in a straight position. So we have been encouraging her to use that arm to eat with. She has to bend her arm to get the food into her mouth! The first time she took a bite of a banana held in that hand it was a big

triumph, and now all the other patients are encouraging her to improve on that first performance.

'Manguna's ulcer had caused his knee to be permanently bent. He would hop around the hospital on his one good leg with the help of a stick. Now the leg is in plaster, following an operation and skin grafting. We look forward to seeing him running about on both legs soon.'

CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

— a day
conference

At New Road Baptist Church, Bonn Square, Oxford
on Saturday 12 March 1988, 10 am to 4 pm

Speakers —

REV DAVID GRAINGER

(Principal, St Andrew's Hall, Selly Oak)

REV ALVAN GRIST

(Chair, Oxford-Leon Trust)

MS WENDY TYNDALE

(Head of Latin American/Caribbean Group, Christian Aid)

For further details contact **Stephen Heap**, 58 Blackbird Leys Road, Oxford OX4 5UR. (Phone Oxford 774187) OR **Helen Stanton**, Christian Aid, Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford.

A few extra details:

this is being billed as a Christian Aid/BMS conference. Each speaker will address the theme out of the ex-

perience of the country they know best, viz:

David — Brazil

Alvan — Nicaragua

Wendy — El Salvador

This will take up the morning, with time for discussion. It is the theme of church-state relations which is our main concern, not the situation of individual countries.

In the afternoon there will be small group discussion on, eg, 'What the Bible says about church-state relations', 'A Christian and violence', 'A Christian and revolution'.

This will be followed by an attempt to relate at the implications of what we have said and heard for ourselves.

LANGUAGE SUMMER SCHOOL

at
THE BAPTIST
CENTRE
OF LES CEDRES
MASSY

25 July to 12 August
1988

The minimum age limit is 16 years and a minimum of two years' school French, or the equivalent is required.

Classes are at three or four levels ranging from a basic revision course to an undergraduate level.

FEES — including tuition and full board

Two Weeks (until 5 Aug)
2400 FF

Three Weeks (until 12 Aug)
3400 FF

Further information from:

Mr David Boydell
Ecole de Langue Francais
17, voie de Wissous
91 300 Massy, France

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretaries acknowledge with grateful thanks the following legacies and anonymous gifts. (To 6 January 1988.)

Legacies	£
Miss M Atkinson	5,622.18
Miss R M Barnes	500.00
Miss M G Clark	100.41
Miss B M Coppi	8,002.37
Miss H M Coulson	1,967.97
Mr J C Dawson	100.00
Mrs E Edmondson	1,232.38
Mrs R M Garrad	200.00
Miss H E Hayes	6,560.00
Mrs V M Hickford	200.00
Miss M E Hurst	200.00
Miss D Lord	77.70
Mrs A C Maurice	500.00

Dr N Moore	50.00
Mrs E M Quinton	100.00
Miss D K Shipway	1,812.50
Miss I M Sidey	237.54

General Work

Anon: £25.00; FAE Aberdeen: £25.00; Anon: Leeds: £40.00; Anon Durham: £25.00; via London Baptist Property Board: £50.00.

MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

Arrivals

Rev & Mrs P Goodall on 30 December from Colombo, Sri Lanka.
Miss J Parker on 8 January from Bolobo, Zaire.
Miss S Evans on 15 January from Yakusu, Zaire.

Departures

Miss R Giboney on 7 January to Bolobo, Zaire.

Miss M Philpott on 7 January to Kisangani, Zaire.
Mr & Mrs J Mellor on 17 January to Mushie, Zaire.
Mr & Mrs H Blake on 19 January to Kathmandu, Nepal.
Mr & Mrs D Morris on 21 January to Kathmandu, Nepal.
Rev D Mee on 20 January to Guatemala for language study.

Births

On 22 December 1988, in Bolobo, Zaire, to **Mr & Mrs R Smith**, a son, Daniel Oliver.

Deaths

On 1 January 1988, in Cheltenham, **Mrs Enid Beatrice Phillips** (widow of Rev E L Phillips), who served in China from 1927-51.
On 10 January 1988, at West Linton, Peebleshire, **Dr Ruth Margaret Alice Tait**, who served in China (1925-50) and India (1927-28).

BAPTIST HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP 1988

WESTHOLME

Family holiday centre – on seafront – near town centre and Gardens

30 comfortable bedrooms – most facing sea, several en suite

10 Single, 9 Twin, 4 Double, 7 Family – capacity 60

Two Lounges, discussion room, games room, laundry room, own car park

Excellent food and fellowship

Ideal for family and church group holidays

GROUP HOLIDAYS NOW BEING BOOKED FOR 1989 and 1990

HOLIDAY FLATS

– on seafront – 7 spacious Flats – sleep 2-10

– fully equipped – colour TV – own car park

NEAR SOMERWEST WORLD FOR SPRING HARVEST

STILL AVAILABLE

RHODES 13-20 April – Rev Douglas Monkley

Brochures: Baptist Holiday Fellowship (MH)

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

NOTICES

BREAK OUT!

BMS Summer Holidays 1988

This year, the BMS is launching out in a different direction for its Summer Holiday Programme! Take the opportunity of joining in with one of three holidays below – and grapple with world church issues!

AMONG THE ROLLING HILLS – 25-31 July

Marvellous Malvern is the venue for this year's Family Holiday. Join with 50 others for six days of relaxation and stimulation at St Edward's Conference Centre.

COST £90.00 per person.

PHAB! – 23-30 July

Llandudno, Wales, is the location of a rewarding holiday for physically handicapped and able bodied people to share together. Many activities are planned – music, drama, sport, art and much more! If you are physically handicapped and between 15-25, or able-bodied and between 16-25, and would like to get stuck into PHAB, then write to: Geoff Evans, 41 Parklands Road, Fulwood, Preston PR2 4SJ, or phone him on 0772 863355.

COST £45.00 per person.

MESSING ABOUT ON THE RIVER – 16-23 July

Young People! Get the taste for canal life this summer. Two brightly decorated canal boats, a ten and twelve berth, will await your arrival. Where will they take you? Who knows? The narrow boats will journey from Hertfordshire for as far as you can make it! If you are between 16 and 25, live dangerously and be a part of this exciting holiday.

COST £65.00 per person.

NEW LIFE IN THE NEW FOREST – 13-20 August

The fabulous facilities of Avon Tyrrell are waiting for you in 1988!! Avon Tyrrell is an old country mansion standing in 43 acres of its own land, and bordering onto the New Forest. Here you can swim, sail, play tennis, badminton, rounders or do a host of other things. While you're here, John Rackley will lead you through an assault course on world mission today!

COST £100.00 per person.

* ALL PRICES ARE INCLUSIVE OF VAT *

BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

25-28 April

Westminster Chapel, London

* * *

MONDAY

2.00 – 4.15 pm

Opening

Bible Study – Dr A Kreider

At home and abroad – Baptist work in 1987

Prayer

4.45 pm

BMS General Committee

6.30 pm

President's Evening

Address by Dr Colin Marchant

Theme 'Shalom'

TUESDAY

9.45 – 10.15 am

Bible Study – Dr A Kreider

10.15 – 11 am

Baptist Union Business

11.15 am – 12.30 pm

Public Issues

Afternoon

Urban trails and mobile seminars

6.30 pm

Launch of Action In Mission (AIM)

Recognition Service

Preacher: Rev Peter Barber

Gen Sec BU of Scotland

WEDNESDAY

9.45 – 10.15 am

Bible Study – Dr A Kreider

10.15 – 11 am

BMS Annual Members' Meeting

11.15 am – 12.30 pm

BMS Sermon

Preacher: Bishop Harry Moore, CMS

2.15 pm

Women's Rally

(entrance by ticket – free – available from BU or BMS)

4.45 pm

BU Council

6.30 pm

BMS Valedictory Service

THURSDAY

10 am

Exploring AIM

NEEDED OVERSEAS

ZAIRE – Science and Maths teachers – Electrician (short term)

NEPAL – Primary school teacher

BANGLADESH – Pastoral couple for evangelistic work

Please write to: The Personnel Secretary, BMS, 93 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4AA