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**TOWARDS  
WHOLENESS—  
working  
with rural  
communities**



MISSIONARY

**HERALD**

August 1988



# Editorial Comment

EACH year, after we have produced this edition of the *Herald* to link with the BMS-Operation Agri joint Harvest Appeal, we receive a batch of letters implying that, by concentrating on development issues, we are ignoring the gospel. Far from it! How can you proclaim the gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ without somehow showing love in action? The words, 'God is love', have no meaning unless they come alive in the service and concern of those who proclaim them.

There are of course some places in the world where it is the only way open to Christians to serve their Lord. The cultural, religious, or political situations of certain countries forbids so called 'straight' evangelism. Perhaps that is no bad thing. We Christians use too many words and, like coins in an inflationary economy, they depreciate in value. It is good that sometimes we are forced into situations where our words are weighed against our deeds.

But that cannot be all. As we know to our cost, in the 'developed' parts of the world, an over concentration on material things breeds selfishness and begets a new idolatry. In at least one of the articles this month the problems of development are shown to be linked with the spiritual health of the region. No amount of material help, of help to introduce new stock and new varieties of seed, or to provide clean water will, in the long run, have beneficial results if superstition, bondage to witchcraft and suspicion of neighbour mean that they are not going to be shared throughout the community. The good news which God proclaims in Jesus Christ is the good news of release from all that holds men and women in captivity, both spiritual and material.

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MISSIONARY

# HERALD

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY



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We share in the work of the  
Church in:

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





# SLUGGISH WORK IN BRAZIL!

## RICE

AT CEBADER, the agricultural project at Potinga in Paraná, Brazil, things have been rather 'sluggish' recently. The land around has been infested with slugs which have thwarted any attempts to grow decent crops.

David Stockley decided that if any progress was going to be made the slug problem had to be tackled first of all. Deep ploughing has been stopped because slugs were hiding and breeding in the holes and crevices created in the soil. So now only the first few centimetres are broken up, using the new power tiller purchased, second-hand, with the help of a special grant from Operation Agri.

For the time being, good horticultural practices like mulching with compost or fertilising with animal manure have been discontinued.

'The compost and dung were creating ideal slug hotels,' said David.

Chemicals suitable for controlling slugs are either unobtainable or uneconomic in Brazil and in a project which is there to help poor local farmers it would be wrong to use them.

'If we spent the money and used chemical bait,' said David, 'the local farmers would turn round and say: "It's alright for you. You've got the money."'

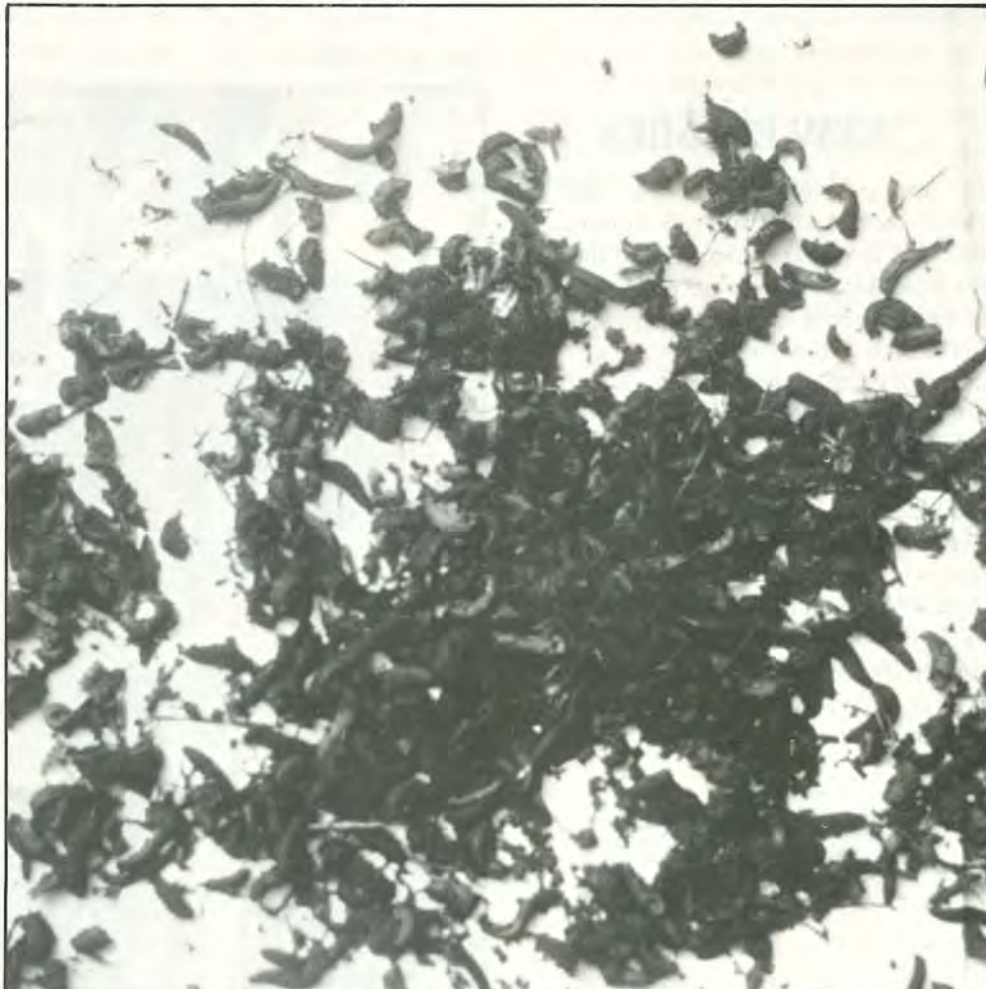
'But we are learning how to deal with the slugs. We are now growing crops where slugs used to take everything. At one period, we set traps of leaves on the soil amongst the crops and collected 21 kilos of live slugs from the fields in one week!'

However, slugs are not the only problem.

'At sowing time of rice we had to replant some three times because birds ate the first two sowings. This was in spite of little boys employed as bird scarers, kites and other tricks.

'Then the harvesting of the rice was a problem. A wet period commenced when the rice was ripe. It became difficult to collect from the field before it germinated and then to dry it after threshing. All the covered areas around our house, like the verandah, or carport, have had two inches in depth of rice, turned over continually to dry it enough to prevent germination, or the growth of fungus, or rotting.'

*Some of the slugs caught with leaf traps*







## STORM

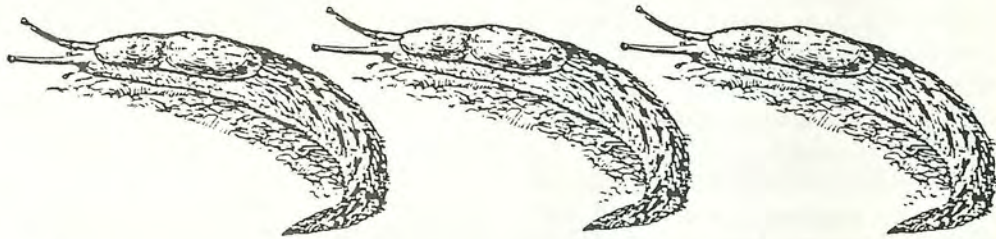
Sometimes sorting out one problem leads to the solution of others.

'A freak storm one afternoon twisted our tractor shed until it was unsafe and had to be completely dismantled and reconstructed. Santino's brother helped us, cutting trees in our woods for the timber and using the corrugated asbestos sheets, which were from the original shed.

'For our convenience the shed was reconstructed one metre less in height and one metre greater in length. We have since installed a crop drying and storage platform under the roof, and above the tractor and trailer. Using a trick from Bangladesh, we made it bird and rat-proof by surrounding the open area with wire netting. We now have a covered area where newly harvested corn or rice can be safely stored until the next flash of sunshine.



*Santino driving tractor*



*Rice at Potinga*

## NEW ENEMIES

'Soil fertility levels here are poor,' said David. 'It has taken two years to produce some Ipil Ipil or Leucena trees to the size which, in Bangladesh, were reached in six months.' Leucena is the quick growing leguminous tree whose leaves are a source of protein and vitamins. We are using the leaves as part of our home grown food for farm animals.

'We have been able to strike new trees using cut branches of the two year old trees, which gives us an edge over the slugs, which could devour seedlings in the night! But leaf cutting ants have stripped the new growth from sprouting cuttings. So we discover new advances in technology have new enemies.'





# JUMLA

By Neil B McVicar

In 1977 negotiations began with His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN) for some type of UMN involvement in the north-western corner of Nepal. Jumla District has an area of 1,090 square miles and ranges in elevation from 4,921 feet to 15,352 feet. The town of Jumla itself lies at an altitude of 7,700 feet and is the focal point for a number of high open valleys, long ranges, alpine meadows and temperate forests. A large tributary of the Karnali River, one of Nepal's three main north-south waterways, flows through Jumla.

There are no highways or roads leading to Jumla, only trekking paths are found and these take an average of five days of walking from Surkhet to which there is a regular daily service. It is possible to fly direct from Kathmandu twice a week and the one-and-a-half hours' journey by air on a 19 seater plane is quite exciting –

that is if you like flying. Flying to Jumla you soon realise why flights are often cancelled when the weather is bad or likely to be. The flight is very near the mountains and there is no radar, only the skill and vision of the pilot!! It is nevertheless beautiful to be able to see at close range the grandeur of God's creation.

The average temperature in Jumla district ranges from 66°F to 43°F but in Jumla itself may go as high as 85°F and drop to 11°F. The population of the district is approximately 70,000.

The UMN began its eventual involvement in this area by the establishment in July 1980 of the KARNALI TECHNICAL SCHOOL (KTS) under the direction of UMN Education Board. The UMN is assisting HMGN in the running of the School taking responsibility for the construction of the educational programme and teaching materials and the in-service training of the national staff for KTS.

The School gives training, mainly of a practical nature, for four years in Construction, Health and Agriculture.

It also provides training of staff and in all aspects of administration and support facilities. Graduates from KTS receive certificates which will qualify them for government posts at the non-gazetted second class level in their respective areas of training; however entry into private enterprise is also encouraged. The School provides or helps to provide short term training for local people as appropriate for determined needs, or as requested by other agencies.

KTS trains 43 agriculturalists, 37 construction and 30 health students, and support and evaluate a further 29 or so on-the-job trainees. Workers from the UMN Economic Development Board and Health Services Board are also seconded to Jumla to participate in the Jumla United Mission Project (JUMP), which includes the Karnali Technical School Project.

The Jumla Project is an ongoing one and the project activities over and above that of the KTS include the following: community health, medical laboratory testing, reforestation programme and planting of 39,000 trees, to distribute 5,000 fruit and fodder seedlings, raise 34,000 trees in the KTS nursery and 10,000 in a satellite nursery.

The process of research and evaluation continues. Informal evaluation of the KTS project continues through regular contact with on-the-job trainees, graduates who are now working, and their employing agencies to determine the effectiveness of the programme and changes needed.

Operation Agri's financial contribution to KTS is very much appreciated and helps to train individuals who can eventually share their training and expertise with others in their own communities.

Their Majesties the King and Queen of Nepal visited the project in February 1984 and expressed their great interest in the work being done at KTS. This is indeed a very worthwhile project, and contributes a great deal to the community development in north-western Nepal and it is good that BMS/Operation Agri have a part to play in it.

Sawmill at Jumla





# FORESTS, EROSION AND CHRISTIAN MISSION

'Nepal is a Hindu kingdom of 17 million people. The average income is about equal to a child's pocket money in Britain,' they said.

'Over ten per cent of children born will die before their first birthday and 15 per cent before they are five.'

In a country with few natural resources, the Nepali people depend on the forests for their survival.

'The trees provide fodder for the animals, and then, by a process which we all understand, fertilizer for the fields. Without that manure they can't grow anything. If their crop is 75 per cent of normal they go hungry for six months instead of three.'

'The trees also provide fuel and their roots, by holding the soil in place, stabilize the hillsides. They also act like a sponge holding back the water which is only released slowly into the streams and rivers.'

The problem is that the trees of Nepal are being cut down, mainly for fuel, at an alarming rate.

'Take the trees away and water pours down the hillside, tearing away huge chunks of earth, stone and rock and sometimes sweeping whole villages straight down into the rivers. The rivers swell and flow through Nepal, India, Bangladesh and out into the ocean.'

This has been cited as one of the reasons for the recent disastrous floods in Bangladesh. The sediment

**Ian and Sally Smith**

**are BMS  
medical missionaries  
working with the  
United Mission  
to Nepal.**

**Earlier this year,  
at the Missionary Rally  
held at the  
Baptist Assembly  
in London,  
they spoke of  
some of the problems  
facing Nepal.**

swept down by the rivers is being deposited in the Bay of Bengal where a new island is being formed.

'India and Bangladesh are disputing ownership of the island,' said Ian Smith, 'but it really belongs to Nepal.'

'Too much of the jungle is being cut away. If the destruction of the forests continues at the present rate, there will be none left within 13 years. Nepal is heading for ecological disaster.'

The United Mission to Nepal is engaged in many aspects of rural development. At Andhi Khola the hydro electric scheme is designed to provide power for rural areas rather than large towns. Low wattage affordable cookers are being developed for use by the local population. This will reduce their dependence on the forests for cooking fuel.

Some of the water diverted by the scheme will be used to irrigate the land.

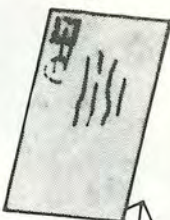
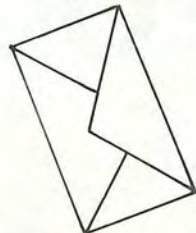
There are also reforestation schemes attempting to replace the destroyed forests.

What has all this got to do with Christian mission? Ian Smith reminded the Assembly meeting that God is reconciling all things to Himself.

'God has our interests close to His heart, but He also has the interests of the whole of creation – the very hills of Nepal and those jungles which are being cut down.'



# TALKBACK



## BIRTHDAY SCHEME

THE item from the Redditch Church's Birthday Scheme Secretary in June's *Missionary Herald* interested me and prompted me to survey the situation of membership of Cefn Wood, Rogerstone, church where I worship.

The Birthday scheme there has 53 names. The membership is 34, eleven of whom are not Birthday Scheme church attenders, eight of whom are not Birthday Scheme subscribers. So that makes 17 who are not church members, doesn't it.

A bit confusing, even if not a record!

Mrs C Brown

Risca,  
Gwent.

## ANNUAL REPORT

IT was sad to see little mention of Evangelism, Christian Education, and only five lines on Theological Education in the Zaire section of the *BMS Annual Report/Herald* (May), especially as the first two represent two of the only four departments of the CBFZ.

For the many missionaries working part-time in these areas, and for the others sent here to do these activities full-time, it was an, albeit unintentional, snub. One is tempted to ask what we are doing here if not these things.

Richard Hoskins.

BOLOBO,  
ZAIRE.

*We know that there were gaps in the Annual Report. It is not meant to cover every aspect of the Society's involvement with national churches in detail – there isn't room for that – only to give an impression by painting a general picture.*

*Missionaries have written from other countries about the coverage of the work in their areas. We do, however, hope to cover all the aspects of our work over two or three years of Annual Reports.*

Missionaries have opportunities to 'talkback'.  
Ann Bothamley being interviewed at Mission Rally in Birmingham





# SUCH AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL . . . YET CHILDREN ARE DYING FROM LACK OF FOOD!

## Stephen and Pam Seymour

Steve and Pam Seymour agriculturalists from Australia and Scotland respectively, arrived in Zaire in July of last year. Here they share some of their impressions of the needs, opportunities, and frustrations of the work they are involved in . . .



Our region of South Equator in Zaire, covers an area about the size of the south of Wales. However despite its size the population is probably only about 80,000. This population is doubling in size every 30 years! A recent survey revealed 30 percent malnutrition in the under five age group.

A report in the *Times* claimed that living standards fell dramatically following independence in 1960. By 1975, living standards in Zaire had, on average, fallen to one fifth their previous level. Living standards are still falling as inflation rampages at 100 percent, and wages fail to keep pace.

The most serious result of this situation is its affect upon morale. Few jobs are available for school leavers. Theft becomes an ever more attractive way of life, and bribery and corruption will inevitably increase.

The population of South Equator is almost entirely rural, and lives in what must be one of the most backward parts of Zaire. Despite this, the populace finds it increasingly difficult to feed itself with protein, and sometimes even with carbo-

hydrate. This is due more to the population growth and inflation, than to an insufficient potential for feeding oneself off the land. Indeed there remain large tracts of virgin forest, and the potential for the area to produce large food excesses is enormous.

And what of our work? In what way are we seeking to answer these needs? Surely a daunting task! Steve and I, together with our Zairian boss, Tata Loleka, are seeking to assist the population of Ntondo and South Equator to make the best use of the natural resources available to them, to become self-sufficient in food requirements, whilst maintaining the fertility and productivity of the land.

Steve works at the agricultural project, in an advisory capacity, whilst I go with the women to their fields cut into the forest – to work beside them, learn from them, and occasionally offer advice.

## The Zairian Farmer and Her Husband!

Sometimes the problems of development overwhelm us. Agricultural work is looked down upon. Men's contribution to the agricultural production is limited to cash crops. Their only task in producing food for the family is the clearing of the forest, and in recent years women have



Tata Loleka





*The Seymours with the Agri Team*

*Agricultural worker*



*Pam Seymour carrying wood Zairian style*

had to take on this task as well!! Historically the men come from a long line of courageous and clever hunters but, as hunting can no longer support the population, a degree of adaptability is essential. It is no longer acceptable that the women should be overworked, while some of the men remain unemployed.

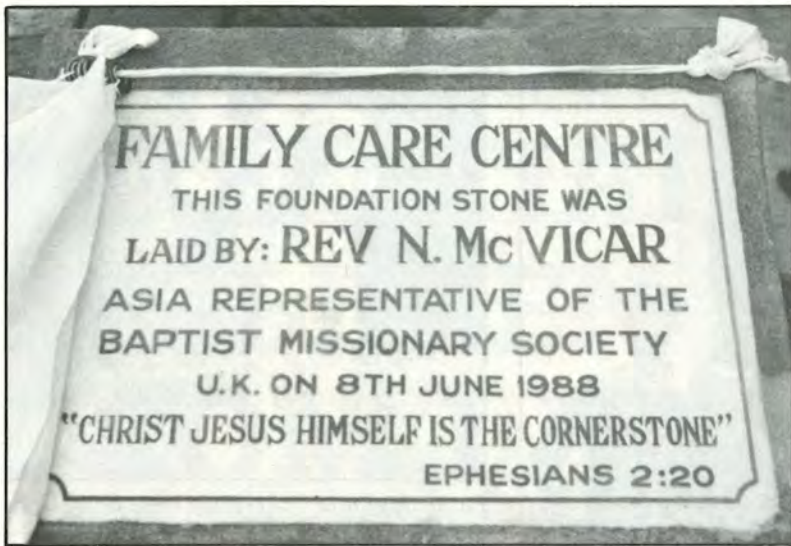
The lack of fencing around the crops and the way in which the animals of the few who own them, and who are inevitably the more wealthy sector of the population, destroy people's crops, is a real brake on developing new ways of farming. Thieving is, sadly, also a problem.

The forest soils are deteriorating rapidly, and the women are having to walk further and further to find good land. Poor roads and communications discourage people from trying to produce more.

Finally and most importantly is the spiritual and moral situation. Some divisions, a lack of mutual trust, fear of evil spirits and taboos on certain protein foods – reveals unmet spiritual needs. Meeting these needs, ought to be our starting point. To quote an agriculturalist who visited us recently – 'Any real progress hinges on the successful resolution of the spiritual and social problems in the community.'

Up to now life has been easy in the region of South Equator, people have survived quite happily fishing and farming. Gradually as the situation changes, and less food is available, people will have to learn to adapt. We pray people will realise this fact for themselves, before circumstances of drastic food shortages forces change.





On 8 June the foundation stone of the new Chandraghona Family Care Centre was laid by Neil McVicar, BMS Overseas Representative Susan Headlam, the Co-ordinator of the Community Health Programme, was present along with the Hospital Superintendent, Dr S M Chowdhury.

The community health work was started in 1976 in the Kaptai and Rangunia areas near Chandraghona. The staff work in the villages among the poor treating mothers and children in the various clinics. Treatment is free and medical treatment is given to all who seek it.

Every year around 25,000 mothers and children are treated. Altogether, over the years, around half a million children have been helped.

The Family Care centre is supported by Operation Agri and BMS.



A weaving programme was established in October 1987. There are four looms. It is now called Chandraghona Textiles. Apart from weaving fabric which we sell by the metre, we also make ready-made clothes which can be seen all over Bangladesh and maybe, if you look closely, in certain BMS committees in London. A team of five ladies does the weaving and another four are training by spinning during the year before they move on to dyeing and weaving on the looms. They are working together very well as a team and have a pride in their work.

The old Community Health building has now been demolished. Dr Chowdhury is seen here putting cement on to the foundation. The plaque which Neil McVicar unveiled is seen above together with the inscription from Ephesians 2:20.







A local boy, Chian, is being trained as a tailor. He is an orphan and poor. We have supplied him with a sewing machine to make our garments. He has an interest free loan to buy another machine which he can hire out to get an income in the future.

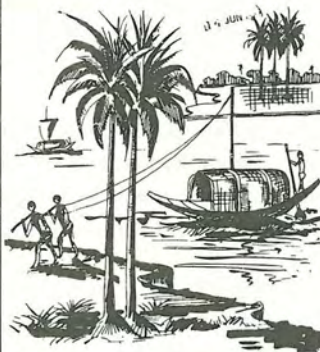
Chandraghona Textiles is part of an income generating scheme. Local women are trained to weave. It is hoped that with the extra income they will be able to feed their children better and also have a better quality of life. Attractive, high quality cloth is being produced.

This five feet six inches monitor lizard was found on the road one day as the health team was on its way to an immunization clinic. Sue Headlam says: 'We know it was five feet six inches because it measured the length of two and a half umbrellas! To my horror the driver put the lizard into the vehicle and when we returned to Chandraghona six hours later he skinned it to sell the skin and nine kilograms of meat was divided up between four families and curried.'



Dr Chowdhury, the Hospital Superintendent, who has been ill, has just returned from a month's visit to Japan. 'He is fully fit,' says Sue Headlam, 'and taking full responsibility for the hospitals.'

Sue also reports the three health booklets – *Family Planning*, *Home Cures in Bangladesh* and *First Aid* – which she produced some time ago, have been



**HOME CURES  
IN  
BANGLADESH**

revised and reprinted. A booklet on AIDS in Bengali is at the printers – the first in the country available for Bengali speakers.

Sue has been granted a pass to go to Kaptai in the Hill Tracts to conduct a weekly clinic. Visits there were stopped one and a half years ago because of restrictions in the Hill Tracts.





# INDIANS AND TAPPERS UN

## by Vittorio Bacchet

Floods that left an estimated 40,000 homeless in the Amazon state of Acre in February confirm ecologists' predictions that Brazil's vast rainforest is being damaged by unbridled exploitation.

But the increased flooding and soil erosion have also moved two traditionally hostile groups — the Amazon's tribal peoples and area rubber tappers — to come together to defend the jungle region. The rubber tappers, who live by collecting and selling wild rubber, and the Union of Indian nations won a major victory in February when the state of Acre agreed to establish the first 'extractive reserve' both to protect the rainforest from further depletion and to safeguard the tappers' and Indians' traditional way of life.



### March to the Amazon

More than half of all Brazil is made up of the Amazon rainforest. Until the 1950's, the jungle was a huge, sparsely-populated area, home to the country's Indians and isolated groups of poor families who collected latex from the region's rubber trees.

By the mid-1960s, however, the military government decided to 'open up' the Amazon by exploiting its rich mining and agricultural potential. It undertook an ambitious road-building programme, and granted generous tax rebates to industrialists and large landowners willing to invest in cattle ranching and agri-export business in the Amazon.

During the next 20 years, instead of addressing the sticky issue of land reform, the generals encouraged Brazilians to 'join the march to the Amazon'.

Between 1972-77, entrepreneurs bought up and cleared 14 million acres of rainforest. In just one 80 km strip along the new road being carved out of the jungle, 180,000 rubber trees, 80,000 chestnut trees and more than 1.2 million trees of other species were cut down.

Between 1970-78, more than 10,000 rubber tapper families were violently thrown off the land they had worked for decades; those who resisted were killed.

An average of 150,000 Brazilians have migrated to the region each year since the early 1970s. Environmentalists argue that the settlers are causing irreparable damage to the Amazon with their foodcrops and cattle grazing, which erodes the region's fragile topsoil. Lumber companies are also causing ecological havoc in the region. An estimated two million trees are cut down each day, but only ten per cent are cut for commercial purposes — the rest are burned to clear land for agriculture or grazing. Conservationists worry that, more than half of the Amazon's forests will disappear by the end of the century.

The Amazon's climate has changed drastically as a result of this exploitation. The summer and winter are no longer clearly distinguishable, and the summer is much longer and hotter. Moreover, the rainy season is now accompanied by uncontrollable flooding because soil erosion has clogged rivers.

Many settlers have moved into the Amazon state of Rondônia and others are now heading for the neighbouring state of Acre, where some seven families arrive each day.





# ITE TO SAVE THE FOREST

## ta (Rio de Janeiro)

### Resistance

In recent years, rampant deforestation has been slowed because of the organizing efforts of rubber tappers who have used a unique form of struggle. Called 'empate' (a tied game), rubber tappers and their families have gone to the camps where large landowners and lumber companies house their newly arriving workers. They've talked to the workers and have convinced many to leave the region.

'We've been able to sensitize a whole sector of society to what's happening to the Amazon,' says Francisco 'Chico' Mendes, President of the Xapuri rubber tappers' union in Acre. 'We figure that we've saved more than two and a half million acres of rainforest since 1977.'

In 1985, rubber tappers organized their first national conference to defend the tropical forest and their traditional way of life and work. The following year, the tappers' lobby was strong enough to pressure the Brazilian Institute for the Development of the Amazon to outlaw the felling and sale of rubber and chestnut trees.

Last June 5, declared Environment Day by

the United Nations, 'Chico' Mendes was among 500 people cited by the UN for their outstanding work in the area of ecology. Most Brazilians had never heard of him.

### New alliance

In January, the National Rubber Tapper Council and the Union of Indigenous Nations formed the Alliance of Rainforest Peoples and launched a campaign to defend their lands from further encroachment. They thus put behind them a painful history of conflict deliberately fomented by the rubber barons during the rubber boom of the last century.

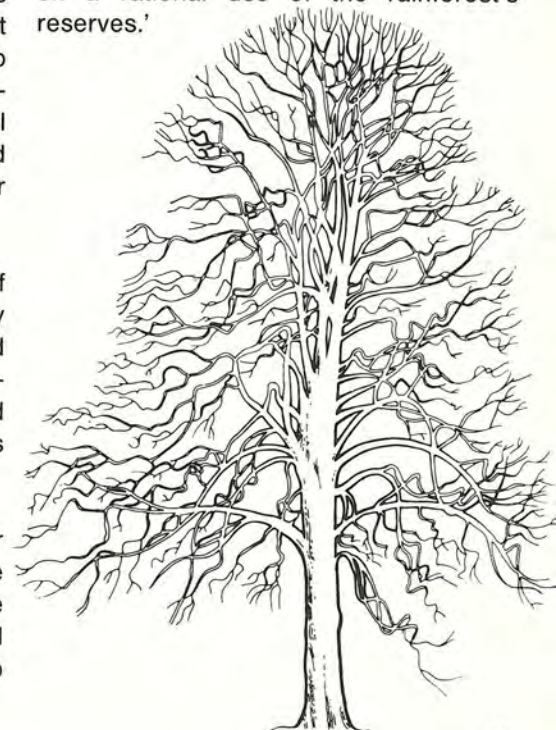
The alliance called for the creation of special 'extraction reserves', whereby ownership of the rubber plantations would pass from private hands to the government. The reserves would be located around Indian territories and could act as a protective 'green belt'.

A reserve, set up for renewable 30 year periods, would be used only by those groups whose survival depends on the exploitation of the jungle's natural resources; the area would be off-limits to recently arrived settlers.

In February, the first reserve was set up in Acre; it comprises an area of almost 100,000 acres in the province of San Luis de Remanso, 80 kms southeast of the state capital of Rio Branco.

According to Gov. Falciano Melo, Acre's future lies in the cultivation of tree products such as rubber, cocoa and nuts.

'We don't want the traditional dose of deforestation, cattle grazing and agriculture here,' he said. 'Instead, we're betting on a rational use of the rainforest's reserves.'





# • PRAYER CALL •

## **31 July-6 August CHURCH WORK IN SRI LANKA**

In 1987 the Baptist Church celebrated its 175th Anniversary and committed itself to enlarge its vision for evangelism and church growth. Alongside other Christians, Baptists witness to the reconciling mission of the Gospel of peace in the troubled political scene that continues to bleed the nation. Please pray that the very real efforts towards peace may be seen to succeed so ending untold suffering to the lives of the Sri Lankan people.

In the autumn Michael and Stella Hambleton are expecting to go to Sri Lanka and after their language study to be working as leaders in the Leadership Training Institute. Another couple are needed to work for a two-year period as the Pastor of Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church, alongside the newly ordained Assistant Pastor, Rev Kingsley Perera.

Father,  
your servant Church  
has not had an easy time on this island,  
but you have been with your people  
as they have endeavoured to be agents of  
reconciliation in a situation of division and enmity,  
as they have witnessed to your way of peace and love  
in a place of conflict and horror,  
still the work is difficult,  
but your people trust your presence for future tasks.

Father,  
give your servants vision and confidence.

## **7-13 August CHURCH WORK IN THAILAND**

The BMS has accepted the first couple for work in Thailand, Geoff and Christine Bland. They will be studying at Selly Oak from the autumn of '88 until Easter '89. Pray for them as they prepare to leave for Thailand in 1989. After language study they hope to be involved in church planting. The Thailand Baptist Missionary Fellowship works both among the Thai speaking people and amongst various tribal groups. Pray that visas will be available for Geoff and Christine and for another couple to serve in Thailand.

Lord,  
It is hard for us to understand  
what it means to be a Christian  
among so many people of a different faith.  
It is difficult for us to realise  
what it is like to live in an area  
of such vast need.  
but we know enough to wonder  
what so few Christians can do.  
Then we remember  
what you said about yeast and salt  
and mustard-seeds,  
and how you changed a small group of  
frightened men in an Upper Room  
into a force which turned the world  
upside down.

Lord,  
Be with our brothers and sisters  
in Thailand so that their strength  
may be stronger than their numbers  
and their witness effective throughout  
the population.



## 14-20 August PRAYER FOR AFRICA

In October 1987 an important meeting took place at Ibadan, Nigeria. It was a Consultation on Co-operation and Partnership between Nationals and Missionaries in Africa. Representatives were there from National Baptist Unions and Conventions and nine Mission Boards/Societies. The Church in Africa is fast growing and enthusiastic, but there are still 280 million people in Africa untouched by the Gospel. Pray for a growing and deepening partnership between National Church Bodies and Missionary Societies, that each may bring their particular gifts to the mutual sharing in evangelization of the world.

Lord,  
Thank you for Africa.  
Thank you for  
its colour and life,  
the wealth of the land,  
the joy and the variety of its people,  
and the caring bonds of family and tribe.

Thank you for the church in Africa,  
alive and growing,  
seeking to be truly African  
and working to meet the needs of people in body,  
mind and spirit.

Give to the Church courage and strength to face the  
special challenges of today.  
and enable its leaders, pastors and members to be  
part of a loving, reconciling, caring ministry to  
people living in the midst of economic, social and  
spiritual need.

## 21-27 August CHURCH LEADERSHIP IN BRAZIL

Dr Orivaldo Pimental is General Secretary of the National Convention of Baptist Churches. A Continental wide responsibility puts him in need of our prayers. Pr Oliveira de Araujo is head of the National Mission Board that enables hundreds of Brazilians to work in strategic and frontier situations. Pr Waldermiro Tymchak is responsible for the Brazilian overseas missionary work, one of the success stories in modern missionary endeavours. Pray for these church leaders and for the church leaders of the future, some of whom take advantage of scholarships to study in this country. May all these leaders have the wisdom and vision they need.

We thank you, God,  
that you are active and on the move,  
leading, protecting, guiding, searching.

You renew your people through the wilderness:  
fill with courage and adventure  
those who lead the Church in Brazil,  
so that they may be lively individuals  
leading living Christian communities.  
Help them to discover the deep joys of your  
companionship day by day.  
May they trust in your leading,  
know your providing,  
in green pastures or dangerous gorges,  
when the sun beats down and opposition looms.  
May they know that you are with them.

## 28 August-3 September ANGOLA

'There are OPEN DOORS to the Gospel in Angola today despite the fact that frustration is a part of normal everyday life,' so said an experienced Angolan Pastor speaking to his Christian brothers and sisters at the Assembly meetings held at Uige, in February. In today's unsettled and difficult circumstances they are striving to be obedient to Christ. Pray for Colin Pavitt who is working in Luanda. Jim and Pam Henn are studying Portuguese in Lisbon and hope to go to Angola at the end of the year.

Lord God,  
you know what cost and giving are all about;  
you have witnessed the trampling of grapes,  
the pouring of wine  
and the spilling of blood;  
You have lived alongside those trapped by power;  
and those oppressed by poverty;  
you have experienced the feelings of  
the timid and revolutionary,  
the satisfied and restless,  
the proud and the humble.

We bring to you now  
the people who live in Angola.  
Within their experience of civil war and hatred,  
of uneasiness and fear,  
sow the seeds of reconciliation and hope,  
and through the courage of your people  
bring unity and peace.



# MISSIONTALK

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## COMMITTEE STRUCTURES

Elephants, steam-rollers, pressure-cookers and dogs that chase their own tails all seem unlikely subjects for discussion by a BMS committee. Yet they all cropped up in the debate which followed John Rackley's presentation of the working group's report.

'How do you eat an elephant?' asked General Secretary, Reg Harvey. 'A little bit at a time,' came back the reply. And that's how the General Committee,

meeting at Northfield Baptist Church, Birmingham, decided to tackle the report, although some would have preferred to defer any decision until a later meeting.

The decision to look at the Society's committee structures was taken at the General Committee meeting held in Edinburgh last year and since then a working group, chaired by the Rev John Rackley, has been examining the problem.

The working group started from a concern that 'almost every decision

either has to be made at committee, or reported to committee for confirmation or information. This results in inefficiency and frustration. It also makes a very considerable demand on staff time, spent in preparing for, attending, and then following up committee meetings.'

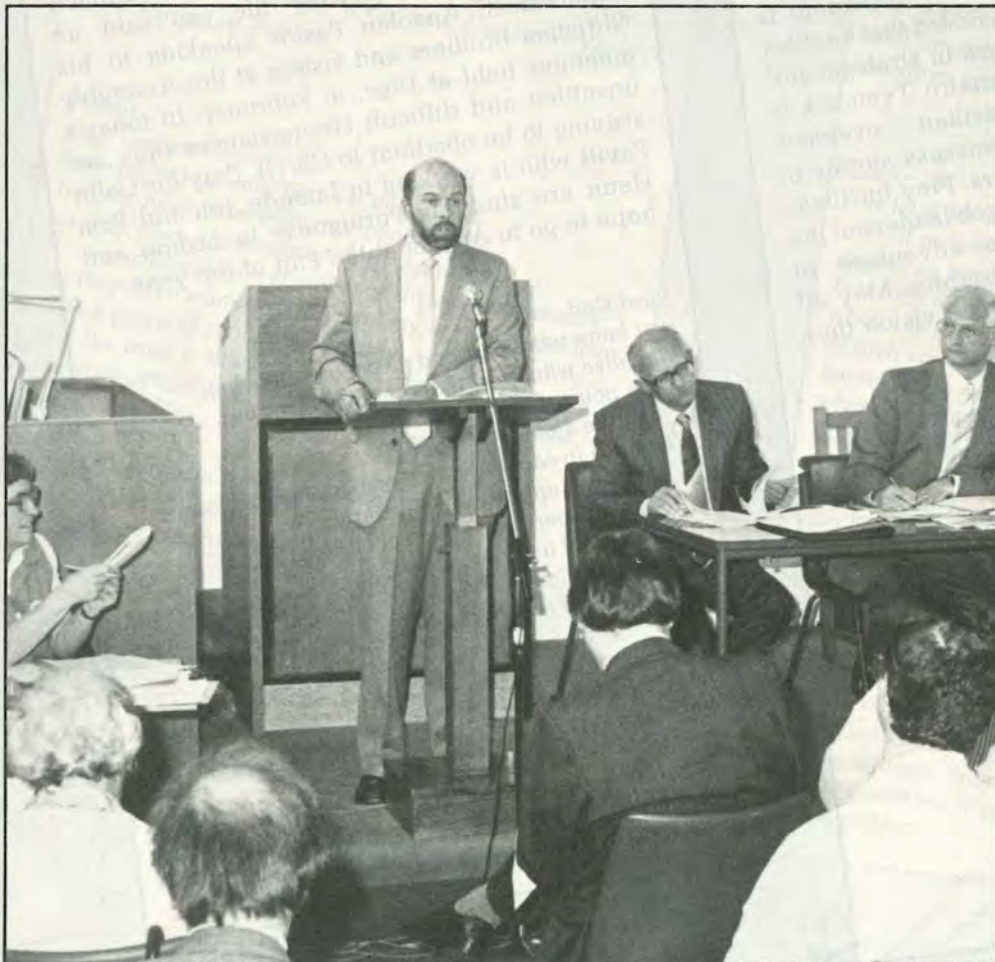
The group suggested that 'there should be a clear division between tasks that were administrative and those that were properly conducted through a committee structure'.

While affirming that the General Committee remains the key body for decision making as to the Society's policy and practice and accountable to the Annual Members' Meeting, it recommended that in future the Society's management should be by a combination of administrative action, committees, advisory groups and work groups. The group also recommended that in future, in addition to the General Committee, there should be a General Purposes and Finance Committee, a Candidate Board and an Officer's Committee.

After a great deal of discussion, these recommendations were accepted to be put into effect before the Autumn.

However, the General Committee turned down the suggestion that future meetings be held on Friday afternoons and evenings and on Saturday mornings. The two youngest members of the General Committee, Nick Lingard and Sue Heap, both spoke for this suggestion believing that it would encourage more young people to serve on General Committee.

*John Rackley presenting the Committee Report*







## TABLES TURNED

General Committee meetings are not all working through tedious reports or engaging in long but necessary discussions. There are some lighthearted moments like the time illustrated on the left.

Members of the home staff, in a dramatic, and sometimes nearly violent presentation, portrayed some of the difficulties that can arise in the relationship of the BMS to an Overseas Church.

The tables were turned. We in Britain were seen as the receiving church. Missionaries and financial help were being sent to us from the Pazutoland Missionary Society in Africa.

It was interesting to gain an insight into the way our overseas brothers and sisters view us, our missionaries and the help we offer.

Gerry Myhill



## RIPENING HARVEST, GATHERING STORM

by Maurice Sinclair

A MARC title published by Kingsway Publications at £3.95

The story of the wheat and the tares begins in Eden and ends in glory. In this wide-ranging and incisive book, Maurice Sinclair invites us to explore it historically, geographically, theologically and prophetically.

First he shows how the story develops in Scripture. Then in 50 pages he traces the expansion of the Church, showing how crisis always brings response, inspired by God's Spirit, then he takes a periscope-like sweep around the six continents.

In each, he elaborates on the political facts, examines the missionary situation facing the church there and expounds ways in which it can meet the challenge. Then he zooms into six typical local situations world-wide such as Third World villages, inner cities and suburbia, to see what sort of challenge they pose to us and ways in which we should respond.

Seeing partnership as the key word to illuminate the way forward, he instances several ways in which this can show itself and finally looks forward to set mission in the light of the Second Coming of Jesus. As problems increase they call not for despair, but for repentance, which leads to deeper commitment in world mission. 'It can never be shunted to the sidelines and dismissed as of secondary concern' (p. 33).

The book contains many valuable insights and pertinent modern examples of modern mission. It is well worth buying. Get one for yourself and another for your pastor.

Fred Stainthorpe

## SHARE YOUR FAITH

Gerry Myhill, one of the speakers at the Mission Rally in Birmingham Cathedral, in connection with BMS General Committee meetings, told the congregation how different the people in Brazil are from people in Britain.

'When one man came to be baptized, he asked if he could be baptized with his wallet in his pocket. It contained not only his money, but all sorts of documents - identity card, driving licence and the like. "I want the whole of my life to be baptized," he said.

'When he and his family moved away from Nova Londrina, where we work, to the north, I wondered whether he would drift away from the church.

'But no, he opened the doors of his home and started a church. There are now 80 baptized members and they have their own pastor.'

Gerry Myhill stressed the need to share the good news of the gospel. He then explained that there are 10 million street children in Brazil.

'We have been given the opportunity to have more and more contact with such children and have been able to build a day centre to help children at risk. Some families can have 23 or more children. But they are often locked in the house whilst the mothers work on the coffee plantations. We not only care for them during the day, we are able to introduce them to Sunday School and the mothers to church.'

He then spoke of the need for people in Britain to share in mission.

'We know when people at home are praying. We see wonderful things happening. The Lord wants all of us seven days a week to be sharing in His work.'

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK



# PRAISE

## THAT WAS THE MARK OF THE BAPTIST CONGRESS IN FRANCE

It was planned as a different kind of French Baptist Congress. Andre Souchon, the Executive Secretary, said: 'We want this year to try to change the system of our congresses. One year there will be a major emphasis on administrative matters. The following year will be more like this year's, that is for edification through a more spiritual emphasis.'

This year's theme was 'Praise God'. The 250 people who attended the congress in Tours literally 'lifted up their hands' in praise to God. There was lots of singing, prayers and 'praise times'.

The Federation's president, Robert Somerville, spoke of two areas of growth within the Baptist Union of France.

'The number of churches in the Federation has grown. In 1958, when I became a minister, there were about 20 churches. Now there are more than 80. We have been greatly helped by missionaries from other nations. They have contributed greatly to the implantation of new churches and we are extremely grateful for that.

'We believe that in a divided world it is a great witness to show that people from different languages and nations can get together, work together, stay together, love each other. We are thankful for their co-operation.'

The BMS has two couples currently preparing to work in France.

Robert Somerville explained that another area of growth was in education.

'We try to help our churches grow through the training of every Christian,' he said.

Beside the pastoral school in Massey where French pastors receive their training, seven two day refresher courses are offered every year. Young pastors are expected to attend all of them.

'We are also setting up education programmes for church members at various levels,' he explained.

Andre Souchon indicated the need for training the new churches which are joining the Federation.

'Many have, until now, been independent. They have to learn who we are, how we work, and how we can work together.'

Andre Souchon said that he hoped the up-date of the Federation's Confession of Faith, now 100 years old, would assist the process.

Another characteristic of French Baptist life is the attempt to develop regional associations of churches.

'We hope that by getting to know one another, churches in a given area can work together to begin new churches in their own areas,' Andre Souchon said.

### **OXFORDSHIRE AND EAST GLOUCESTERSHIRE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY**

## **WORLD CHURCH ACTION DAY**

**Stow-on-the-Wold  
10 September 1988  
10.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.**

**An opportunity to meet with some of the currently serving BMS missionaries, to learn from them, to worship with them, to join in workshops with them.**

*A creche will be provided  
Further details from Lori Rose, The Manse, Naunton,  
Tel: Guiting Power 608; or Stephen Heap,  
58 Blackbird Leys Road, Oxford, Tel: Oxford 774187*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretaries acknowledge with grateful thanks the following legacies and anonymous gifts. (To 22 June 1988.)

Legacies	£
Rev P H Austin	1,036.44
Miss M E Ayling	7,000.00
Miss G H Barnett	1,980.00
Mrs E Binmore	1,852.04
Mr H Barnes	1,000.00
Miss A Chatterton	2,971.01
Miss W Drew	400.00
Miss J A Hill	150.00
Miss M Jones	100.00
Miss N L Munton	100.00
Mrs E Ross	100.00
Miss B Sellwood	200.00
Miss E M Silsby	5,239.72
Miss I Simpson	7,000.00
Mr H Thackwell-Lewis	4,087.44

## General Work

Anon: £20.00; FAE Aberdeen: £30; Cymro: £130.00; Anon Stockport: £30.00; K: £100.00.

## MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

### Departures

Miss K Norris on 22 May to Amp Pipal, Nepal.  
Mrs M Parsons on 26 May to Potinga, Brazil.  
Miss E Staple on 10 June to IME, Kimpese.

## Arrivals

Mr & Mrs R Allan on 30 May from Pimu, Zaire  
Mrs B Bulkeley on 10 June from Kinshasa, Zaire  
Mrs C Green on 10 June from IME, Kimpese, Zaire  
Rev & Mrs J Furmage on 11 June from Sao Paulo, Brazil  
Mrs Hart on 11 June from Chandroghona, Bangladesh  
Dr & Mrs A Hopkins on 13 June from Pimu, Zaire  
Mr & Mrs D Stockley on 13 June from Potinga, Brazil

## Births

On 28 May 1988, in Brazil, to Rev & Mrs C Collict, a son, Daniel Joel.

# BMS ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR 1989

# 'MISSION IN CHRIST'S WAY'



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