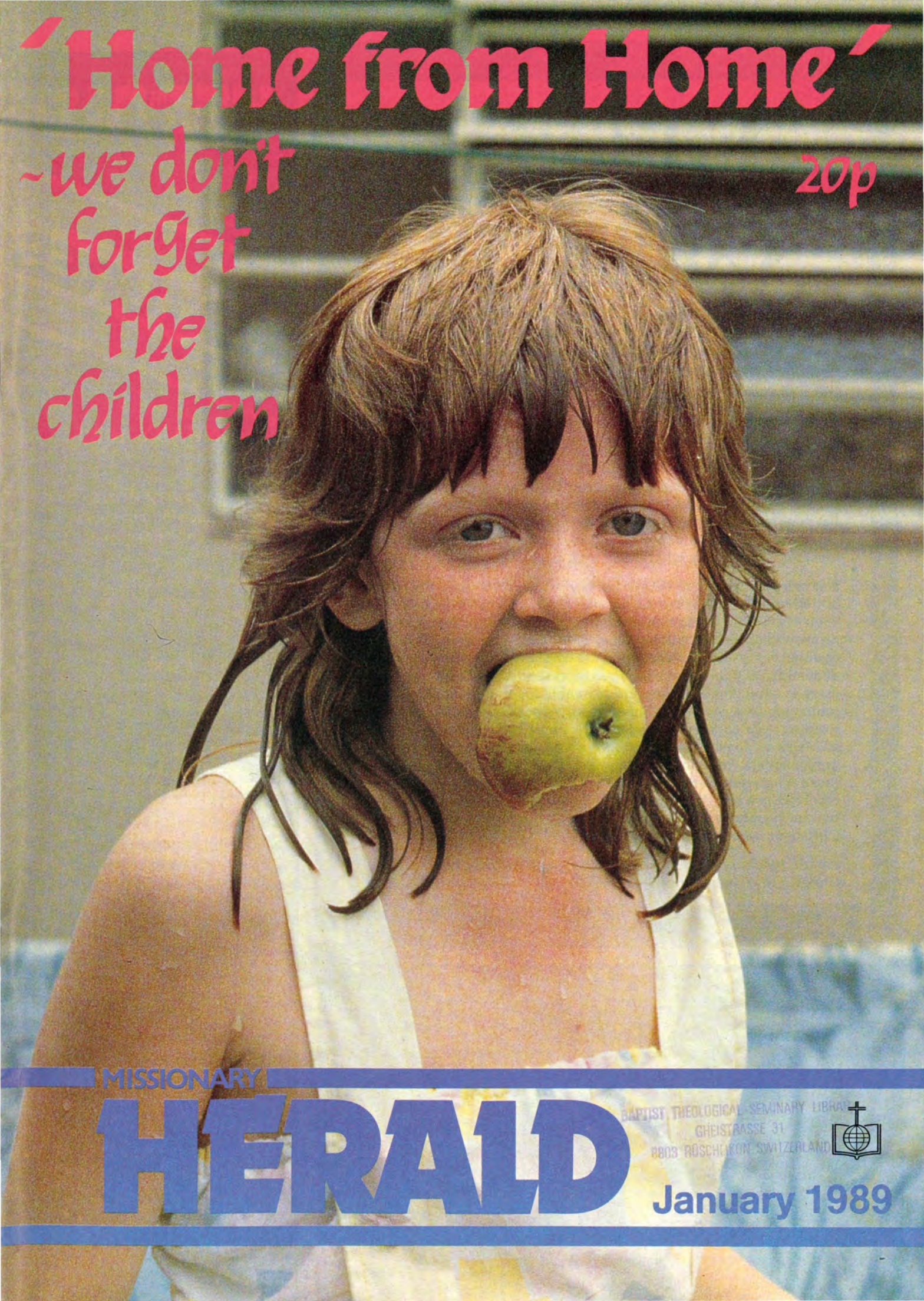


'Home from Home'

-we don't
forget
the
children

20p



MISSIONARY

HERALD

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January 1989

Editorial Comment

'WORLD Mission has virtually disappeared from the agenda of our local churches.' No, this is not the nagging Baptist Missionary Society getting on to its old hobby-horse, although our missionaries on deputation and our area and national representatives will affirm that this statement is true. No, our friends in the Church Missionary Society commissioned MARC Europe to conduct a survey of the churches and they discovered that mission came very low down in parish priorities. Their main concern was with the fabric of their buildings.

Dare we say that this is not true of our Baptist churches? What are the regular items on your church meeting agenda? How far up the list does mission come? Who have you chosen for your missionary secretary – someone experienced who understands that mission, local and overseas is what the church is about?

Not surprisingly the MARC survey discovered that the most important way to get over the mission message was through people – by visits from missionaries, church leaders from overseas, area representatives and others. The BMS now has nine area and national representatives covering the whole of England, Wales and Scotland! Do you know who your representative is? He or she is there to serve the churches and to enable them to grow in mission understanding. Are you linked with one of our BMS persons working overseas? If you want to forge such a link, please write to us at Mission House and we will give you details. Do you receive prayer letters from our missionaries? They are freely available to those who want them, either letters from individuals as they are received, or a selection each month. They keep you in touch not only with missionaries but through them with the church and the local Christians where they serve.

People reaching out to people in the name and the love of Jesus Christ – that's what mission is about.

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

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Photoset and printed by
Stanley L Hunt (Printers) Ltd
Rushden, Northamptonshire

MISSIONARY

HERALD

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY



FEATURES

JANUARY 1989

- 3 **HOME FROM HOME**
Looking after missionary children in Brazil
- 6 **ANY VACANCIES**
A community project in Mato Grosso, Brazil
- 8 **EYEOPENERS**
What's happening in the church and the world
- 9 **PRAYER CALL**
A pull-out update of the Prayer Guide
- 14 **I SAW THE MOUNTAINS**
Victor Bundock sees missionary work with his own eyes
- 16 **MISSIONTALK**
- 18 **A WORD TO MISSIONARY SECRETARIES**
- 19 **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



from



To their surprise, John and Valerie Furnage found themselves looking after the missionary children in São Paulo, Brazil.

In May 1984 we returned from furlough to Dois Vizinhos. As we said to Rev Angus MacNeill on a previous visit to us, 'our lot had fallen in pleasant places'.

There had been years of struggle but we had, by then, gained respect for the cause of the gospel – no mean achievement in the South West. It was home to us and the girls and we loved the people, warts and all, and we felt some of this returned. The work was progressing on all sides.

While the new building's walls were going up it was possible to use it as an open-air amphitheatre on warm nights. As it would take a few years to accumulate the cost of the roof, the emphasis was turning to evangelism again. A boy and an older man were being

trained for full-time service in the area and the vision of 250 or more people coming into the church to hear the word seemed at last in sight.

One thing spoiled it. Our oldest, Joy, was 10 and we needed to send her to school in São Paulo if she was to develop her educational potential, because local schools just weren't up to it. It was a wrench to send her but, like many colleagues before us, we had the good fortune that BMS had established a hostel for the children up to 'O'-level. The hostel was a home-from-home for the missionary children.

However, there was one small cloud on the horizon. The house parents, Gee and Maggie Hemp, were due to finish their term of service the following year. No one had come out from Britain to do the job and, as it takes

a year to learn the language, this meant one of the missionaries on the field would have to leave their work to fill in for a time at least. Not our problem!

Suddenly, in November, it became our problem. A letter dropped through the door. 'Will you take over the hostel for two years?' There could not have been a worse thing to happen or a worse time for it.

Someone said, 'You can always refuse!' But God spoke and it was for us his command. Life became chaos as we prepared to leave and had to find a worker to take over. But the real problem was the building. I had designed it. An architect/engineer had drawn the plans and promptly disappeared, leaving us to get on with it. This meant that we had to get it to the stage where anyone else could finish it at any cost. Hair-raising!





Children from São Paulo Hostel returning from School

So we arrived at the hostel in July 1985, for what was to become three years. None of the children wanted their parents to be chosen for the job. They were aware of the strains for themselves and their parents. But here we were with two of ours. Lorna, of course, aged seven, had come with us as, fortunately, had Eva, our maid/helper from Dois Vizinhos.

We decided, as far as possible, to run it just like our home. Valerie, with Eva's help, taking care of the running of the home. That seems easy but there is a 24-hour strain to looking after a mix of children from different families. We discussed this with Dona Anna, the pastor's wife, who had had seven, but she felt it was quite different, especially as our nine or so were all about the same age, with the same problems at the same time.

John handled most of the driving, taking the children to school in the Kombi in São Paulo's chaotic traffic. Also, as the hostel had just moved back to Vila Sonia after five years elsewhere, there were lots of repair jobs to be done. His pockets were always full of screw drivers and other tools. Add to that the finances, spiritual leadership, helping with other outlying colleagues' needs and the period of change in mission administration, and his hands were also full.

So, at first, we were not much involved in the work of the Ferreira Baptist Church we attended. Eventually, we did have quite a bit to do, and helped found a new congregation near the hostel in Vila Sonia.

The children are all good kids but facing a new world away from their parents. Some, newly arrived from Britain, facing a new country, language and culture. Although most things at the hostel and school are in English, however, there are Portuguese subjects and, of course, the church is Brazilian. This last can give spiritual hiccups, for it can seem just as strange to the children from the Brazilian interior as those fresh out from Britain.

Children from the field, too, have more to adapt to at school – longer hours (8.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.) instead of half day but, worse, from even the slower ones being top of the class with ease, they now face hard work and heavy competition. Saint Paul's School is a good one, if a bit academic. No technical subjects, but with a good range of sport being practiced.

Some of the children usually get sports day medals. Unfortunately, as few Brazilian schools do much sport, there isn't much competition for the football and basketball teams. There is, though, a wide range of clubs and a school orchestra in which the children can participate. The last is popular, as most children do music, piano lessons, in the hostel. The church music minister, Cleia, comes in to teach them. With homework, as you can see, there isn't much time to spare but they are happy and certainly don't get bored.

The home is comfortable and everything is to hand that they might need. The main complaint is about school meals. It seems that these are as horrible as they were in my own school days. Actually, they are quite nice really, but it must be a nightmare catering for 550+ children from all over the world – every family and country with its different eating habits.

São Paulo is graced with seven TV channels, so there is plenty to watch if you have time. Unfortunately, each one is worse than the rest, so games are often the preference.

Sunday, as well as church, is room-tidy and letters-home day, when everyone writes to mum. Usually, the parents phone regularly, too, and, of course all of the children fly home for holidays and half-terms.

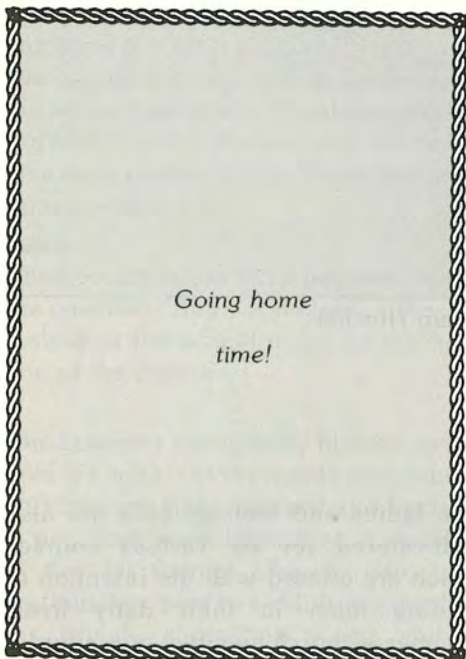
That the children are happy and contented is shown by their often good exam results.

However, there is another little cloud on the horizon. The present house parents will finish their term in 1990. It's now that volunteers are needed to take over because of the time required to come out and get ready for the job. Pray for candidates or, next year, the missionaries on the field will be playing the game of Russian roulette again.

Who is going to the hostel this time? Will it be us?



*Mike and Jean Gardener
Present Hostel Parents*



*Going home
time!*



*Mealtime at Hostel
when Furrages were
Hostel Parents*



Laura Hinchin

– that's a question Laura Hinchin, working in Cuiaba, Mato Grosso, Brazil, is often asked.

I suppose the question, 'Any vacancies?' isn't one that is asked very often in our Baptist churches but, at Igreja Batista Emanuel, Parque do Lago, it is a question we are asked every day – often many times a day.

No, we haven't started a Job Centre or anything like that, but we do have many activities within our Community Project which involves education, nutrition and health, as well as evangelism. The people of the neighbourhood are now aware that Emanuel is a church with a difference and, daily, they come for help or to enrol in one of these activities.

Each morning, from 7.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m., the creche and pre-school operate with 90 children between them. In the afternoon we have classes for older adolescents – altogether another 120 children – who all hear Bible stories every day, as well as receiving help educationally.

Their bodily needs are met by a good dinner every day, cooked in the church kitchen. We employ a cook and the mothers are asked to work half a day a month in the kitchen on a voluntary

basis. We give thanks to God that the mothers are co-operating as they see the benefits their children are gaining.

All this, of course, costs money, and Emanuel is a poor church and unable to give the Project any financial help. We do receive a grant from the international organisation, World Vision, but it is not enough to meet our needs, so we are very dependent on our heavenly Father to provide much of the food and school equipment needed daily.

We are grateful to God for the many things He is providing. The local butcher, baker and vegetable shop are freely giving all we need in those areas. A printing firm is giving us their off-cuts of paper and cardboard, and even offer to cut it to whatever size we want, which is a great blessing especially for the younger children who use a great deal of paper for their handicraft activities.

In the evenings, our classrooms are used for basic adult education – literacy to 4th year – and our small typing school offers a basic typing course which is much sought after. We have four typewriters and employ a teacher full-time. The pupils, aged from twelve upwards, have an hour's lesson every weekday for three months. In their room, as in all the classrooms, a large Bible text is always displayed.

The ladies and teenage girls are also well-catered for by various courses which are offered with the intention of helping them in their daily lives. Lucimar, a church member, now supplements her family income a little by selling the flip-flops she learned to make on the raffia course.

A hairdressing course was very popular, and many of the local people (myself included!) took advantage of the free haircut offer when they were learning to cut hair. Some of these ladies now earn a little by hairdressing in their own homes.

A knitting course has just finished and I was surprised at the complicated patterns the ladies were able to knit by the end of the course. I know of at least one lady who has sold a jumper she knitted.

A dressmaking course started this week and, once again, we praise God for graciously providing two sewing

machines – rather antique treadle models, but in good order. Some of the ladies don't have a sewing machine at home and no hope of buying one, so we intend to make these machines available to anyone who wants to come and use them. Anyone who makes a garment for themselves will be asked to make a ready-cut-out garment for the church, so we will 'kill two birds with one stone' – helping the family without a sewing machine and helping someone in need of clothing.

A First Aid course also started this week, so the large vernadah at the back of the church is in use every morning with the first aiders and every afternoon with the dressmakers.

These are all professional courses and are quite free, and all who satisfactorily complete a course receive a certificate. We end each course with a short service led by the pastor or by Marileuza, the co-ordinator of the Project, and we try to give each person a New Testament with their certificate.

These courses are very popular, hence the question, 'Any vacancies?', either for a child in the school or for an adult on one of the courses.

The Lord has also greatly blessed in the area of health – a very needy area, where children are malnourished and hygiene is not considered important. A member of the 1st Baptist Church, who is a pediatrician, sees two children a week in his private consulting rooms and is currently treating children for worms and anaemia.

'Our typing school offers a basic typing course'



'I was surprised at the complicated patterns the ladies were able to knit. . . .'

Another clinic is providing us with their free samples of children's medicines which is a great help, as medicines are very expensive here. At present, we are awaiting a reply to our request to a large social assistance organisation run by industrialists for the families of their employees. They are looking into the possibility of the children in our Project seeing their dentists and opticians and receiving treatment free of charge.

The Director (who mentioned that he had a brother who is a pastor, which raised our hopes!) also spoke of preparing a programme for the children to use their very good sports facilities.

Perhaps the thought of free consultations and treatment doesn't arouse much excitement at home, but here it is a real blessing from the Lord. People who pay into a health scheme have enough difficulty getting an appointment to see a

doctor, but those too poor to pay into a health scheme are really in trouble when they are ill, as I found out recently when trying to get a desperately ill lady admitted to hospital.

Once a month we have a parent/teacher meeting when the children participate in the programme and we take the opportunity to preach the gospel and share with the parents how the Lord is blessing and providing all we need.

Occasionally we invite a qualified person to give a talk in the evening and this is advertised in the local shops. So far we have had talks on alcoholism, the right of women, and AIDS. This latter was excellent, bringing in smoking, drinking and drugs, and their effects on the human body were well demonstrated by specimens borrowed from the university. We pray that the many young people who attended this talk will remember what they heard and saw on slides and film, and will give their lives to the one who has the power to liberate them from these habits.

In these and many other ways, we at Emanuel are trying to show the love of God to the people of the area. I would like to say we have seen many conversions as a result of this work, but that is not so up to the present. We continue to pray that there will be a rich harvest in the future and that those who come seeking vacancies will also find salvation and a place in God's kingdom. Need I say how much we need and value your prayer support?



RECONSTRUCTING THE CHURCH

The goal of the Christian 3-Self Patriotic Movement in China is not to tear the church down but to build it up.

'This is already being seen in action,' said Bishop Ting when he preached at a service for the ordination of Bishops in Shanghai.

'Three million copies of the Bible have so far been printed; the Amity Printing Press has published 900,000 copies alone since it went into operation in December 1987. Bibles in simplified Chinese characters as well as with cross references have also been published.

'We now have twelve Protestant seminaries and Bible schools in China with an enrolment of 600 students. Our *New*

Hymnal is widely used and we have been producing several publications, among them the *Jingling Theological Journal*, one of the most widely distributed theological journals in the world.

'We have ordained quite a number of pastors. We have opened more than 4,000 churches and tens of thousands of meeting points, the overwhelming majority of which are good and sound.

'In a word, the church in China is on the way to reconstruction.'

Bishop Ting said that nevertheless there are many things in the Chinese Church which are not good.

'In certain places, relations between pastors, between co-workers is un-

healthy; the relation between church and government is unhealthy. We have not provided enough spiritual care for the believers. We have not shown sufficient respect for the special character of Christian disciples so that we allow them to drift away. We neglect the work of saving souls and nurturing the spirit.

'At the same time many believers have to worship in the open air. No matter if it is summer or winter, no matter if it rains or snows, they have to sit outside unsheltered.

'Our churches need to be straightened out, cleansed and well run, in order that the believers may feel at ease and feel that the heavy stone is taken off their heart when they come to praise the Lord.'

GROWTH AND FALL

Brazil, Latin America's most populous country, is expected to grow from the 119 million residents counted in 1980 to 158 million at the time of the 1990 census. At the same time the Brazilian Geographic and Statistical Institute predicts that the population growth rate has fallen from 2.5 per cent in 1980 to about 2 per cent.

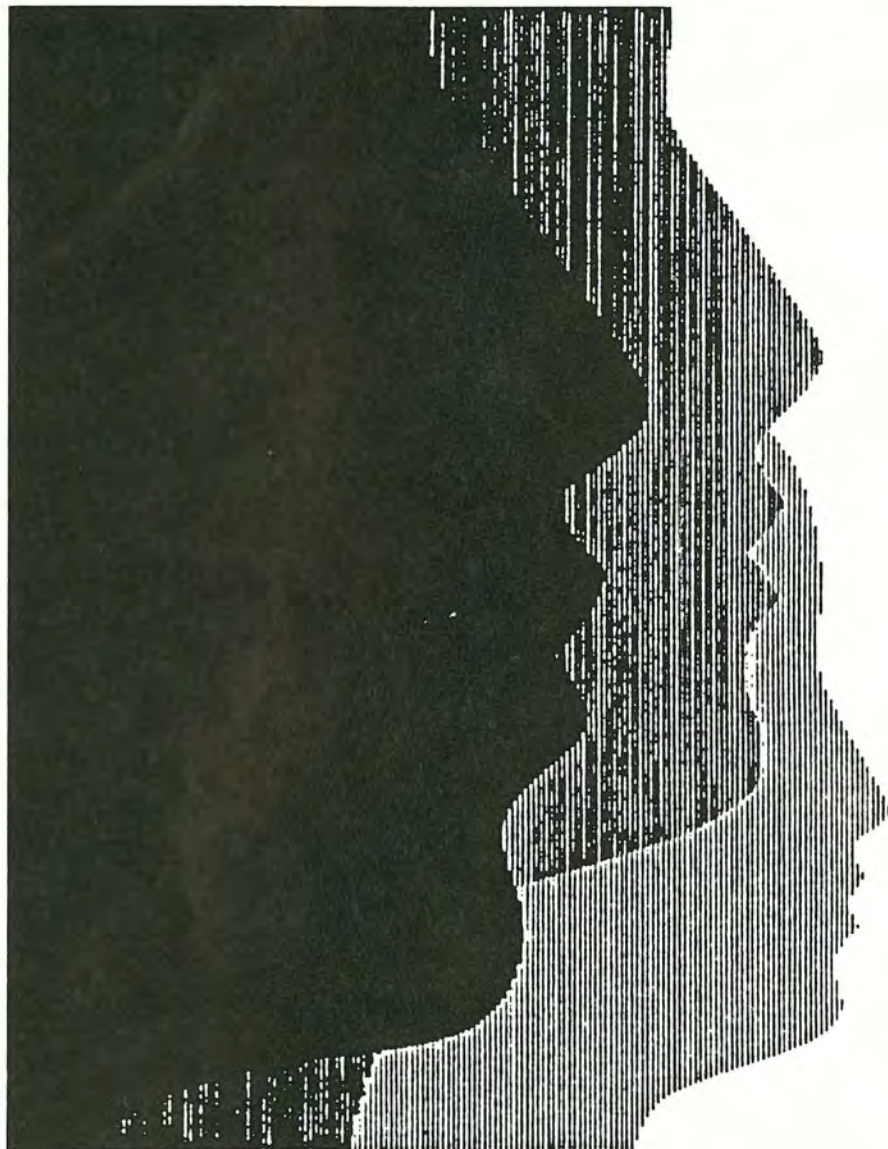
URBAN POVERTY INCREASING

Poverty in Latin America's urban areas will increase from 42 per cent of the population in 1970 to 60 per cent in the year 2000 according to the UN Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean.

'Urban poverty has been aggravated by the lack of equitable and permanent and sustained economic development,' said Alfredo Gastal an expert with the commission.

'Latin America's big cities will continue to present images of great wealth surrounded by seas of poverty.'

• P R A Y E R C A L L •



JANUARY – MARCH 1989

CALL TO PRAYER

Instead of the usual Call to Prayer feature each month, we are now printing a quarterly pull-out which will update the Society's *Prayer Guide*. If you wish to use the Call to Prayer more widely than there are readers of the *Herald* in your church, then please feel free to photocopy these centre pages. Mind you, it would be better if you could persuade more people to read the magazine and to buy the *Prayer Guide*.

1-7 January Prayer for Asia

Joy Knapman began her appointment as Overseas Representative for Asia in May 1988. If a visa is forthcoming, she hopes to make her base in Sri Lanka. Her job entails much travelling – India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Thailand, as well as Sri Lanka. She meets with national church leaders, attends councils, synods, board meetings of church bodies, and keeps in touch with all BMS missionaries in Asia. Pray for safety in travel, good health, patience, sensitivity and wisdom.

8-14 January Brazil

Rising inflation and economic problems continue to bring instability to the country. This is the background against which the church witnesses to the good news of Jesus Christ. From 10-16 January, the BMS missionaries in Brazil will be meeting together for their annual retreat. It is an opportunity to enjoy fellowship, to relax together and for spiritual refreshment.

A PRAYER FOR BRAZIL

*Such excitement,
energy,
belief,
in a country and its future!*

*Such a mixture of people,
mostly young,
mostly poor,
from all over the world
but proud and optimistic.*

*We pray for them Lord –
exploited rubber-tapper,
ruthless land-owner,
shanty-town child,
city dweller,
each trying to survive
amid soaring inflation
and open to the Gospel.*

*Be with the churches,
with your people,
as they share your love
by radio, television
and personal witness.*

From Week 2 of the Prayer Guide

15-21 January Church Work in Angola

The situation is still unstable and difficult in many parts of the country but the Evangelical Baptist Church is maintaining its witness. The church is growing, there are over 20,000 members and large numbers of candidates are being prepared for baptism. There are ten churches in Luanda, but the majority of the work is in the north of the country. We need to pray for perseverance for Christians in areas unsettled by war.

LEARNING FROM ANGOLA

*They shame us Lord
these Christians in Angola.
We give up so easily
at the slightest opposition
at the first disappointment
at the smallest frustration.*

*Humble us Lord,
help us to learn
how to work
how to witness
how to live as your people
from the example of those
who have
returned from exile
rebuilt the church
and have gone on
to reach the unreached
working for peace
for justice
and for reconciliation
amongst those
who are weary of war.*

From Week 3 of the Prayer Guide

22-28 January Medical Work in Bangladesh – Chandraghona

Both the General and Leprosy Hospitals continue to be very busy. Staffing is a cause for concern, and presently there are few expatriates there. We need to pray for visas for Phil Commons and Janet Prentice who are waiting to go. Health work in the area around is a high priority and the benefits from this can be seen in the improved health of children.

29 January-4 February Theological Education in Zaire

There is a dearth of well-trained pastors, and all the different grades of theological training institutes are greatly needed. At Bolobo and Yakusu every effort is made to provide training for the wives of students for their role as ministers' wives. Plans are being worked on for locally produced and written text books.





**5-11 February
Baptist World Alliance**


*Before he died, the Saviour prayed,
O Father, make them one,
That by their love the world may know
The Father sent the Son.*

*With thankful hearts we join as one,
God's children round the world.
Though spoken language separates,
Love's language binds us all.*

*We come from lands where peace prevails,
From countries torn by war.
Some live with famine, earthquake, flood;
Some rich, but most are poor.*


*We praise you, Lord, in harmony,
We praise you, Lord, as one.
So let the world see by our love
The Father sent the Son.*

*(From 1988 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer
hymn.)*




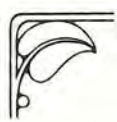
**12-18 February
Education in India**

Christian schools in India are highly regarded and there is always great pressure on the places in them. The primary schools face great difficulties in getting government grants, and the situation seems to get worse each year because the schools do not give bribes or have influence on officials. Pansy James is now back in the UK after 22 years in Cuttack. Remember her as she looks to the future and adjusts to life here.





**19-25 February
Church Work in Brazil**

Spiritism influences up to half the population of Brazil. Brazil also has the largest Roman Catholic population in the world. All the major faiths of the world can be found there. There are over 4,000 churches in the Brazilian Baptist Convention. A strong emphasis on evangelism has always been a feature of Brazilian Baptist church life. Pray that those who confess Christ may be nurtured and helped to grow into a mature faith.



**26 February-4 March
Christian Education and
Literature in Zaire**

Young people in Zaire attach great importance to acquiring knowledge, but books of all kinds are in short supply. In Kinshasa there is a Protestant publishing house and bookshop. Both are going concerns and a useful accessory to evangelism. It imports and produces Christian literature to sell to the churches. The demand for Bibles continues to exceed the supply.



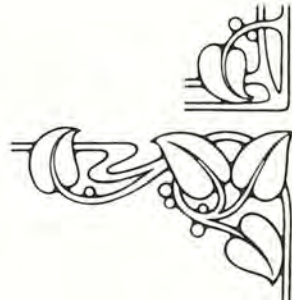
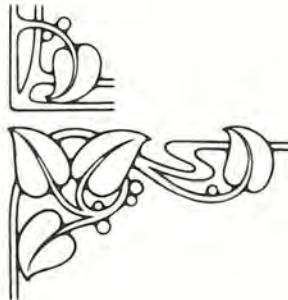


5-11 March Nepal

The very name of the country conjures up a picture of hills and mountains. In remote areas, far from the Kathmandu Valley, there is a very real lack of medical care and trained and experienced Nepali personnel. Health education and care is one of the significant ways in which the United Mission to Nepal works closely with the government. In this Hindu kingdom there is continuing pressure on Christians.

19-25 March Holy Week

Our thoughts this week are focused especially on our Lord's passion and death. God's mission of love to the world meant costly self-sacrifice of divine love. There are many Christians in the world today who know what this means, but they continue to witness to a living faith in Jesus Christ because not even death 'can separate them from the love of God'. Let us pray for those for whom Christian witness is both costly and dangerous.



12-18 March Prayer for Europe

Let us pray for Christians living in countries where they have a lot of disadvantage or are persecuted only because they are followers of Jesus.

Let us pray for Christians who live in freedom and don't take the opportunity to witness and work for Christ's kingdom.

Let us pray for Christian couples and families that they may be able to love, understand and forgive each other in the name of Jesus.

Let us pray for repentance where we have adopted the standards of people who live against God. Let us pray that the scriptures will be more precious for many Christians.

Let us pray for repentance that we do not share more of our goods with those in need. Let us pray for openness to see more ways to help others and to share what we have received.

26 March-1 April Christian Education in Bangladesh

The church in Bangladesh recognises the need for consistent regular teaching in local churches. Many village pastors have had no formal training. Bible classes and evangelism and leadership training are important parts of church life in the villages. The College of Christian Theology – Principal, Dr Simon Sircar – runs short-term and extension courses for lay leaders as well as ministerial training.



What's happening in the Church around the World

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Brazil's President Jose Sarney has announced a new environmental protection programme designed to stop the current destruction of Brazil's Amazon jungle. The programme, called 'Our Nature', will halt credits and other government incentives initially given to develop the Amazon. Environmentalists say that cattle ranchers and lumber

companies will be most affected by the programme.

The initiative responds to growing pressure on Sarney by local and international groups, including the World Bank, to enact measures to end forest fires that destroyed some 50 million acres of the Amazon last year.

MISSION FIELD FRANCE

'The church in France can no longer presuppose a Christian background,' says Andre Souchon, the Secretary of the French Baptist Federation.

'This fact,' he says, 'offers a new type of challenge, particularly with young people.'

'In the 16th and 17th centuries, Protestants had a stronghold in France, especially in the south where nearly half of the population was Huguenot.

'Instead, today, a very small percentage of France's 55 – not even one million – are Protestants. Of these 50 thousand are "Evangelical".

'Most others claim to be Catholic, although only eight per cent of these regularly practise their faith. This means that, by and large, France is a mission field.

'This mission field often becomes a battlefield between various philosophies, cults or religions such as Islam – the second largest religion in France in terms of the number of followers.

'Thirty years ago, primary school children attended weekly catechism classes. Today, attendance has dropped so low that it is quite normal for a class of 25 children to have only one child present for the lesson.

'It happens, therefore, that when teenagers begin to study philosophy they suddenly realise that a whole category of life is missing from their knowledge. So young people often show an openness to religious questions which would have been quite unusual some years ago.

'Given this non-religious background of many French people, all Evangelical denominations are growing. Every year a number of new mission churches are started throughout the country. One reason for this development is the strong conviction made by Evangelicals that one is not born a Christian: one must become one by choice.

'The strong appeal made to individual responsibility is contributing to a certain increase in interest in the Evangelical position,' says Andre Souchon.

'This explains why a poll, taken a few years ago, concluded that up to three million French would take sides with the Protestants, if they had to choose.

'This same desire for openness and responsibility caused French people to vote massively for the Socialist Francois Mitterand, whose former government had six Protestants, the present prime minister Rocard being one.'

I SAW THE MOUNTAINS

— says the Rev Victor Bundock, Scottish Baptist Union President, after visiting Nepal.

'A pity you came at this time of the year — you won't see the mountains.'

'We were here for five months before we saw the mountains.'

'My father was here for a month and never caught a glimpse of the mountains.'

All very discouraging if you'd gone to Nepal to see the mountains. But I hadn't. Living in Scotland? I was convinced of their existence without visual proof. From schooldays I had known of their location, their names, their statistics. I just took them for granted.

Then it happened! A little bit of blue sky peeping through a gap in the curtains at 5.50 a.m., sent me leaping out of bed to clear the windows. And there they were — I saw the mountains! Far more awesome, majestic, breath-taking and inspiring than anything I had ever dreamed. With the snow glittering in the rays of the morning sun, they looked more as if they had descended from heaven than been thrust up from the earth. With my own eyes, I saw the mountains.

It's like that with missionary work! I've known about it for as long as I can remember. From Bexhill Summer School days I'd learned about the location, names and statistics. Ever since, I've been kept up-to-date by annual missionary deputations, missionary reports, missionary meetings, missionary magazines, missionary breakfasts, missionary suppers. I took it all for granted. And then it happened! I saw it with my own eyes and it was devastatingly different.

I saw people as I'd never seen them before. Many of my friends and acquaintances are missionaries, yet to meet such folk in their working environment is to see them in an

entirely different light. I was moved by their dedication. Only a clear sense of God's call and a deep devotion to Him and His purpose for others could take them to, and keep them in, such circumstances. I was impressed by the excellence and the variety of their qualifications, and touched by the depth and reality of the fellowship that bound them together and reached out to include us.

Then there were the Nepali Christians. To meet with them and worship with them was a great joy. To witness the strong, clear, courageous faith, despite all the pressures that are upon them, was to experience something of what it must have been like to be a Christian in the first century. I could never have imagined all this if I had not seen it with my own eyes.

Wherever you were and wherever you looked, there were people. From the restless masses drifting through the streets of Kathmandu, to the little groups huddled together in some wayside village and the lonely worker in the field — people, people,

'To see missionaries in their working environment is to see them in a new light.' (Stuart Little, BMS Dentist).



people — always pressing in on your consciousness. So many, so varied, so colourful, so attractive, so gentle and lovable — and with such potential. Yet so woefully deprived!

For the majority, no clean water, no sanitation, no electricity, no furniture, and a very meagre and uncertain income. Not having, nor seeking, nor expecting, any fulfilment in life. It was there to be endured, not to be enjoyed. True there were 'gods many and lords many'. More temples and shrines than pubs in the East End of London! But they only served as a reminder of the innumerable obligations and superstitions that limit a man's existence, and that he is what he is and where he is by the irreversible decree of an intractable fate.

The only possible response to all this is the submission of an uncomplaining fatalism; a ceaseless effort to scrape together grains of merit by acts of charity and deeds of religious devotion; an avoidance of the myriad things that bring demerit, wistfully hoping that at the next re-incarnation one may have moved a rung or two up the ladder towards the infinitely far-off goal of oneness with deity.

To see them like that, and know that Christ came that they might have life in its fullness, and most of them haven't even heard about it! That's what I saw in Nepal.

Then I saw pollution. Open sewers running down the sides of the road. Piles of rotting, rat-ridden garbage — excrement, animal and human, in public places. Social pollution — the Kathmandu valley has a population of 500,000 and thousands of them are drug addicts. Spiritual pollution — so many religions with so many crude and base concepts offered as a substitute for the true and living God.

I saw problems in Nepal with a clarity I could never have gained from reading about them. I experienced first-hand the frustrations of trying to get a visa. I shared in a prayer meeting where missionaries, urgently needing reinforcements, were praying for five medical recruits who'd responded to the call, packed their bags, but couldn't get visas to come out.

I discovered what it was to worship, with the uneasy feeling that the authorities might intervene. To realise that proselytizing was forbidden by law, that the penalty for professing conversion from Hinduism to

Christianity could be a year in prison and, for baptising six years.

I learned first-hand of the tightening restrictions placed on all missionary activity to such an extent that some are predicting that foreigners will be prevented from working in Nepal in a few years' time.

I saw scenes of bitter pathos in hospitals at Patan and Tansen. Large crowds of people. Some had walked for days, and all had queued for hours in varying stages and conditions of illness — those who were unable to walk carried on the back of a friend. It was impossible for the doctors to see them all in one day.

Medical assistants with a year or two of practical training, screened the patients first, treated the less serious cases and passed the others on to the doctors who worked through the list as hard and as long as they could and then gave tickets to the remainder to head the queue next day.

In the wards, beds everywhere, spilling out on to the corridors, with scarcely room for the attendant relatives to feed the patients. A two year old child lying unconscious on a bed in the corridor with a drip attached and lying on the floor with his head resting on the bottom of the bed was the father, oblivious in his exhaustion to all the noise and bustle about him.

I saw Christian love and generosity, Christian gifts and imagination, Christian patience and endurance, reaching out to meet the varied and desperate needs of Nepal. Doctors and nurses, dentists, engineers, builders, vets, geologists, teachers, agriculturalists, administrators, and many more besides. All serving in the Spirit of Christ to bring health, electricity, clean water, sanitation, food, education — and, through their living and working and

praying, to introduce these needy folks to the one who came to make men whole.

Yet, beyond all this, I saw possibilities. Just over 30 years ago, Nepal was a closed land with not the faintest glimmer of Christian witness. Today there are many Christians. I worshipped in three different Nepali churches and, in each case, the congregation was comprised equally of men and women — and the vast majority were under 50. Another church which had 54 members three years ago now has over 200.

Finally, I saw the point of the pleas that I heard over and over again from different missionaries for more prayer and for more informed and specific prayer. They face the forces of evil on their home ground, and without the shelter and support of a strong prayer base, their position is perilous. Pleas for more letters. If you had witnessed the arrival of a long-delayed post, as I did, and what it meant to the recipient, you would put pen to paper more regularly.

'You don't know what it means,' she said, 'just to hear from my church at home, and to be brought up-to-date with what's going on, and to feel that I'm still part of that fellowship.' Another said, 'It's lovely to see someone from home and show them my work here. I'd love to have my minister come out to visit me and then go back to share with the folks at home.'

The thing I heard most often and urgently is, 'The harvest truly is plentiful but the labourers are few. Pray the Lord of the harvest that he will thrust out labourers into his harvest.' A word of warning before you pray that prayer — God often uses us to answer our own prayers.

I saw the mountains. I hope you'll see them too!

'More temples and shrines than pubs in the East End of London'



MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

NEW MISSIONARIES

Enquiries about service overseas with the BMS are coming in at the rate of 25 per month.

'Is God calling me to work overseas?' people are asking BMS Personnel Secretary, Joan Maple. Not all eventually become BMS missionaries, but the process of enquiring often helps them to understand how God is directing their lives.

However, some do go on to meet the BMS Candidate board and, if suitable, are recommended to the General Committee for acceptance as BMS missionaries.

Ten such people were approved by the November meeting of the General Committee.

Andrew and Linda Mason will be going to Nepal early in the New Year.

Andrew is a medical physicist with a wide experience of work in different hospitals in the UK. In Nepal he will be looking after the maintenance of medical equipment.



Linda is a doctor who, at the moment, is working part time in General Practice. They have two children, Stuart aged three and Elizabeth aged two. So Linda, as well as supporting her husband and family will hope to be involved in medical work in Nepal.

They both belong to George Road Baptist Church, Birmingham.

Marcia Chaves, a Brazilian from Belo Horizonte, in Mine Gerais, is already working as a missionary in Angola.

In Luanda, she met BMS builder, Colin Pavitt, to whom she recently became engaged. The General Committee agreed to accept Marcia as a BMS missionary when she and Colin marry next spring.

Robert and Catherine Atkins come from Abertillery in Wales.

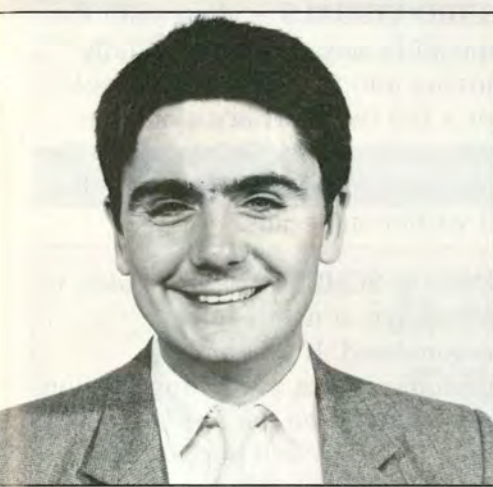
Robert has been studying at Spurgeon's College since 1985. He already has a degree in French and English from Bath University.



Robert and Catherine have been accepted for pastoral work in France and hope to go there in the middle of next year. They will be taking with them, not only their Christian commitment and theological understanding but musical skills as well. Robert plays the French Horn and Catherine has been involved with the Cambriensis choir in Wales and is presently with 'Live Music'.

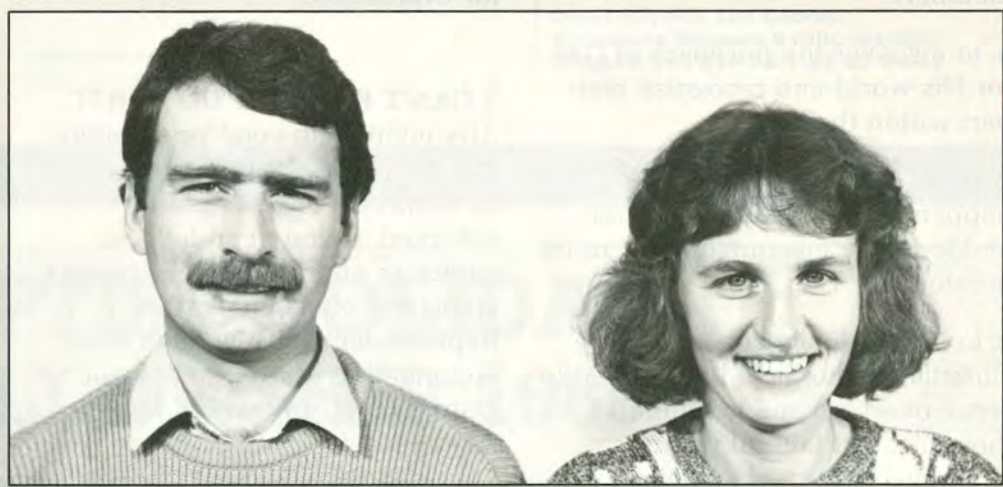
Lynda and Paul Henstock are a husband and wife ministerial team at Shoreditch Tabernacle, Dalston and Salters' Hall. They are both former students at Spurgeon's College and have been ministers at Shoreditch since 1978.

They have been accepted for a short-term period of service as ministers of the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church in Colombo, Sri Lanka. They have two children, James, aged eight and Mary, aged five.



Jane Andrews, a member of Lewin Road Baptist Church, Streatham, is hoping to do secretarial and administrative work with the United Mission to Nepal.

If all goes well she will leave for Kathmandu in July 1989. Before then she will do some training at St Andrew's Hall, Selly Oak, Birmingham.



Paul and Deborah Holmes are looking forward to pastoral work in Brazil. Paul is minister of South London Tabernacle where he has been since leaving Spurgeon's College in 1982.

Paul obviously doesn't mind hard work since he has done brick-making and laying and also some agricultural work in amongst his studies.

Deborah used to work for the Trustees Saving Bank and is now very much involved in church work and in the local community. Paul and Deborah have two children, Kathryn (5) and Joanna (3).



NEW MISSIONARIES

MISSIONTALK
MISSIONTALK
MISSIONTALK
MISSIONTALK

A WORD TO MISSIONARY SECRETARIES . . .

If you are the Missionary Secretary at your church, we would like to congratulate you! As Missionary Secretary you have assumed an important role in your church. Along with other leaders you have the task of helping your church members:

- a. to discover the purposes of God for His world and recognise their part within them;
- b. to be aware of what is happening in the World Church and to take a meaningful part in its mission;
- c. to have a lively concern for Christians who have been called to serve overseas and to support them through faithful prayer, generous giving, and practical caring.

Some task! Perhaps they should have appointed Superman instead of you! But don't worry! There are people who will help you and a whole host of resources that are available to you. Above all, there's a God who will bless your efforts in the work of His kingdom.

YOUR STARTER FOR TEN . . .

If at all possible, get others to share in your work. It may be a World Mission Working Group with members representing the various mission agencies supported by the church – or with representatives of the various church organisations. If this is not possible, find two or three or ten people who have vision for the world, and meet regularly with them for prayer, sharing information and ideas for a churchwide mission programme.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

It is sensible to have clearly

defined aims. Confer with your Minister and other church leaders for their approval and support of your work – which is vital if your work is to succeed. An agreed plan for mission should give helpful guidelines and a useful check-list for evaluation.

'I CAN'T POSSIBLY DO THAT!'

Aim high! With good preparation and prayerful enthusiasm you will be surprised at what can be achieved. If you need help or advice in your planning – contact your BMS National or Area Representative. They have been appointed to assist you at local church level, and would love to meet you!

In many areas there are missionary auxiliaries which bring local churches together in planning for world mission conferences, etc. If you are in such an area, contact your local Auxiliary and you'll feel the benefit of shared fellowship with a common aim.

TOOLS FOR THE JOB

Since you are reading this magazine, you will know that the **Missionary Herald** is a useful basic resource for information. Along with the **Herald**, there are other invaluable publications for you.

BMS PRAYER GUIDE – suggesting topics of concern for each day.

BMS PRAYER LETTERS – most missionaries write about once a quarter, giving up to date information on their work. These are freely available from Mission House.

BMS PRAYER TAPES – usually an interview with one or two missionaries, which gives you an

insight into particular situations and people – and help to focus your prayer.

UPDATE – a quarterly leaflet sent to all missionary secretaries with the latest news from the BMS.

AUDIO VISUALS – along with the tape/slide sets, we are gradually moving into the realms of video! For a full list of what's available, write in for an AVC Catalogue. The Literature Catalogue is a guide for all written materials.

LINK-UP SCHEME – for mission to come alive, it needs to be personalised. If you have a missionary from your congregation, that shouldn't be too hard? If you don't, the BMS will happily link you up with one in whom you can take a special interest and concern. Write in for more details.

HOW DO I USE IT ALL?

Let your imagination run riot! A basic way is through a church mission board – where you can display a variety of materials – maps, letters, posters, etc. Don't forget to change it regularly for maximum effect!

FINALLY . . .

We are aware that your work as Missionary Secretary is demanding, time consuming – and sometimes, frustrating! Yet it brings its own reward – knowing that you are involved in a very important aspect of serving Christ in His worldwide church. So, thank you for your partnership in God's mission of love. Let's move on together, helping the British Churches to capture the vision of a world that knows and loves Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

Departures

Rev and Mrs M Hambleton on 21 October for Colombo, Sri Lanka.
Miss J Knapman on 24 October for Dhaka, Bangladesh (Asia tour).
Rev and Mrs T Bulkeley on 2 November to Kinshasa, Zaire.
Miss S Chalmers on 2 November to Yakusu, Zaire.
Miss J Wells on 12 November to Bangkok, Thailand.

Arrivals

Miss E Gill on 14 October from Pimu, Zaire.
Dr and Mrs L Bulkeley on 21 October from Yakusu, Zaire.
Miss R Giboney on 4 November from Bolobo, Zaire.
Mr and Mrs R Smith on 4 November from Bolobo, Zaire.
Rev and Mrs G Grose on 12 November from Delhi, India.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretaries acknowledge with grateful thanks the following legacies and anonymous gifts. (To 23 November 1988.)

	£
Mr C J Allen	100.00
Miss A Halls	100.00
Miss D E M Hanks	50.00
Mr Paterson	250.00
Miss V R Taylor	1,788.14

General Work

Anon: £40.00; FAE Aberdeen: £15.00; Anon: £30.00; Anon Darlington: £25.00

Bangladesh Relief Fund

Llandod £100.00

Agriculture

Anon: £70.00

Ecole de Langue Française Study French in a Christian School in France

**'Les Cèdres' the Language School
near Paris belonging to
the French Baptist Federation
is holding a Summer School
from 24 July – 11 August**

The minimum age limit for participants is 16 years and a minimum of two years' school French, or the equivalent, is required, although most members of the school will have studied for much longer.

Participants can sign up for two weeks – until 4 August, or for the whole three week period.

Write for details of the course and registration form to the Director:

**David Boydell, Les Cèdres,
17 voie de Wissous 91300 MASSY
FRANCE Tel: 010 33 1 69 30 00 67**

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FELLOWSHIP TOURS

- 11 – 25 February, Egypt – Rev Ernest Forward**
- 22 April – 3 May, Holy Land – Christine and Stuart Lawrence**
- 6 – 14 May, Pitlochry (coach) – Rev Douglas Monkley**
- 1 – 15 June, Rome/Sperlonga – Rev Michael Banfield**
- 10 – 24 June, Switzerland – Rev Charles Couldridge**
- 24 June – 3 August, EBF Congress & Vienna – Rev Arthur Bonser**
- 25 – 31 July, EBF Congress, Budapest – Rev Arthur Bonser**

For Brochure please write to:

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

NOTICES

IN THE SOUTH WEST "MAKE MISSION LIVE" WORKSHOP

designed to assist
Ministers, Missionary Secretaries,
Youth Leaders, Sunday School Teachers, etc
engaged in mission education
has been arranged at:

WESTON-SUPER-MARE

on

SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY

Further details and booking forms are
available from the South West Area
Representative

Rev Peter Amies
9 Newport Close, Clevedon BS21 5DZ
(Tel: 0272 875563)



BAPTIST SUMMER HOLIDAYS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 1989

... Budapest ... Shropshire ... France ...
GDR ... Taize ... Grand Union Canal ...
Brazil ... Malvern ...

For more information and brochure write to:

Young People's Department
Baptist Missionary Society
93 Gloucester Place
London W1H 4AA

Youth Affairs Department
Church House
4 Southampton Row
London WC1B 4AB

NEEDED OVERSEAS IS GOD CALLING YOU?

Hostel Parents – São Paulo, Brazil
(not with young children)

Treasurer for IME Hospital, Zaire

Administrator for Chandraghona Hospital,
Bangladesh

Primary School Teachers for Nepal, Zaire
to teach missionary children

Pharmacist for Zaire

Laboratory technician for Zaire

Nurse/Midwife for Zaire

Doctor (surgery) for Zaire

Doctors (with other specialisations) for Zaire

Social/Church workers for Brazil

Pastors for Brazil and Zaire

Please write to:

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