

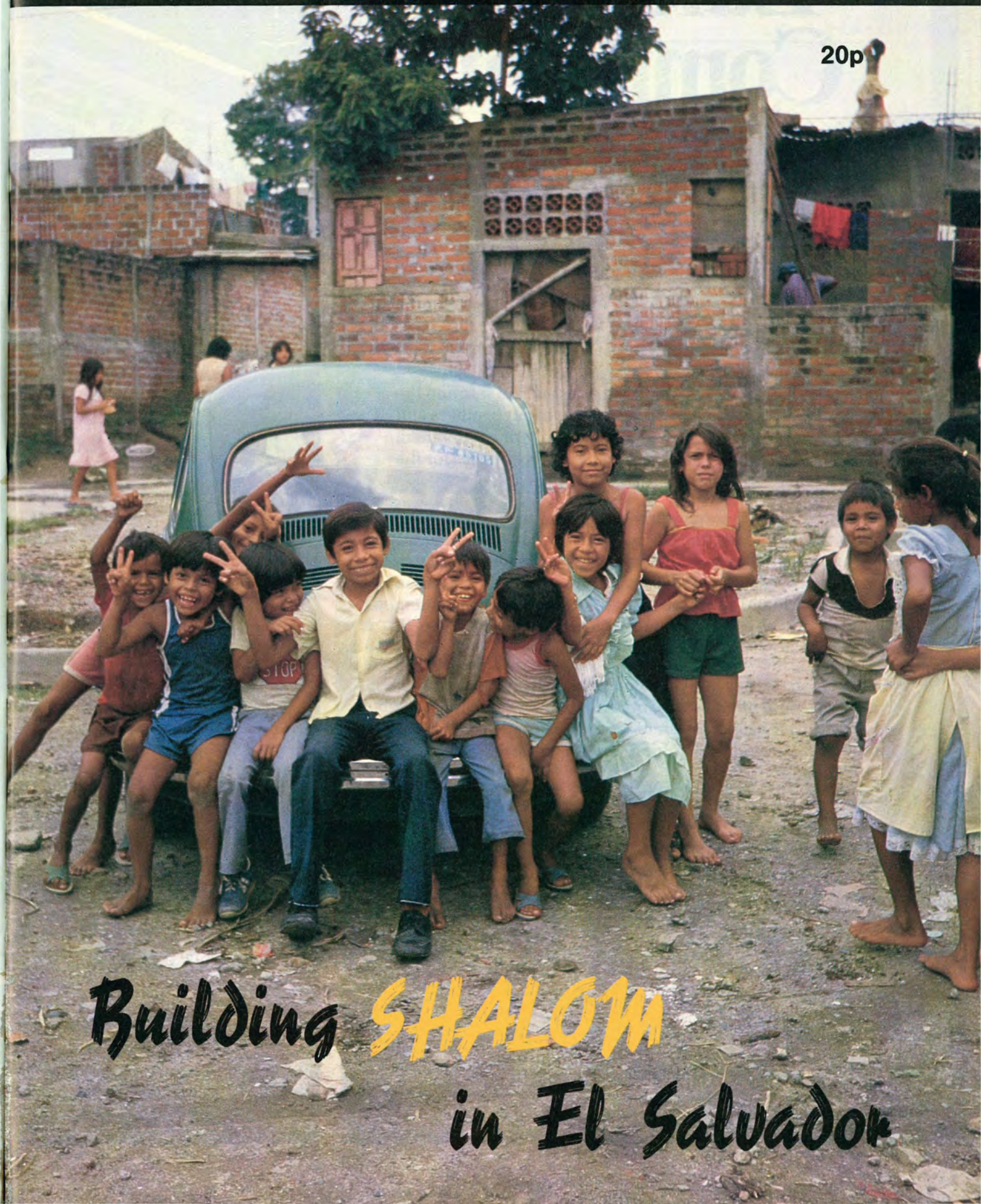
MISSIONARY

HERALD



April 1989

20p



Building **SHALOM**
in El Salvador

Editorial Comment

AS we continue to celebrate the presence of the risen Lord in our lives and in our world, thoughts turn to prayer.

Margaret Jarman, former President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, recently led a retreat for missionaries home on furlough and BMS home staff. Taking the theme of prayer and meditation, we were gently urged through 'the desert experience' – taking time to be with God, taking stock of our lives, allowing time and space for God to speak with us.

Prayer, the breath of the soul, infuses the situations we read about in this month's *Herald*. Prayer offered by the frightened and the confident; the joyful and the grieving; the safe and the suffering. With one voice, we can share with our brothers and sisters in their lives and ministry. If we do not pray with them and for them, our own vision of God and His purposes for the world becomes blinkered.

We continue with a quarterly pull-out Prayer Call. This follows the themes of the BMS Prayer Guide and includes some written prayers to guide our thoughts. Use it each day in personal prayer, in Sunday worship services, in house groups, in women's groups, in men's groups, in young people's and children's groups. We pray for the world because we love and because we must.

Michel Quoist writes 'Prayer often reveals the extent both of our self-giving to others and of our friendship with Christ'. Let the Prayer Call be just that, and let us recommit ourselves to joining in dedicated, urgent prayer for our world.

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We share in the work of the
Church in:

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

BUILDING SHALOM

— reflections on the El Salvador Baptist Association Assembly:
Santa Ana, 29 November - 2 December 1988

A town in El Salvador



BMS Pastor, David Mee, has now been in El Salvador for nearly twelve months. What are the feelings of El Salvador's Baptists? His report of the Association Assembly helps us share their concerns.

Latin American rhythm, marimba and drums, and new songs of unity, service, and justice, quickly created an enthusiastic and promising atmosphere for the beginning of the 55th Annual Assembly of the Baptist Association of El Salvador (ABES). This opening worship, on the evening of 29 November 1988, in the First Baptist Church of Santa Ana, was addressed by Dr Luis Palma, the outgoing president of ABES. He gave a strong call to denominational unity — a theme which was to be echoed and re-echoed in various ways throughout the next three days.

'Shalom and the Kingdom of God' provided the themes for study sessions of one and a half hours each morning. In small groups of seven or eight people, we worked through participatory studies of the vision of Shalom and the rule of God as

presented by Jesus and the prophets. Holding them like a plumbline against the harsh realities of El Salvador, we were encouraged to face questions on the hopes and challenges found in a biblically guided reflection on the signs of God's rule in our midst. A further hour's plenary was enthusiastically guided each morning by Ismael Mendoza, the director of the Baptist ministerial seminary, and Stanley Slade, a US missionary and the main lecturer at the seminary. In the most creative discussions, some raw nerves were delicately exposed, whilst others began to see clues to a hope previously hidden from view.

... For yours is the Kingdom

Two women delegates from a poor rural community brought their study and experience together with characteristic humility. They had been talking about the words in Luke's Gospel, 'Blessed are you poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God.' 'We don't always feel very blessed,' they said, 'not when we are usually treated



David Mee



David Mee outside church

so badly by the rich people who look down on us as though we have no value. But, in the love and respect we have been shown by some of our friends here, we are beginning to find it easier to believe those words. We now feel more worthwhile than before. We are starting to understand the message.' This was a rare journey out of their village and their first visit to an assembly – past delegates were always men. Surrounded as they were, at that moment, by some professional, relatively wealthy and very articulate people, it was no easy thing to say, yet

their courage in speaking itself bore witness to the truth of their words. What will happen when more of the poor recognize their true value?

The afternoon sessions were for business. To British eyes there was far less of the familiar complicated bureaucratic detail and 'back-slapping'; due, in no small part, to the relative youthfulness of the denomination here – it only began about eighty years ago – and its much smaller size – out of 58 churches, 52 were represented, 298 people attended in all.

Significant Resolutions

Three resolutions were particularly significant. The first, perhaps the most far-reaching though least immediately controversial, was to ask the General Committee to examine the possibilities of ABES joining the World Council of Churches. The second was a call to support the Salvadoran Baptist Youth Association's stand against the military policy of forced recruitment, offering support to families and legal assistance for many young men. Often snatched off buses and even out of schools, the victims are sometimes as young as ten years of age and it is only the poorest who are recruited. Both these resolutions were passed without opposition.

The third and most obviously controversial resolution was to issue a public statement calling for an end to the war and supporting the national dialogue for peace. Delegates and pastors queued to speak for and against the resolution. Those against believed the issue to be too divisive and, therefore, inappropriate for

discussion, whilst others simply believed it is not the church's place to concern itself with 'matters of this world'. Amongst those who spoke in favour were a delegate from Niqueresque who has lived through eight years of the war and, as a member of a community forced to flee from their homes by Air Force bombing, knows its tragedy well, and a woman who spoke on behalf of mothers whose children had died in an army massacre at the Sumpul River at the beginning of the war. She told of the horror of that and subsequent incidents and of the suffering which for many has become so tragically 'normal'. Both delegates appealed to those who are more protected from the war's immediacy to consider their sisters and brothers, and urged a vote in condemnation of the war and in favour of peace. The resolution was carried.

Immediately afterwards, Luis Sandoval, a pastor from the First Baptist Church in El Salvador, who had spoken in favour of the resolution, appealed for continuing unity and a rejection of potential divisiveness over such a



The children of El Salvador

controversial issue. He spoke of the zealot and the tax-collector who both found a place in the group of people Jesus gathered around Himself and that, diverse as we are, our unity in Christ is most important. The acceptance of this call was shown when, an hour later, in a surprise moment, he was nominated and voted into the presidency of ABES for the coming year.

The business sessions were a clear reflection of various ways of responding to the current crisis in El Salvador. Some chose to face the issues very sharply and believe the moment demands an immediate and decisive prophetic call to action. Others chose a more long-term and steady response, the slow process of enabling traditional congregations to better face the realities of their world, encouraged and inspired by their faith with an eye to a gradual transformation to a more critical agenda. Yet others prefer to ignore the issues of this world and think only of the possible conditions of their own souls in the next. It is the tension between this last group and the first two which remains the most potentially divisive with ABES, although the Assembly may have gone some way towards improving the relationships.

For many, the most memorable and inspiring experiences of the Assembly were the worship experiences in the evenings. From the beginning to the end we were brought together and travelled through a series of 'dynamic experiences' which, with the innovative music and songs from the Latin American Council of Churches, formed us into a single body in a way sermons all too rarely, if ever, achieve.

On the third evening, we were invited to form a spiral, 'conga-style', as we sang, and then led through a meditation on 'hands' – ours, our neighbours, working and idle, rich and poor. 'Lift up your hands to holy places . . .', 'When you spread your hands before me, I will hide my eyes from you . . . your hands are full of blood. . .', 'If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. . .', 'We then drew our hands on two huge strips of paper which were hung on the wall in the shape of a cross, as



we thought of our hands being used to build the rule of God. A series of slides of the Baptist community and its projects made the point clearer still.

Risks were taken in the worship style, for it could hardly be less typical of Salvadoran evangelical worship, but all seemed to find more than favour and provided the atmosphere in which the delegates could think and talk creatively together.

Then, in the closing eucharist, an echo of the theme of unity in a sermon from Rev Carlos Sanchez, the Executive Secretary, who had more than ably led us through the other evening sessions. If the theme of unity was prominent, it was never used as a warning to avoid potentially divisive issues and 'stay safe', but rather to find our true unity in Christ so that together we may face the issues that continue to tear this country apart. That's a call which needs to be addressed, not only to Salvadoran Baptists but to their sisters and brothers elsewhere, in and out of whatever style of church, to turn away from individualistic and shortsighted



Carlos Sanchez, Executive Secretary of The El Salvador Baptist Association

trivia and, together, face the issues that mean life or death for so many thousands, millions, of innocents and, out of that struggle, build Shalom – the fulness of peace which is the natural fruit of justice.



David Mee and young El Salvadoran Baptists

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

FRENCH BAPTISTS REVIEW 1988

In the following report the Rev Andre Souchon, Executive Secretary of the French Baptist Federation, briefly assesses the life, work and witness of the denomination during the year 1988.

In 1988, we remember above all else the deepening of our Federation's life through the persevering work of our pastors, evangelists, missionaries and all our churches and centres.

The fruits of Mission France in 1986 continue to be seen in our churches through the level of baptisms. Many people have come into our churches thanks to the perseverance of the 'follow up' work.

Since 1987, we have launched a discipleship programme to deepen our faith called 'Le Chemin du Maitre' (Masterlife). Hundreds of small groups have met to follow this course. Since September 1988 we have seen the creation of a second generation of these groups, which will increase the witness of our churches.

A good number of churches and centres have opened extensions or new places of witness in, for example, Mons en Baroeul, Nanterre, Morsang, Bohain, Montesson plus an extension of the work in English at Rueil Malmaison in Paris-Maine. At Le Havre, Pastor Skaghammar has started a new work in another part of the town

and the church at Carcassonne has developed and is planning a new work in a neighbouring village. Some new churches have asked for membership in the Federation: in Ger, Normandy, a group of ten or so families have organised themselves into a church, and also in Laon, between Paris and north France, another group has asked for Federation support.

The development of the Regions has continued through 1988 and two other regions have been created (Central-West and East) which makes a total of six regions currently functioning. The churches situated half way between Paris and the North have decided to form a supplementary region (Picardie) to which the Cherbourg church will be attached.

Regarding relationships with other denominations, we have continued work with the Free Church Union and Tabernacle Church in order to strengthen the life of the Confederation of United Evangelical Churches.

1988 has seen a strengthening of the Pastors School. Seven sessions have been well attended with 15-20 people at each. Subjects covered included 'The life of the Baptist Church', 'Baptist Principles' and 'Pastoral Theology' - preaching, church growth, bereavement and worship.

In our relationships with overseas missionaries working with us, we are still satisfied with the body of work done by the missionaries in our Federation and we thank them for their dedication.

The Federation's General Assembly voted this year for an important change in its working. Every two years we will hold a short Congress of two days, as in the past, concentrating on administrative affairs. Every other year we will hold a Congress covering three days which will have the flavour of a Christian convention. This new pattern starts in 1989.

MISSION IN CHRIST'S WAY

'Your will be done - Mission in Christ's Way' is the theme of the meeting organised by the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME) of the World Council of Churches in San Antonio, Texas for May 1989.

Many denominational missionary societies in the UK have adopted the theme in some form for this year. Along with being the theme for the 1989 BMS Prayer Guide and Calendar, it is also being used as the theme for the BMS Annual Report - which will be the May issue of the *Missionary Herald*. In the report, some missionaries and national Christians will reflect on how they feel 'Mission in Christ's Way' is being carried out in their lives and church.



Rev André Souchon

TERCENTENARY OF THE 1689 BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH

BAPTIST ASSEMBLY 1989
17-20 APRIL
LEICESTER

'For such a time as this'

A celebration to mark the Tercentenary of the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith is planned for September 1989 at Westminster Central Hall.

The Confession of Faith has been the foundation document for the mainstream of Baptist churches in Britain. It was the basis of the Philadelphia Confession of 1742 on which Baptist expansion took place in America. This is an opportunity to celebrate the three hundredth anniversary of its publication with thanksgiving and praise.

DATES: 8 & 9 September, 1989

VENUE: Westminster Central Hall

SPEAKERS: Dr Barrie White, Dr Robert Oliver, Dr Raymond Brown from the UK and Dr Tom Nettles and Dr Joel Gregory from the USA.

For further information write to:

PBF
PO Box 646
London W8 7PP

THAILAND KAREN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Please remember the annual meetings of the KBC which take place from 4-7 April, 1989 in your prayers.

The Musikee Association has been given the go-ahead to establish a women's vocational training centre. Detailed plans will be developed by this centre's working committee. BMS missionary Jacqui Wells has been assigned to work with Karen Baptist Women's work after her completion of language study.

MONDAY, 17 April

2.15-4.30 p.m.
Worship
Opening of Assembly
Presentation of the work throughout year
Prayer

4.45 p.m.
BMS General Committee

7.35 p.m.
President's Evening
Address: Dr John Biggs

TUESDAY, 18 April

9.30-10 a.m.
Bible Study: Rev Dr R A Mason

10 a.m.
BMS Business

11.15 a.m.
Missionary Service
Sermon: Rev Burchell Taylor, Jamaica

2-4.30 p.m.
Urban trails round Leicester

7.35 p.m.
Recognition Service
Address: Dr J Drane

WEDNESDAY, 19 April

9.30-10 a.m.
Bible Study: Rev Dr R A Mason
10 a.m.
Either Inter Church Process or Public Resolutions

11.15 a.m.
BU Business

2.15 p.m.
Women's Rally
Address: Mrs Edna Lee de Gutierrez, Mexico

4.45 p.m.
BU Council

7.35 p.m.
BMS Valedictory Service, including 'Countdown to Celebration' - anticipating the Bi-Centenary, 1992

THURSDAY, 20 April

(all at GRANBY HALLS)
9.30-10 a.m.
Bible Study: Rev Dr R A Mason

10 a.m.
Either Inter-Church Process or Public Resolutions

MISSIONTALK
MISSIONTALK
MISSIONTALK
MISSIONTALK

BOLOBO BIBLE WEEK RETREAT

From 4-9 December 1988 a large Bible Week Retreat was held in Bolobo for the Bandundu Region of the Baptist Community of the River Zaire (CBFZ). 'It was a very significant event in the life of the church here' — says Richard Hoskins.

Rev Mudi



CBFZ evangelists

Four CBFZ pastors came from Kinshasa to lead the meetings, including the newly appointed CBFZ community evangelist, Rev Mudi, for whom it was the first official function as head of CBFZ Evangelism Department. This Bible 'camp' differed greatly from previous ones in that it involved the main body of the church because it was kept within the CBFZ. Whilst previous camps have benefitted mostly the young, the main part of the church had kept away because there have been great problems here with unauthorised evangelists and sects coming into the region, often leading the young astray. This time, just CBFZ people were invited.

Church leaders

The 'camp' was mainly for church leaders with 32 out of a possible 36 pastors in the region attending, including all the heads of the nine districts, as well as a great number of deacons, senior deacons, treasurers, presidents and catechists coming too. All the senior deacons in Bolobo were present, as well as a great number of school directors and teachers. In addition to this, all the student pastors at the Bible School were present, and many heads of church departments and sub-departments throughout the region, including women's workers, evangelists and Christian education workers. There was a total core present at all the meetings of 150 who were 'in' the camp itself, but a great many others attended the meetings, with average attendances of 250 for all meetings, and over 650 on the final evening. There can scarce have been such a gathering together from all over the region to hear God's word!

Vast distances to hear God's word

People travelled vast distances to attend, with half cycling, a quarter coming by canoe, and a further quarter walking. These folk averaged distances of 140 miles to get to Bolobo. One catechist and his wife walked 300 miles to come to the Bible Camp.

Dynamic teaching

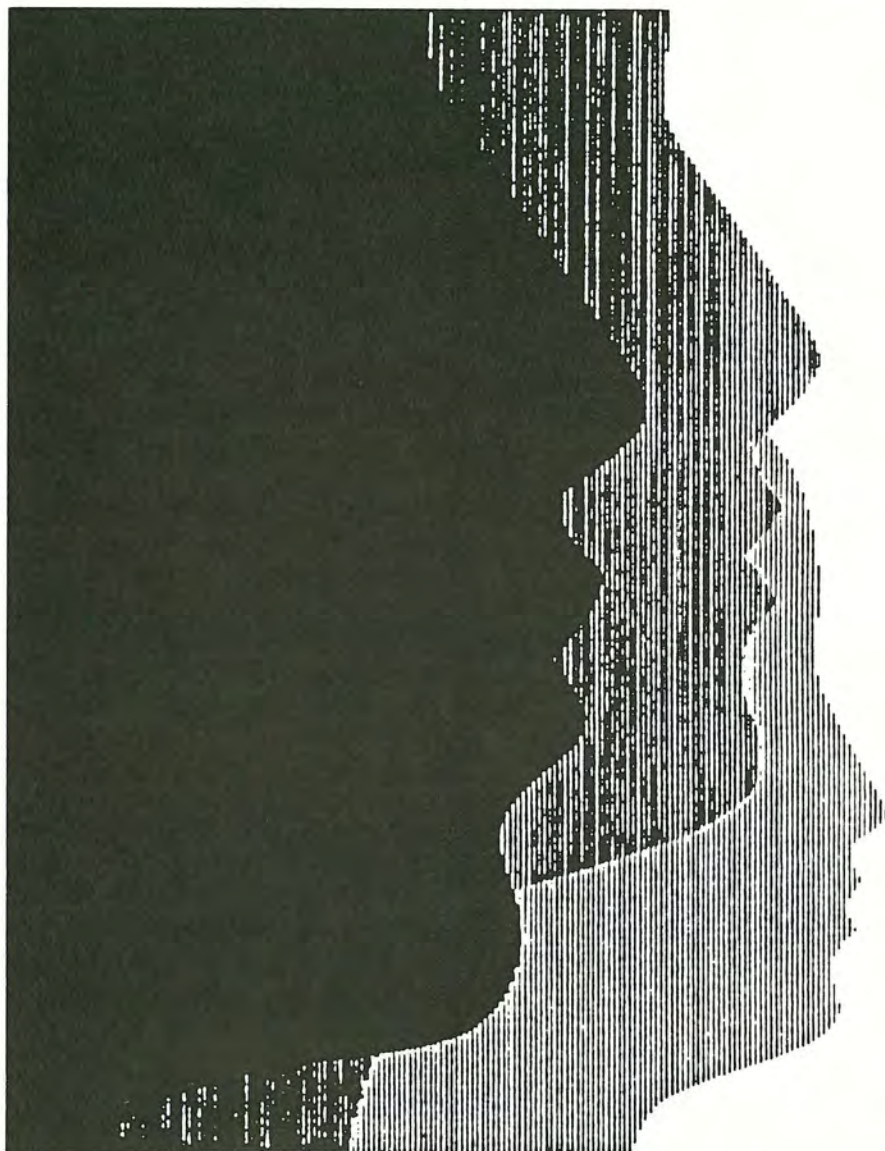
The teaching and preaching was dynamic, very challenging, as well as being encouraging to leaders in tough places. There was an excellent balance in the team with great experience (Rev. Tutonda — head of Kitega district in Kinshasa, and Rev Mama Ditina — head of CBFZ women's work), youth (Rev. Ngiamaloso — head of CBFZ Bible groups in Kinshasa), and dynamism (Rev. Mudi — community evangelist and very powerful preacher). In addition, both Mama Ditina and Rev. Ngiamoloso are on the national Scripture Union Directing Committee.

(continued on page 73)



Team from Kinshasa and local church leaders

• P R A Y E R C A L L •



APRIL – JUNE 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*.

2-8 April Health Work in Zaire – Yakusu and Bolobo

There have been staffing changes at both Yakusu and Bolobo hospitals. Still in their first term of service, Drs Chris and Mairi Burnett now have the responsibility of leadership at Yakusu. The nursing school at Yakusu is planning to raise its level this year.

At Bolobo there have been various difficulties and the staffing situation is critical, with just one Zairian doctor for the hospital and public health zone. Efforts are being made to recruit qualified Zairian staff, but it is not easy and Bolobo seems rather isolated from a Zairian point of view.

9-15 April Mission House

There are many people involved in work at the Mission House, all sharing in the promotion and administration of the BMS here at home which enables our missionaries to be sharing in partnership with national churches in twelve countries.

Later this year the BMS and the BU are going to move into a shared office building at Didcot. There is much work to be done in preparation for this. Some members of staff, who have served the BMS faithfully for many years, will not be going and will be looking for other employment. Others have to face the upheaval of moving home and family. Others will be joining the BMS staff for the first time. All of this causes a great mixture of emotions – excitement, apprehension, sadness. Please pray for us.

16-22 April Baptist Assembly

The theme of the Assembly, being held at Leicester this year, is 'For such a time as this'. Let us pray for those who are speaking, those who have responsibility for leading, those now assuming positions of leadership and all delegates – that each one may be open to what God is saying and respond in renewed faith and commitment.

This year an important decision will be taken on our response, as Baptists, to the new Inter Church Process and our willingness to be part of the new ecumenical body to replace the British Council of Churches. Pray that God's guidance may be clear for all.

*Lord Jesus,
you healed at cost to yourself
you healed with compassion,
you healed by the power of God.*

*We bring to you now
all those in Nepal
who are ill,
who are suffering,
who have many needs
of body, mind and spirit.*

*Through your servants working
in hospital and clinic
may they know the healing touch
of your compassion and love.*

23-29 April Medical Work in Nepal – Patan, Tansen and Amp Pipal

The United Mission to Nepal, in response to government invitation, is able to offer help and expertise in three areas – economic development, health and education. BMS missionaries work in three hospitals at Patan, Tansen and Amp Pipal. Each place has its own special problems, challenges and opportunities for service in Christ's name.

Dr Ian and Mrs Sally Smith returned to Amp Pipal earlier this year after furlough. They ask particularly for prayer for relationships within the team of workers that, in their work in the hospital, they may know how to pray for healing and that they may have wisdom concerning evil spirits – for many Nepalis are aware of their power in their lives. Pray that in every area of life Christ may be triumphant.

30 April-6 May Community Involvement in India

Development work, based on the West Utkal Agricultural Centre at Diptipur in Orissa, India, continues to expand under the leadership of Reuben Senapati. A recent visitor to the centre, Mr Ashley Smith, tells of how nearly every village he went to was asking for help to improve some aspect of its water supply. Near to irrigation sources, flourishing plots of vegetables can be seen – not only providing food for the family but also produce for sale. We are asked to remember Reuben Senapati as he faces many requests for help and has to determine priorities.

Heavenly Father,
we pray for teachers in Zaire,
may their students see
that they know and love you,
and that you love them.

Fill them, dear Father, with your
Holy Spirit
and grant them grace
to witness to you
in all your power and glory.

Enable them to stand firm and upright
in your strength,
striving to teach and love their students
in the name of Jesus Christ
our Master and Teacher.

7-13 May Church Work in Zaire – Consultation and new folk preparing

The CBFZ and the BMS are working together on how their partnership together can be best used for the glory of God as they share in God's mission. Pray that there may be vision, sensitivity, understanding and commitment.

New missionaries are finishing their time of preparation and language study and will be going to Zaire within the next few months. The first few weeks are very important as they adjust to the culture and climate of a new country. Pray that they may soon settle happily.

14-20 May Theological Education in Brazil

One way in which a missionary can help in meeting the dearth of trained leaders in the church is to teach others and help in preparing them for ministry. Several of our missionaries in Brazil have the privilege of teaching in Baptist theological colleges and serving in this way. Thousands of Brazilians attend these institutions. Not all will enter full-time ministry but all want to equip themselves more fully for Christ's service. Many of these students have full-time jobs and attend college at night. Let us remember the national principals of these colleges.

Lord,
I am a stranger, yet still I am at home:
at home with my brothers and sisters in Christ,
at home when I meet them in worship, even though
I do not know each word they use;
at home as I share with them
the bread that is your body,
the wine that is your blood,
dissolving all differences of race and tongue,
class and custom,
wealth and education;
reconciling all wrongs done by one nation
to another for peace;
for in you we are all one
and nothing can separate us
from the love of Christ.

Lord,
we thank you for those
teaching and studying
in colleges, institutes and seminaries
in Brazil
so that the message of your love
may go out
to turn the hearts of men and women to you.

Lord,
we praise you
for your saving, healing word.

21-27 May National and Area Representatives

To help churches in their programme of education of sharing in God's one mission to the world, the BMS has appointed nine national and area representatives. The work overseas cannot be separated from the work here at home, for mission involves each one of us. Pray for the representatives with their busy schedules for visiting the churches in their area, arranging conferences and workshops, being the resource person to help the local church, and speaking at many different meetings. Pray that they may be kept safe in all their travelling.

28 May-3 June Church Work in India

Mizoram has a large and thriving Baptist church. It is difficult for any foreigner to obtain a visa to go there, but the Rev Angus MacNeill and his wife were able to visit last December. Reporting on their visit, Mr MacNeill comments how the Mizos have a strong sense that God has called them specially to himself in a unique way. Worship is a very important part of the life of Christians in Mizoram, alongside this goes their eagerness to share the light of the gospel with the rest of the world. Give thanks for the life and growth of the church and pray for the Zoram Baptist Mission with missionaries serving in other parts of India and other countries.

The Mizos remember with great thankfulness the missionaries who have worked with them. This week we remember especially the Rev H W and Mrs Carter who served there for more than 20 years.

4-10 June China

The church in China continues to move ahead and there are now over 5,000 renovated and newly constructed church buildings being used for worship. There are also many Christians meeting in homes. Bishop Ting of Nanjing has stressed that the main task is to build up the life of the church, to strengthen witness for Jesus Christ, and to give spiritual nurture to believers. Trained church workers are badly needed in China. Protestants now have twelve theological training centres with over 700 full-time students. Give thanks that the church in China today is able to be the church and is bearing witness to the saving gospel of Jesus Christ.

*Lord,
we praise you!
for you have given us a Gospel
which can change the lives of individuals
and of nations.*

*Thank you
that the Church in China
has emerged from obscurity
strong in faith and purpose.*

*Lord give us faith to trust
that you are with your Church
in all times of uncertainty
equipping your people
to be living witnesses
of your love.*

*Your Church is alive Lord!
alive in China
as in every other place.
So why are we surprised?
It is your Church.*

*But we doubt –
many times we doubt
thinking human power
strong enough
to overwhelm
the weakness of the Cross.*

*Thank you for
surprising us
shaming us
showing up the shallowness
of our faith.*

11-17 June Church Work in Bangladesh

The Christians are a tiny minority in a predominantly Muslim country and, at times, they feel isolated. There is the constant need for encouragement to grow spiritually, to witness without compromise and to stand firm against temptations and pressures that threaten to overwhelm. Pray for the leaders of the Bangladesh Baptist Sangha with all their responsibilities, that they may have wisdom and courage. There is a great need for more trained leaders and pastors to work with district union superintendents to build up local groups of believers.

18-24 June Church Work in El Salvador

In a country where poverty, underdevelopment and conflict are the dominant factors, the church community struggles for a sense of identity. There is a strong emphasis on evangelism and church growth. Pray that this may be accompanied by a commitment to growth in maturity. The social conditions also produce conflicts and lack of understanding within the churches where, besides the poor, there are well-fed and well-educated people. Let us ask God to help us to pray with understanding for the church in El Salvador. Remember David Mee as he lives and witnesses with the church there.

25 June-1 July Education in Zaire

The maintenance of a good standard of education in schools is a continuing struggle. Schools in the upper river region have been visited by a state inspector, checking on the academic standing of teachers and school properties. This is encouraging the church to build new classrooms and generally tidy up the properties. Different attitudes towards students' admissions and pass rates in exams can cause tension. Pray for teachers with all their responsibilities.



Church gathering

Studies, seminars, and decisions for Christ

The overall theme of the camp was 'The Light of the World', and morning Bible studies, led by Rev. Ngiamaloso, were from 1 John. There were also six excellent seminars through the week on 'The Religious Sects,' 'Counselling,' 'Evangelism,' 'The Christian Family,' 'Being a Church Leader,' and 'Bible Groups.' Evening meetings were packed out, lively and evangelistic, with 115 people coming forward on the penultimate evening to dedicate or re-dedicate their lives to Christ.

Singing a hymn with actions!

Richard Hoskins seated

Rev Mudi addressing church leaders



Changed lives

Many church leaders received counselling during the week, and almost all spoke of changed lives as a result of the Camp. Many people were stunned by the high standard of preaching. One of the most encouraging things was to hear the pastors afterwards talk of what they are going to do on return, and there was a great emphasis on evangelism and others will be starting up Bible study groups. There was also a clarification of CBFZ Christian doctrine, which will help in the fight against sects and false prophets. But the battle starts now, and we need you to carry on praying. God is doing a great work of renewal in His church here but we must pray it goes on and grows, and that others as a result of this camp will come to know Jesus. The final outcome of this camp may never be measurable if we commit it to the Lord in fervent believing prayer.

Richard and Sue Hoskins left for Zaire in 1986. They live in Bolobo, where Richard is involved in maintenance and logistical work and in evangelistic outreach in the Bolobo area, and Sue is a nurse. They have one baby daughter, Abigail.



Ladies preparing food for leaders

WHEN THE SHOOTING DOESN'T STOP

When he was Secretary of the Brazilian Baptist World Mission Board, Eric Westwood and his wife, Jean, worshipped at the Usina Baptist Church in Rio de Janeiro. Since their departure, the church has received a new young Brazilian pastor. The following is an extract from a letter recently received by Eric from the pastor . . .



Ladies leaving Usina Church

Dear Pastor Eric

It is with great pleasure that I write to you, my brother. Firstly, I ask forgiveness for such a long delay in writing . . . but, if you are standing up, sit down because when I start to write I don't like stopping! . . .

The Residents Association Medical Department still is not functioning because Rio de Janeiro is bankrupt. All the state and municipal hospitals have been on strike for more than 60 days, attending emergencies only, and Altamiro, the President of the Association, has not been able to obtain the help necessary to get the department started.

But he has shown himself a good friend. One Sunday we were able to show the film 'Hell in Flames' in the HQ of the Association. The sports arena was packed to capacity. One gang of 'bandits' (local drug pushers) of around thirty young men watched the film.

I have visited the members of the church . . . and see much insecurity and fear — the people are extremely scared. At times I, also, am preoccupied because it is like a battlefield. The gangs

exchange shots daily, and you never know when. Andreia, the teenage daughter of our sister Leia, received a bullet in her leg a few days ago. She is better now, but the whole family is crazy to leave the favela. Geraldo and his family have left for São Paulo, Genesio plans to move to Victoria and about five other families are preparing to leave the favela. No one from the church will remain on the higher part.

The other day, fifty heavily armed policemen climbed the favela, but were not able to arrest anyone, in spite of having two helicopters helping.

At times, when I am visiting, I have to take refuge in someone's house, often unknown, because the shooting starts. Really, to be a pastor here, one needs much faith and assurance — and to be much in prayer because things are not easy. Few people come down the favela, especially at night, and some days I cannot go up.

Because of the constant shooting, the roof of the hall of the church is full of holes and there is no point in trying to keep it repaired. The other day, our sister Marly (the caretaker) collected eight revolver



bullets from the floor. The roof is dreadful – when it rains everything is soaked and a large puddle collects! . . .

At this precise moment, the police are invading the favela, aided by a helicopter. They have closed all the exits from the favela and, at any moment, the shooting will start.

But, as I was speaking about finances, our brother Josias doesn't wish to continue as treasurer. For lack of funds, the deacons and treasurers decided to close the social services ministry. Edilza (the leader) is sad about this and plans to return to secular work in order to be able to pay for her studies at IBER (Baptist Institute of Religious Education).

However, we have reactivated the Beneficent Fund in order to help the most needy with food, medicines and other emergencies. Each month we collect about ten kilos of food for the very needy. In spite of everything, with inflation reaching 27-30% per month (the papers always say less!), with the crisis reaching all sectors and various churches in Rio, we have been able to achieve several victories, by God's grace. Our sister Marly is happy because she will be living soon in her own house. When it is ready I will take a photo and send you. (Marly is one of those helped after the floods by gifts from British Baptists). . . .

Pastor Eric, don't forget us in your prayers. My special prayer request

is for these gangs who are constantly terrifying the residents of the favela. I count on your prayers and have confidence in God that soon all this suffering will finish. While it doesn't, we will not retreat! I have challenged the church with courage and know that, inspite of all, God has a plan for me here at the Usina. I wish to be a blessing among this people who suffer much, who are abandoned by local authorities but not by God. . . .

I hope that in the next letter I can write only good news!

Pastor José.



Families staying at the Usina Church after the floods



HUNGARY'S DOORS OPEN WIDER

'So many doors are opening in Hungary we can hardly keep up with them,' said Janos Papp, a student of the Baptist Seminary of Budapest recently.

'We believe they are opening because we have been praying for a long time for change. Now our prayers have been heard and God's response is the new laws granting us new freedoms. These new laws are a gift from God.'

If anything, this was an understatement of the situation in Hungary for Baptists today.

On 7 January, a group of 45 Hungarian Baptists met in Budapest to establish a Baptist Sunday School Board. Later that day 17 young people reorganised the Hungarian National Youth Committee.

It was an historic day. The Sunday School Board had ceased to function before World War Two and the Baptist Youth Committee was disbanded in 1949.

'Up to now it has been against the law for a church to organise a Sunday School because, legally, only the State could provide schools,' said Rev Janos Viczian, President of the Hungarian Council of Free Churches and the Baptist Union of Hungary. 'The new laws of association and of assembly allow us now to move forward in new directions,' he said.

EBPS

REFERENDUM ON URUGUAY'S PAST

Uruguayans will vote on 16 April on whether to annul a 1986 law granting immunity to military officials who committed crimes against human rights during the recent dictatorship (1973-85).

LatinAmerica Press

BATTLE FOR THE AMAZON FOREST, BRAZIL

'I don't want flowers at my funeral because I know they'd be taken from the Amazon forest,' Francisco 'Chico' Mendes said a few weeks before he was killed.

'All I want is that my murder might end the immunity our assassins now enjoy. Since 1975, in the state of Acre alone, more than 50 leaders of the rubber-tappers' union who seek to defend the Amazon have been killed.'

Mendes, Brazil's best known environmental and land reform activist, was shot in the state of Acre in December 1988. He received fame by winning the United Nations Global 500 award for his work in protecting the Amazon.

He was one of the chief authors of the 'empate', a strategy used by the rubber-tappers to stave off the incursion of cattle ranchers and lumber companies into the Amazon. The tappers would bring their entire families, including women and children, and plead with the crews clearing the forest to put down their saws and return home. The tactic proved very successful.

Whether violence stops between the large land owners and the jungle people in their fight over control of the Amazon remains to be seen. According to Amnesty International, more than 1,000 rural workers have been killed in the Amazon since 1980; most have been assassinated by hired gunmen in the pay of large ranchers attempting to intimidate those who oppose farming in the jungle. Records of the Catholic church's Pastoral Land Commission, shows that 145 people were murdered last year alone.

LatinAmerica Press

What's happening in the Church around the World



BANGLADESH FLOOD UP-DATE

International disasters hit the world's headlines each week. We are left reeling with facts and figures as weeping women, hungry children and mangled bodies appear on TV screens.

What happened to those whose homes were washed away, cattle drowned and rice destroyed when 50% of Bangladesh was submerged in September last year? By the grace of God, with the courage of ordinary people and the generosity of the world, many humble farmers and fishermen have partially rebuilt their homes, cleaned the weeds from their fields, experimented with new crops and wait patiently for the next harvest.

Those on the poverty line are increasing, yet there is a community concern in many small villages for the particularly disadvantaged. Family members in the cities have cleaned their furniture and homes, replaced essentials and send as much as they can each month to their relatives in the villages – while feeding as many as come to the cities looking for work.

The December cyclone brought salt water far inland which destroyed much replanted rice. Once the fields were again drained the water flowed back to the sea some 200 miles south, and the crops were replanted.

The Bangladesh Baptist Sangha has provided rice plants for needy families, following a similar pattern to the distribution of vegetable seeds in October. There continues to be an excellent harvest of a variety of spinach and radishes. Government 'Food for Work' schemes are restoring communications and repairing canals. There is concern to make adequate preparation for the monsoon this year – that there will be channels by which the water can flow south without covering the land. River dredging continues apace but the accumulated silt is already disrupting launch communication between Dhaka and the cities to the south.

Please remember this land and the people who live here. Pray that the government will have courage to tackle the enormous problems it faces. Pray, too, for Christians that their testimony may honour the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christine Preston

ECUMENICAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST DEATH PENALTY IN SOUTH AFRICA

In a move supported by the World YWCA, the World Alliance of YMCA's, Amnesty International, Lutheran World Federation, and International Alert, the Programme to Combat Racism of the World Council of Churches has launched an international campaign to abolish the death penalty in political cases in South Africa. It also seeks to commute the sentences of about 200 South Africans currently under sentence of death. In the first ten months of 1988, more than 100 prisoners were hanged in South Africa. Speaking at a news conference in Geneva which launched the campaign, Godfrey Motsepe of the ANC said most of the 200 belong to his group and should be treated according to international conventions for prisoners of war.

EPS

PROTESTANT WELCOME CENTRE

More extracts from a Zaire missionary's diary

I have just had a very profound experience.

I got up at 0700 and went across to the kitchen of the CAP hostel. Having discussed the day's menu with the chef, I showed Mansanga how to scrape the grease off the storeroom doorposts and went out.

Later in the day, I went into the kitchen to see how supper was going. There was a man at the cooker, heating a screwdriver on the ring to melt holes in the plastic Peugeot radiator grill he was holding across the cooker.

Tata Nzala, the chef, was there.

'What are you doing here?' I asked the stranger. 'Did Mansanga or Miembe give you permission?'

It was quite possible that my co-directors had.

'This is an oven for cooking food,' I said.

The man looked at me coldly. 'I'll pay for the electricity.'

'It isn't just that, it's a matter of hygiene.'

When you've given all the kitchen de-worming tablets and started a clean-up, you don't want others coming in and spoiling it. The Zairians are a very obedient people. He left the kitchen. When I went back later, Tata Nzala drew himself up to his full diminutive height and said, in his poor French, 'You do not work in here. You are not in authority. I am the chef. I gave him permission.'

Now I'm responsible, and I have permission to make decisions but only use my authority when it is really necessary.

'I am not paid or employed, but it is your duty and mine to look after the Centre's well-being,' I said and I walked out with my shoulders hunched up as if I expected a figurative blow from behind.

I lay awake, going over the events of the day. I thought, 'I'll make it clear to him who's boss here. Look at all the work I've done here, and he says that. I'll sort this out, etc., etc.'

Then I realized how wrong I was. My dignity had been hurt, my authority questioned, and I was going to re-establish it at any cost. I couldn't sleep for tossing and turning and I was getting pretty agitated, so I thought, 'I can't handle this. I must put it in the Lord's hands.'

'Lord, forgive me for riding my high horse. Forgive me for speaking so forcefully and making a big fuss. Forgive me for being so intolerant. Teach me to do Your will in Your way.' As I sat up in bed, the Lord gave me peace and I slept.

But the Lord didn't leave it at that. Sunday morning I had to face the customers again. I realised that the waiters were even more frightened of them than I was.

'You are the man I spoke to in the kitchen yesterday,' I said sitting at table.

'It is all forgotten.'

The Zairians are like that, too — quick to anger, then it's over.

'I want to apologize for speaking so forcefully,' I said.

The man sitting next to him made a calming movement with his hands. 'It's finished,' he said.

I was most grateful. 'Thank you, Lord,' I said silently. I got up and turned round and the President of the Centre, Pastor Tontolo, was sitting there. I had not known. He was hardly ever in Kinshasa, but the Lord had made sure that he was there that morning for me, to explain to our clients what I was trying to do.

Pastor Tontolo said, 'Will you continue to work for the Centre? I suggest that you write your own job description and present it to the Management Committee.' 'Yes,' I said. Thank you, Lord.

SOUTH STAFFS MISSIONARY AUXILIARIES

'BREAKTHROUGH'

AT PROUD'S LANE CHURCH
BILSTON

6 MAY 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.

SEMINARS WORSHIP

**DRAMA 'FRESH FIELDS'
MUSIC**

ALL WELCOME

BRING OWN LUNCH
SOUP, ROLLS AND DRINKS
PROVIDED

MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

Departures

Revs P and L Henstock on 31 January to Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Miss R Berry on 2 February to Amp Pipal, Nepal.

Miss V Hamilton on 2 February to Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Arrivals

Miss B Earl on 10 February from Pimu, Zaire.

Mr M Cranfield on 17 February from IME, Kimpese, Zaire.

Miss J Knapman on 17 February from Asia tour.

Deaths

On 30 January, in Worthing, **Miss Morfudd Edwards** who served in Bangladesh and India from 1928-61.

On 14 February, in Dorking, **Miss Elsie Kate Hope** who served in India from 1930-55 and 1963-66.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretaries acknowledge with grateful thanks the following legacies and anonymous gifts. (To 23 February 1989.)

| | £ |
|---------------|----------|
| Mrs D M Ainge | 108.96 |
| Mrs D Berry | 3,000.00 |

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Mrs E Bright | 50.00 |
| Mr F Coles | 1,750.00 |
| Miss W Drew | 748.97 |
| Miss K M Farmer | 988.42 |
| Mr W R F Hall | 350.00 |
| Miss H E Hayes | 2,980.11 |
| Mr S J McAuslane | 2,723.13 |
| Mrs J Miller | 2,500.00 |
| Miss M Myhill | 200.00 |
| Mr C A Newport | 1,012.50 |
| Rev G Soddy | 56.40 |
| Miss E B Waddington | 1,000.00 |

General Work

| |
|--|
| F&E Aberdeen: £15.00; Anon: £50.00; Anon: £250.00; Anon Durham: £20.00; Anon: £25.00; Anon: £100.00. |
|--|

BAPTIST HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP 1989

FELLOWSHIP TOURS

6 – 14 May, Pitlochry (Coach) – Rev Douglas Monkley

1 – 15 June, Rome/Sperlonga – Rev Michael Banfield

10 – 24 June, Switzerland – Rev Charles Couldridge

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NOTICES

PERSONNEL NEEDED URGENTLY

The BMS has received so many requests for personnel from our overseas partner churches that we're giving all the space in this month's Noticeboard to publicising them.

ZAIRE

Water Engineer – to install solar powered pumpsets on hospital sites. Needs to be experienced. 1-2 year appointment. Not suitable for a family.

Electrician – to overhaul and renew existing systems on missions. 1-2 year appointment.

Doctor – for busy rural hospital, with experience in surgery, paediatrics and casualty work. Long term.

Treasurer – for hospital at Kimpese. Experienced accountant needed. Long term.

Hostel Helper – to be part time relief in missionary children's hostel and some secretarial work.

Nurse/Midwife – for rural hospital, nursing school and community health work. Long term.

BRAZIL

Pastors – for church planting and nurturing in new towns and among poorer city people. Long term.

Social Workers – both qualified and experienced for work in cities as part of church outreach and community care.



NEPAL

Primary Teachers – for tutorial groups within United Mission to Nepal for children of missionaries working on projects (4-12 children). Four year term plus training.

Dentist – for work in UMN's dentistry and Oral Health Programme.

Laboratory Technicians – with laboratory experience including chemistry and haematology for low level technology laboratories.

BANGLADESH

Treasurer – for Chandraghona Hospital, with responsibility for finances of General and Leprosy hospitals. Long term.

Primary Teacher – for Christian Primary Education Centre to teach missionary and other ex-patriate children.

Pastor – for lay training work. Theological training and church experience needed.

IS GOD CALLING YOU?