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MISSIONARY

HERALD



August 1989

Editorial Comment

How do you see rural development work overseas? Is it something that a missionary society should be involved in? One person, quite recently, suggested that this kind of work ought to be left to Christian Aid and Tear Fund. He believed that the BMS was only involved in development work because it was so hard to get visas for people to do anything else. He saw it as a way of 'catching' people for Christ, as a means to another end.

He could not have been further from the truth. BMS concern for the quality of people's lives is not a recent development. It goes back further than the 28 years of Operation Agri. In fact it goes back to the beginnings of the Society's life nearly 200 years ago, because no missionary can preach God's liberating good news in Christ and ignore the sickness, hunger and ignorance that confront him. How can people receive the gospel as 'good news' if it does not bring the hope of freedom from everything that imprisons them?

Development work is not a way of catching people's attention so that they can be preached to, it is itself part of the gospel, part of that good news which says that God cares. Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry, raised the dead, sat with the outcast and rejected not as a means to an end, but because He cared about them, because God loves them. That is good news isn't it?

So unashamedly we set aside the major portion of this August edition to the work of rural development. See it as part of the whole gospel and ask how you can help others to discover that God loves them.

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

© 1989 Baptist Missionary Society
Photoset and printed by
Stanley L Hunt (Printers) Ltd
Rushden, Northamptonshire

MISSIONARY
HERALD
THE MAGAZINE OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY



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We share in the work of the
Church in:

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

SO MUCH NEED . . .

We were travelling back by road from the far north-west of Bangladesh to Dhaka, the capital. The low-lying land is intersected by rivers, and we came to a crossing. There should have been a bridge there, but that had been destroyed in last year's floods: its concrete supports were to be seen jutting out of the water at a crazy angle.

The crossing is now made by an earth bank across the water, but as the road has been built on an embankment we first had to turn off the road and steeply descend, weaving to try and keep within the rutted path traced by the many vans and lorries that had gone that way before us. It is February, towards the end of the Bangladeshi winter, a time of pleasantly warm sunny weather, and very dry. So once we descend, slewing down the side of the original road, we throw up an enormous red cloud of dust, obliterating any vision of the new track. Will the driver see the way? We bump and jolt and gather speed across the level earth ramp so that our momentum will carry us on and up the steep bank of the road the other side.

RUTS AND POTHoles

Bangladesh is a country that has no natural rock from which it can create hardcore for its roads. But it does have clay, and this is baked in wood-fired kilns to make bricks. Along the sides of the road these bricks are then broken up with hammers to make the necessary hardcore. It is a tedious task, often done by women squatting on the ground, sheltering from the heat of the sun under an umbrella, getting covered by more dust as the trucks speed by.

There is little proper surface to the country roads: bitumen would have to be imported, so they soon become rutted and potholed. Road maintenance is therefore a perennial problem, and the devastation of the recent floods, undermining embankments and sweeping away bridges, will not be corrected before the monsoon comes later this year and with it the possibility of yet another flood.

The worst road we experienced was that going inland from the port of Chittagong. This is the area of greatest political opposition to President Ershad: whereas there are some splendid roads in the capital of Dhaka and yet more roads are being bulldozed there through areas previously covered by the shacks of the poor, Chittagong receives little help and suffers for it. This is the main overland route through Bangladesh into Burma and on to Thailand, but if a lorry gets its wheels jammed in the planking of the makeshift bridges or breaks down as it tries to circumnavigate the enormous potholes it can create a traffic jam that will take an hour or more to sort out.

FLOODS

Bangladesh is a country roughly comparable in size to England and Wales, but in that space it has three times the number of people with a population of 120 million. The country is a huge alluvial plain created by the deposits of billions of tons of silt washed down from the Himalayan slopes by the subcontinent's two largest rivers, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra, the second largest river system in the world. Every square foot

of land is needed in this fertile country to grow food to feed its people, but flooding destroys crops and homes with terrifying regularity.

Floods are part of the life of this people. A mild flood will bring nutrient-rich silt on the land, rejuvenating it and maintaining its fertility. But in the last 39 years the country has been hit by 26 floods of disastrous proportions. Last September was one of the worst. Three quarters of the land was severely affected and 30 million people were left homeless.

Internationally it is the deforestation of the Himalayan foothills in countries such as Nepal that is being blamed: trees are being cut down to provide firewood and open up arable land. The exposed soil is easily washed off the slopes in heavy rains: it pours into the rivers, and downstream the river beds rise and the rivers no longer have the capacity to carry away the volume of the monsoon rainwater and meltwater. In 1972 the depth of the confluence of the Ganges and the Brahmaputra was two hundred feet: it is now only forty. The great rivers are marked out by a pattern of sandbanks as if scattered by some giant hand from above.



. . . 'but we discovered how much is being done in the name of Christ,' says John Biggs, President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, after visiting Bangladesh.



A makeshift bridge

DISASTERS

As most of Bangladesh is less than seven feet above sea level the waters spread far and wide, and there is no high ground on which to escape. There are few buildings with concrete or brick foundation, but these have to be the points of refuge.

One such disaster a year would be bad enough, but in the late night of 29 November 1988 a severe cyclonic storm beat in across the flat lands from the Bay of Bengal, the winds at times reaching 105 miles an hour accompanied by a tidal surge of from two to six feet. Just under eight inches of rain fell in twelve hours.

In Bangladesh they expect to grow three crops of rice each year. Two of the three had been destroyed, the first by flood, the second by the cyclone. In the south-west we saw the third crop growing strongly, but still the people were hungry, praying that the hailstorms that often come in April would not destroy the third crop in succession.

REHABILITATION

In the middle of the disaster and the need, we heard how the Christian Churches were active in bringing food, fresh water and sterilisation pills to the areas that were worst hit. The Christians are a tiny minority: about a

quarter of a million in all, some 100,000 Protestants of which our Baptist community within the Bangladesh Baptist Sangha (Union) are the largest single group.

Their rehabilitation work, much of it done through the National Council of Churches in Bangladesh where the leadership is dominated by Baptists, is quite remarkable, out of all proportion to their numbers. Damaged tubewells are to be cleaned and repaired, and farmers helped by the distribution of vegetable seeds. There is job creation in tree plantation, construction of embankments, culverts and small bridges.

We saw for ourselves the food distribution programme at Santi Kutir, supported by the BMS and carried out

The new clinic building is now half-constructed and when completed will enable the programme to be expanded. That is in the future: it was what was tucked almost out of sight behind it that struck my wife and I as being so imaginative.

Cotton is spun (on a modified bicycle wheel!) and the skeins are bleached, washed and then dyed in attractive colours of blue and green. They are then brought into the weaving shed, where it is hoped that the four looms will soon be doubled to eight. A strong cotton cloth emerges. Taken out of the mission compound round the corner into the bazaar, it is put in the hands of a tailor who was first supported by Operation Agri funds and set up with a sewing machine. He has worked so well that he has paid



'There are few buildings with concrete or brick foundations'

by Sister Helga and Sister Adelhide of the German Liebenzeller Mission, an infectious joyous pair coping with a mammoth task, and combining this with the normal activity of a health clinic attending to the needs of the poor.

JOB CREATION

Job creation is all important, particularly for many women thrown out by their husbands who have taken another wife. One of the most heart-warming projects is supported by Operation Agri at Chandraghona. Sue Headlam not only runs under-five clinics in the communities of this area but has established a weaving project.

off the debt and his pride and joy is his second machine – and he can employ his brother, too, living in the room which serves as his workshop.

I was measured against a shirt already made up and chose my cloth. By next morning a beautifully tailored shirt was delivered, all the seams neatly finished off.

WEAVING

Later Christine Preston, the BMS representative in Bangladesh, took us into the village within the compound to visit a family where grandmother keeps alive the old back-strapping

family planning, and the work covers literacy, nutrition and health education.

THE BLIND

Hunger wreaks its toll in other ways. It is estimated that there are a million blind people in Bangladesh, largely due to Vitamin A deficiency in early years of childhood. Blind beggars are everywhere, the men being led by their hand on the shoulder of a boy, racing through the traffic as it slows down at a railway crossing or at traffic lights, impetuously knocking at the window of your car. Can nothing be done to change their lives into something constructive and worthwhile?

We were taken to see the School for Blind Girls just outside Dhaka, where the principal is Mrs Monju Samaddar, the wife of the Vice-President of the BBS. One of our BMS missionaries, Veronica Campbell, set up this school, where girls up to 18 are educated and taught simple skills in weaving and basketwork. Living on the site they are encouraged by a wholly Christian staff and dedicated teachers, and they were delighted to show us their ability to dance, play instruments and to sing.

Here were 68 girls being equipped to face the world despite their blindness, but this is the only school for the blind in the whole of the country – 68 out of a million!

The need is so obviously great, but we discovered how so much was being done: done in the name of Christ.

John Biggs



techniques of weaving. Sitting on the ground her feet are stretched out, pressing against one end of the loom, the other end kept in tension by a strap carried round her back. Spare wool is woven into traditional patterns for shawls. We had seen some of these at Ruhea, in the far north-west of the country, where they were highly regarded by the workers in the clinic run by Dr Suzanne Roberts. Winter nights there can be chill, and a warm woollen shawl is most welcome.

All these materials are of such high quality that they command a ready price in Dhaka, and the success of the whole project is measured by the fact that demand is now outstripping supply. We also met Clement Sarkar who oversees this project and whose enthusiasm for what can be done in creating employment knows no bounds. A sum of 30,000 taka was invested in the project: it generated 60,000 in the first year, producing not only shirts but blouses, shawls, place mats and tea towels.

The 'Under Fives Clinics' are organised from Chandraghona by Sue Headlam, and a very comprehensive programme it is too. In 1988 18,421 were immunised, 22,705 mothers and children were seen, 5,444 accepted

'Skins are bleached, washed and dyed. . . .'

'Equipped to face the world despite their blindness'



FROM SHEPHERDING IN SCOTLAND TO PLANTING IN THE TROPICS

'What an experience! What a challenge!' says Pam Seymour



'I had a small, custom-built basket. . . .'

How can you liberate Zairian women and maintain the Biblical view of the husband as the head of the wife? This was the challenge I faced when I went out with my agriculturalist husband, Steve, to work at Ntondo and the South Equator region of Zaire. African women, it has been estimated, do, on average, 75 percent of hoeing and weeding, harvesting, transporting crops home and food processing.

I went out expecting to be on an equal level with my husband, as we had both had similar training. However, I was soon to find that this would be an impossibility in such a male dominated society. I said that I hoped to work in the fields with the women. Some of the village leaders laughed and said I wouldn't manage it — which was all the incentive I needed to get out there and prove them wrong!

What an opportunity it proved to be as a way of getting to know the Ntondo women. Any inbuilt white superiority I may have felt was quickly squashed as I came to respect them. The women, in fact, are the backbone of African agriculture.

*'In the days when game was plentiful and inter-tribal warfare a constant hazard, men hunted and fought. Women were responsible for collecting wild plant foods and they retained the main responsibility after food began to be cultivated. Women also had the job of collecting water and firewood — logically linked with food processing. By association, in many areas, any carrying of heavy burdens was women's work. Men's chores were lightened as tribal warfare diminished and game dwindled. But the old division of labour persisted and still persists.** Men specialize in certain tasks in the fields such as clearing the forest for planting or growing coffee and cocoa, and may hold salaried jobs.



'I could understand why the women burnt the fields'

I was surprised at the reception I received at the fields. The women seemed astonished to see me working away. Not only would I have the heat to contend with but, as I struggled on, an audience of five or six women would gather to sit and watch in amazement. A recent survey I conducted revealed that agriculture is very much looked down upon by the youth of Zaire, and young girls with calloused hands from working in the fields are often scoffed at.

As I struggled home in the early afternoon, having left at five or six o'clock in the morning, word would soon go down the

file of women trudging home along the jungle path that the 'mondele' or white person was coming along. Many would drop off along the path to wait and see how much of a load of firewood I'd managed to carry. I had a small custom-built basket with padding in all the places where the women had developed hard skin from a lifetime of work. Even though my load was often small, the women would 'ooh' and 'aah' and express surprise that a woman from a race which cries so loudly when giving birth could carry such a load!

Not only did I gain much respect for the

Zairian women, but I learned a lot, too. I had read up on tropical agriculture and was keen to pass on my new-found knowledge. One idea was to discourage burning before planting, which has adverse effects in the long-term. However, head down, bottom up, digging under the tropical sun, I could understand why the women burn the fields instead of clearing the land by hoeing and composting, especially as the majority of the women would still have to collect firewood, collect water and pound and grind foods prior to cooking, before collapsing exhausted into bed at ten o'clock at night. Something has to give and, as water and wood are essential daily needs, better but more time-consuming cultivation techniques often suffer.

When we arrived at Ntondo, 90 per cent of the people on the agricultural development committee were men, as were 85 per cent of those attending the teaching seminars we run each year. Happily, this situation has now changed and more women are attending classes and committee meetings. However, it is very difficult to change traditions. Changes take time and we have to be sensitive in our approach so as not to offend.

Neither is the situation quite as simple as it seems. Many women I've talked to say they'd find it difficult to respect a husband who would help them with food preparation and collecting firewood etc. Also, if the men were to be more involved in agriculture, they would demand more of the income from the sale of crops. Finally, it has to be recognised that women, having been left on the side-lines for so long, are now rather ignorant of what agricultural development is all about — not just funds and free tools from the west, but motivated individuals working in partnership with the local church and advisory technicians from the west.

** Quote from Paul Harrison's 'The Greening of Africa'.*



PICKING UP THE PIECES

Gerry Myhill, in Brazil, tells how a family, after escaping from virtual slavery, was helped by the local community and church to rebuild its life.

Antonio and Claudette turned up in Nova Londrina at the end of April with their family. Along with four other families, they had been held in virtual slavery on a large farm in the north of Mato Grosso. They had been taken there by a man with a lorry who had promised them good wages in return for land-clearing and planting.

On arrival the families were delivered to another group of men who set them to work, but only provided very primitive living conditions. They were given eight pounds of rice and six pounds of beans per family each month and nothing else. They were refused wages, the promises given by the first man being dismissed.

Finally, after five months, the families were in such a desperate condition that they decided to escape from their captors. Under cover of darkness they fled, walking at night and hiding by day, until they arrived in a small populated settlement. There they contacted the local police whose only advice was 'keep going'.

By the time they succeeded in reaching Parana, walking and hitch-hiking, the families split up and went their separate ways. One of the families arrived in Nova Londrina at night, exhausted and fed-up. They decided they could go no further.

They were the smallest of the five families, but they still had four young daughters aged between one year and eight years. By this time they were starving and weak.

Their only possessions were a few clothes in a sack. Happily, an old lady took pity on them and let them sleep in her little wooden hut for the night. Next day an appeal was made over the local radio and in response they were provided with a small wooden shack, the rent being paid by the radio station personnel. Several people provided bedding and other essential items.

The mother, with three of the children, came to the church on the following Sunday morning, on the advice of some of the towns-people, and made an appeal for

help. As it happened, the ladies' group was making a collection of food and used clothing for a needy family. So what they had was given to them.

One of the members, Manoel, has a fruit and vegetable shop, so he provided them with a sackful of the weekend left-overs. We managed to find a large cooking pot. Several others turned up with odd plates and cutlery.

Gradually Antonio and Claudette are beginning to pick up the pieces again of what must have been a shattering experience. We have been visiting them, praying with them and seeking to share Christ with them. Antonio has been able to find work and is now earning sufficiently to feed the family.

This family and their predicament is not an isolated case. It is happening all the time in many parts of Brazil.

AMAZON

The eight Latin American nations which share the Amazon River basin signed a pact in Manaus, Brazil on 7 May that combines development and preservation of the Amazon's natural resources.

The presidents of Colombia, Guyana, Ecuador, Brazil, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela and the Bolivian foreign minister set up administrative and diplomatic mechanisms for co-operation in the area. Aside from agreeing to meet annually, the countries created an Amazon Institute of the Environment and supported the formation of an Amazon Parliament.

LAP

POVERTY AND POLLUTION

In the Brazilian state of São Paulo, around 850,000 tons of industrial wastes are burned or buried every year without taking any environmental precautions. The result is serious air, soil and water pollution.

The untreated industrial waste of the state of São Paulo represents 59 per cent of all the toxic garbage produced annually in Brazil.

'It's easy to observe industries burning garbage under the open sky,' says Cyro Bernades, manager of waste studies at a São Paulo environmental company.

'The smoke that rises is toxic and can cause serious health problems.'

São Paulo state contains the port of Cubatao, which is regarded as the most polluted place in the world. A complex of chemical, steel and fertilizer plants have

fouled the air and water to the extent that ecologists say the city is suffering from a 'state of acute environmental poisoning.'

Such contamination has resulted in serious illnesses, early deaths and the birth of severely brain-damaged children.

The new Brazilian constitution includes language designed to protect the environment. Ecologists hope that such legal requirements will not become — as they have in other countries — mere good intentions.

But unless all social sectors participate in addressing environmental issues, the problem cannot be tackled from its roots. Without a much better distribution of wealth, most Latin Americans will continue to lack basic urban services. Without them, the environment of the cities will continue to deteriorate.

LAP



TO MY FATHER

*Father,
tell me what they've done to the river
that it no longer sings,
that it's slippery
like those fish that died
under a spray of white foam.*

*Father,
the river is no longer a river.*

*Before summer comes
hide everything you find alive.*

*What have they done to the forest,
father,
there's not a tree left.*

*What wood will we use for the fire
and in what shade are we to take
shelter
if the forest is no longer the forest.*

*Before it grows dark, father,
hide life in the storehouse
because without wood
and without fish
we'll have to burn the boat,
we'll have to plough on the ruins,
and close the door of the house
with many keys.*

*And you told us, father,
that where there are pine trees
there are nuts,
and where there are flowers
there are bees,
that give us wax and honey.*

*But the countryside is no longer
the countryside.
Someone goes about
painting the sky red
and announcing a rain of blood.
Someone prowls there, father,
monsters of flesh
with worms of steel.*

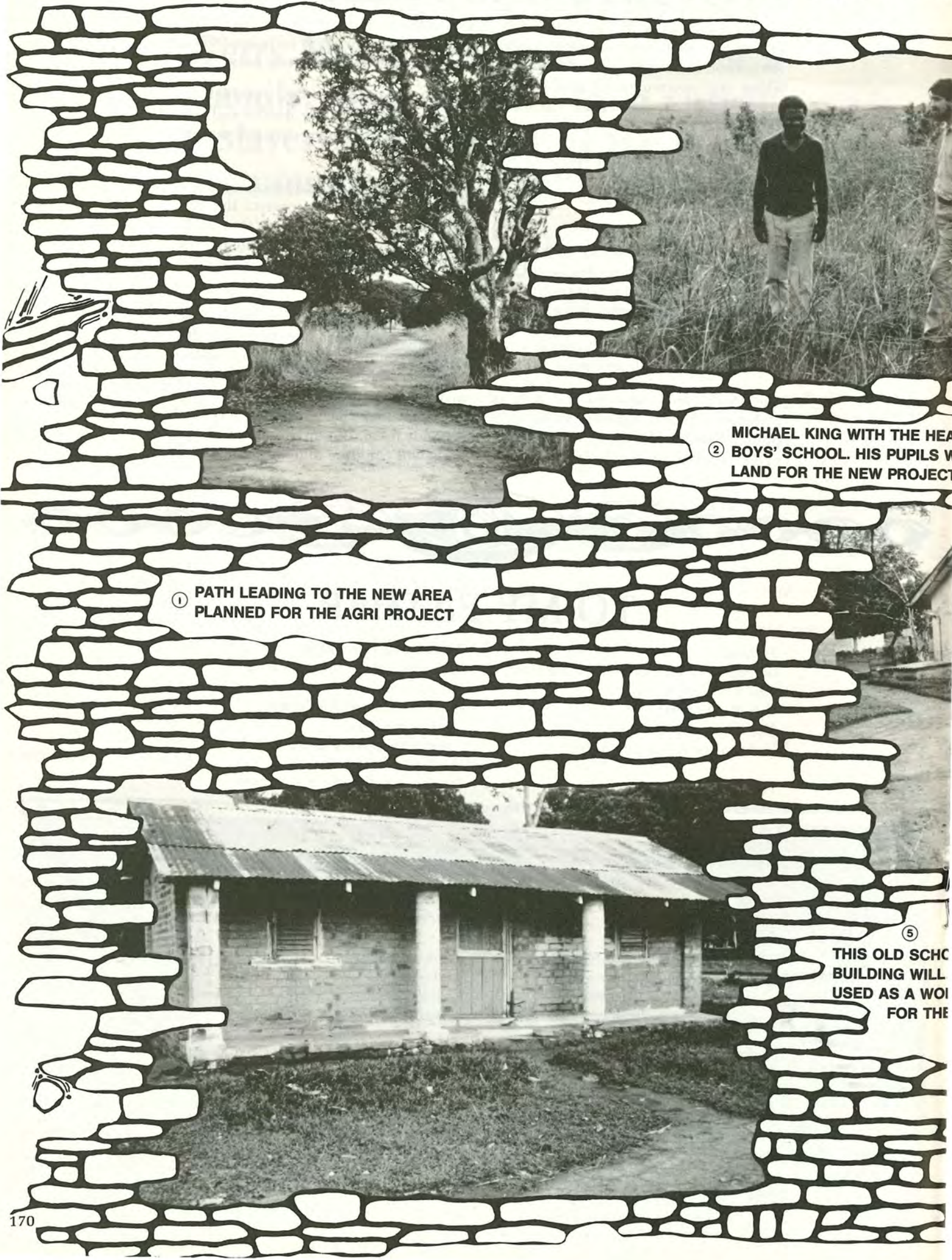
*Show yourself,
and tell them you have us,
and tell them we are not afraid,
father.*

*But show yourself,
because it is they
who are killing the Earth.*

*Father, stop weeping
they have declared war on us.*

— Joan Manuel Serrat,
Lima, Peru.

NEW AGRI WORK A



MICHAEL KING WITH THE HEAD
② BOYS' SCHOOL. HIS PUPILS WILL
LAND FOR THE NEW PROJECT

① PATH LEADING TO THE NEW AREA
PLANNED FOR THE AGRI PROJECT

⑤
THIS OLD SCHOOL
BUILDING WILL
USED AS A WORKSHOP
FOR THE

AT NGOMBE LUTETE



AD TEACHER OF THE
WILL HELP CLEAR THE

THE ROAD TO NGOMBE LUTETE,
③ SLIPPERY AFTER THE FIRST RAINS
OF THE SEASON



④ MICHAEL AND CAROL
KING'S HOUSE AT
NGOMBE LUTETE

SCHOOL
BE
WORKSHOP
E PROJECT

⑥ AND THESE OLD
SCHOOL ROOMS ARE TO
BE CONVERTED INTO
THE AGRI CENTRE
MEETING PLACE



WATER AND SANITATION: NTONDO ZAIRE

by Wilma Aitchison

Four small children, from different villages, were admitted into Ntondo Hospital. They were all suffering from diarrhoea. Medicines were given and advice was offered.

During my lunch break, two of the families decided to take their children to the local witchdoctor in the hope of a much quicker cure. By the time I returned, three quarters of an hour later, both children were dead. Later that afternoon, the third child died, the third child in that family to die — his two sisters had died of measles.

The fourth child was seriously ill and the parents were frightened, so they left the hospital with their child and returned home. News reached us next day that this child too had died.

THE PROBLEM

In Zaire approximately one in ten children dies from diarrhoea and dehydration. Such deaths could be avoided by drinking clean water and the use of toilets.

In Ntondo much time, effort and resources have been used, especially over the last ten years, to reduce the incidence of diarrhoea. Gradually people are realising that, not only can diarrhoea be fatal, but it can affect every part of their lives. For example, a child with chronic diarrhoea will be absent from school frequently. A worker will lose wages due to absenteeism. A mother will go less to her gardens and so provide less food for her family.

CONTAMINATION

There is no shortage of water in the Equator Region of Zaire. In the tropical rain forest, water is generally available from forest streams, lakes and local springs etc. There is, however, a shortage of suitable drinking water.

Water from the natural forest springs is contaminated by animals, leaves and other debris from surrounding trees, and by people. A bucket or water jar will be left on the ground then dipped into the source to be filled. Children sometime bathe in the water then fill their buckets and jars, or use the beach as a toilet and contaminate the lake water. Good clean water sources are sometimes a few miles from the village, which means that much time and energy are spent carrying water.

LATRINES

Various ways of improving the quality of the water have been suggested by local people and expatriate staff. Not all have been successful but some have been implemented and work well.

In order to prevent contamination of water sources an adequate system of sanitation is needed. Where there is no source of running water, a simple pit latrine is the best solution. The latrine must be deep enough to discourage flies, but not too deep that it reaches the water level. It must be far enough away from wells and water sources to allow natural filterage to occur.

In Ntondo, local people are encouraged to construct a pit latrine, designed by the World Health Organisation, which uses only one sack of cement and some local materials. Recently a deluxe model has been used. This new model uses a black pipe, inserted into the top edge of the latrine. If the latrine is inadvertently left open, flies are attracted. The latrine is then closed and the flies follow the sunlight by going into the pipe. Their exit is blocked by a plastic bag or piece of mosquito netting. Simple but effective.

PROTECTION OF SOURCES

To protect natural forest springs, simple cement enclosures are constructed, leaving a small outlet, usually a piece of pipe, so that the water can flow freely. This system works well and is the most cost effective method requiring the minimum of maintenance.

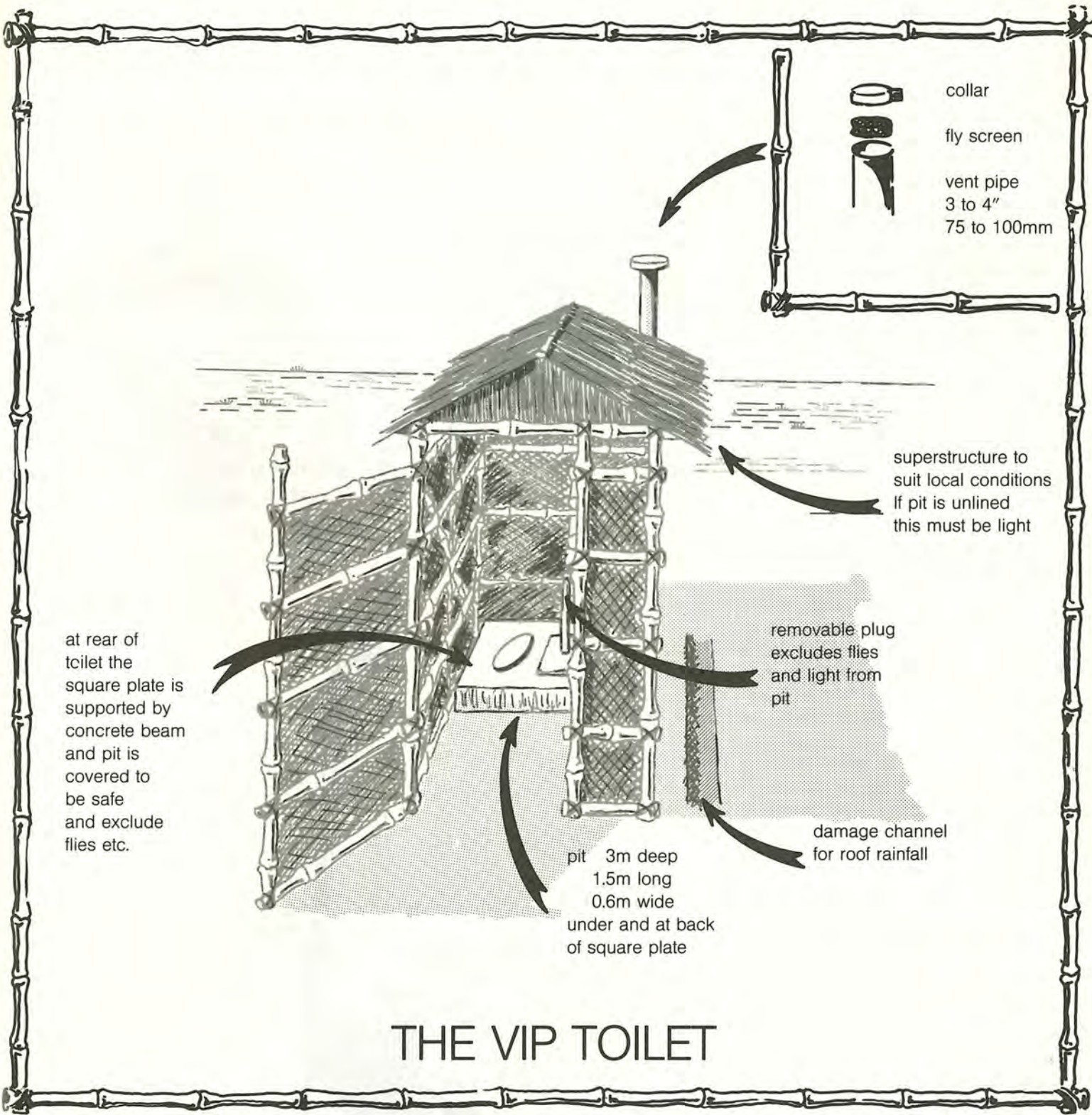
However, some people block the pipe with a stick in order to raise the level of water inside and create a greater flow. In this way several sources have been 'lost'. The water under pressure flows back and looks for an easier way to flow, usually a short distance upstream from the protected source.

WELLS

Another suggestion was to dig simple wells in the village. If the ground was rocky and water only a short distance underground (e.g. 6 metres), a good well was established. In other places, such as around the hospital, the ground was not rocky and water was found at a depth of 29 metres. It was cloudy and although suitable for drinking, people tend to prefer clear water.

Digging a well and providing a suitable cover (usually cement sides and a wooden lid) costs money and labour. Who pays? If a householder pays for his own well, he wants exclusive use of it, but this is not culturally acceptable. Water must always be shared, even with enemies. So some householders are reluctant to spend their own time and money on a well which will be regarded as public property.

Another problem is contamination — deliberate or accidental. Children



THE VIP TOILET

regularly throw spoiled mangoes down the hospital well. During tribal or family conflicts, a well or water source can be poisoned by rivals. This is probably unlikely, but the possibility is a cause of fear.

PUMPS

Some deep wells required pumps. The cost of installation and the inevitable maintenance remains a problem. Again, who pays? A deep well was dug at Ngombe. A local businessman provided the cement, the pastor did a

lot of the digging. The pump and technical services were provided for by Christian Aid and BMS funds.

This village lies on the southbank of the River Zaire and was chosen to benefit from the water project due to the high incidence of waterborne diseases such as dysentery and cholera. The well was situated outside the local Baptist church and a wooden pump was installed. The pump is kept locked and the keys are kept by three people, the headmaster, the pastor and the shopkeeper. It is unlocked

three times a day and each person works the pump to fill their own buckets.

I last visited the area with a Belgian doctor and a small team from Ntondo to screen the local population for sleeping sickness. Many of the river people are scattered, living on small islands and making their living by selling fish. At the time there was an outbreak of cholera in the area.

Setting out the next day we took a plentiful supply of drinking water with

us. However, on reaching Ngombe, we were relieved to hear that there had not been a simple case of cholera, although many surrounding villages had suffered much loss of life.

During our six day visit, almost everyone had a medical examination and the nurses, who were carrying out tests for amoebic dysentery, were amazed at the low number of cases.

These improvements in health can be directly attributed to a well in the middle of the village which provides clean drinking water for the entire population of 3,000. The digging of the well three years ago and then the installation of a local made pump was part of the BMS-Operation Agri Water project.

SOLAR POWER

Other programmes were suggested, for example a village water supply, including a solar powered pump to bring water nearer to the village. This system would require a lot of local co-operation. Someone would have to pump the water up out of the source, which would be one to two miles from the outlet taps. Who would pay? People are reluctant to pay for water to be pumped so this excellent suggestion cannot be implemented for the time-being.

RAIN WATER

The collection of rainwater from tin roofs is becoming more common and, during the rainy season, this can be a source of clean water. However, it is expensive to buy good water barrels and guttering. Contamination can come from rats, bird droppings, dust and dead leaves can be a problem.

SOURCE AND FISH POND

Many wells have been dug in Ntondo area and provide clean water. Others have been abandoned. Many forest streams have been protected – some are well used (during the dry season queues of up to 30 people can be seen in the morning waiting for water). Others have been abandoned or lost.

The use of a protected forest stream as an inlet to a fish pond is becoming more popular. Villagers are being encouraged (through a Tear Fund Project) to create their own fishponds and protected water source at the same site.

EDUCATION

At the local training centre in Ntondo, around 70 primary health care workers and nurses learn how to run their own water projects. Two years ago, some Appropriate Technology students made and sent to Ntondo a scaled model of the WHO approved pit latrine and this is now used regularly to help in teaching both workers and villagers.

PROGRESS

Progress has been costly, but it is encouraging to see an increased awareness in the local community and a general reduction in deaths due to dysentery, cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases.

CONCLUSION

In general, the most successful ventures have been those using minimal equipment and technical skill. The most important factors which have contributed to the success of the water project are undoubtedly the degree of local co-operation and cultural acceptability.

How long before clean water is available to every child?



MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

MISSIONTALK

WHAT IS 28:19?

The BMS has been advertising, sending out flyers, putting up posters and selling tickets for the 28:19 tour! What is it?

'It's actually a verse from Matthew's Gospel,' said Steve Chalke, one of those involved in the tour.

'It's the verse which tells us to go into the world and to get involved in telling people about Jesus Christ and what we've discovered about him. That's what the tour is all about.'

Is that important?

'Well, I think so. First of all God says: Get involved, tell other people about me. If you have discovered Jesus for yourself and your life has been changed you are going to want to tell other people. You can't keep it to yourself.'

'If you look around the world, not just abroad, but here in Britain, the sense of helplessness and need and emptiness is incredible. So we have the answer, we have an obligation to get involved.'

The tour is aimed at young people. Are young people in any more need than the rest?

'Young people need to decide at an early stage what they are going to give their life to. The later you leave things the harder it is to get away from all the pressures that have built up around you. You need to determine at the

WHY WE'RE INVOLVED IN THE TOUR

by

The Shout Theatre Company

Why do you believe in Mission?

Because Jesus tells us to do it!
We've tried it ourselves and it works!
If we never got involved in mission, how would people find out the truth?

What have young people got to do with mission?

Mission's for everyone, but young people have less responsibilities. This, mixed with their natural enthusiasm, makes them ideal for the job.

Why the BMS?

Why go it alone? The BMS are experts in the field of evangelism, so who better to go with?

After the Tour – what next?

Go for it! We need to persevere in our commitment to mission. When the going gets tough, the tough get going!

beginning of your life where you're headed.

'A lot of people would like to be in full-time ministry, but they've got a mortgage and they got other problems. They just can't get themselves away. But a young person, before taking on too many responsibilities, can say: This is the direction my life is going to go. Young people have also got the energy and enthusiasm that's needed.'

So what's going to happen during the tour?

'We are privileged to have Martyn Joseph with us, so there will be lots of songs from him. He is writing some special songs for the tour itself. Shout Theatre Company - a professional company - are going to be there and they've got some excellent materials. People are going to have to put up with me as well.

'The evenings are going to focus on what the world need is followed by the question: What can we do about it and how can we get involved?

'At a physical level there are all sorts of needs in the world. In India I saw the starvation and depravity that exists there. In one area of Bombay, half the children die before they reach their

first birthday. So there is incredible material need.

'Equally there is great spiritual need. People are totally lost. Their lives have not purpose or meaning and I believe that it is our responsibility to get involved at both levels.

'Unfortunately Christians have tended to opt one way or the other. One camp says we've got to feed people. Another says we've got to bring them the good news about Jesus. I believe that it is both together. The New Testament says that we need to feed the hungry and also show people what life is really all about, so that they can see the need to change the situation.'

What opportunities do young people have to get stuck into mission?

'There are opportunities to give, to pray and to organize funds that can be used in this country and abroad. There are opportunities to go, to learn, to take in an experience somewhere else in the world. Long-term there is the need for workers in all sorts of roles abroad.'

The tour is being sponsored by the BMS. Why are you enthusiastic about the BMS?

'I am a Baptist. I grew up in a Baptist

church and that's where I heard about Jesus and made my commitment. I've been thankful for all I've learnt and so I want to plough something back into the denomination which is doing a great job telling other people about Jesus Christ.

'The BMS in particular has a great history. William Carey is one of the most inspiring people you could ever read about. He clearly heard God telling him to get involved in loving and caring in the name of Christ in spite of those who wanted to put him off. He met the challenge and went out to India. We need William Careys today to get involved, to tackle the great task of mission.

'I want young people to go away after the eleven nights of the Tour knowing that they can make a difference whether they go or whether they stay. It's not just the people who go out to Africa, India or wherever it might be. It's the people who stay here who give, who pray, who get involved in their local churches. The need of mission and evangelism abroad is no different from that in Great Britain. I don't really care whether people serve in Africa or in Gloucester as long as young people learn that God can use them. There is a job to be done and we can't go to sleep on it. 28:19!'

Martyn Joseph also has a Baptist background but he wonders whether the young people in Baptist churches have a heart for mission.

'The Baptist church has done many great things, but I think it's not quite within the world of its youngsters. It's always had mission, but I don't think it's necessarily been an attractive package for young people. This tour is trying to do that from within the Baptist Church.

'Mission can change your life. I've found that the more I try to concentrate on myself and please my own desires the more I get to the point where I feel like self-destructing. But the more I focus my attention on others and begin to serve and love them and ultimately share Christ with them the more I get to the point where I meet what I'm made for.

'When I visited Thailand I met people

CHECK THE BACK COVER FOR DETAILS OF THE TOUR

Then use this coupon to order your tickets

Send the coupon and money to:

**THE TOUR, 109 CROFTDOWN ROAD
BIRMINGHAM B17 8RE**

Cheques should be made payable to BMS

(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Please send tickets at **£2.50** for
28: 19 The Tour on **(date)**
at..... **(place)**

I enclose cheque/postal order made payable
to **BMS** for £

I understand that there will be no refunds once purchased.

Name

Address.....
.....

FOR OFFICE USE

Ticket number

Cheque/PO Date.....



who had worked there for 20 or 30 years. They're not heroes, but there is such a peace and depth of life about these people because they have learned one of the big secrets of life. With Christ in your heart you go into the world to serve others and what car you drive, where you live and how

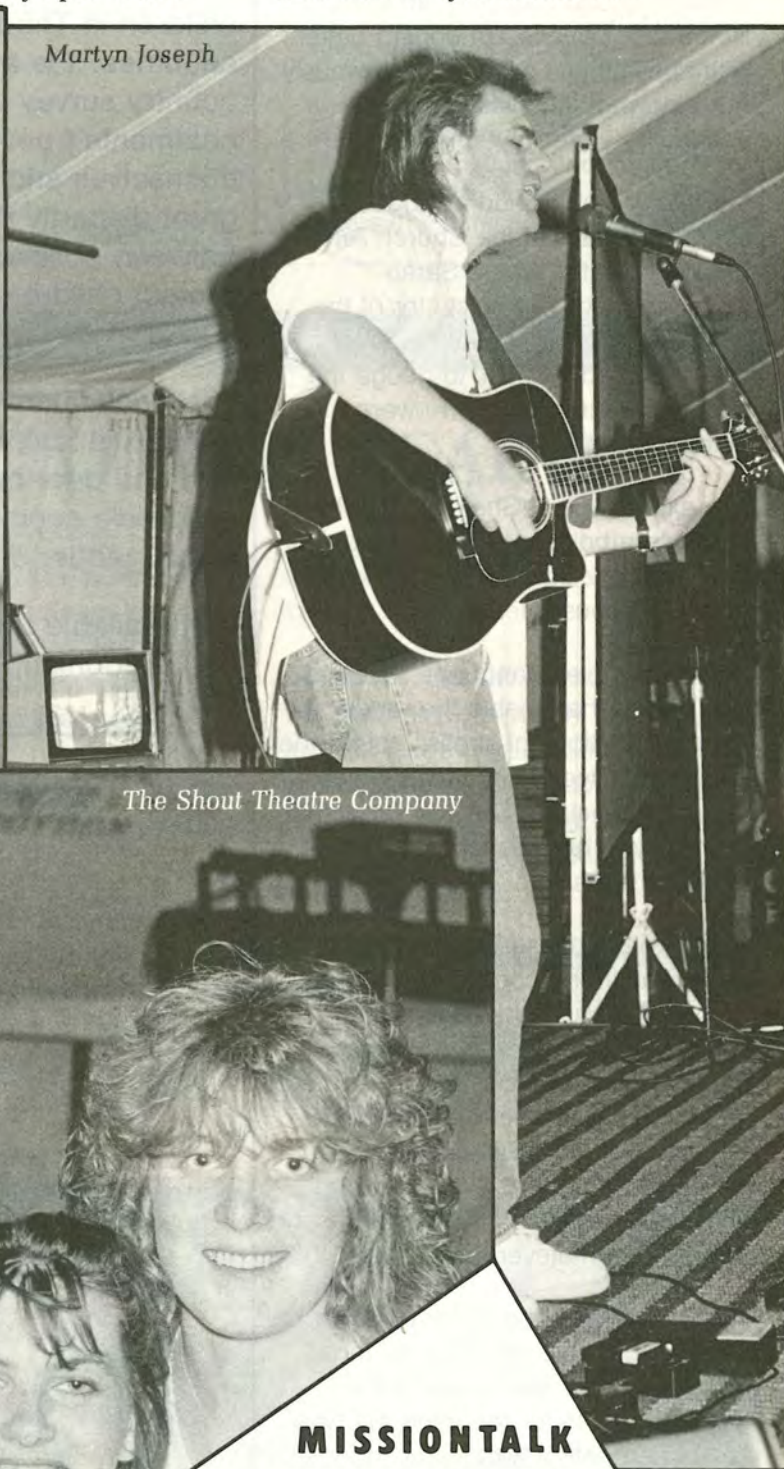
much food you're going to have recede into the background. You somehow learn to depend on Christ and you find such peace and happiness.

'I shall be telling people to go away to a quiet place and to seek God's will. That might mean they upset a few

people who are telling them they should be doing this or that. I shall be saying: Listen to God's quiet voice – and you need time for that. Then go along with it. Don't be conformed to this world, don't be frightened of being different, of standing up for something different that you believe in.'



Steve Chalke



Martyn Joseph



The Shout Theatre Company

MISSIONTALK
MISSIONTALK
MISSIONTALK
MISSIONTALK

LIVING WITH STRESS

Lutterworth Press, £5.90

by Sarah Horsman

I didn't pick up this book because, as a BMS Area Representative, I was about to succumb to the stresses of life! In fact, I guess, I'm coping better with stress these days than previously. Put it down to 'the wisdom of advancing years' if you like.

My wife Joy and I had arranged to spend five days at the Church Army Sheldon Centre, where Sarah Horsman is the administrator of the Society of Mary and Martha. So her book seemed a 'must' to gauge the atmosphere into which we were going.

The experience at Sheldon and the book were both positive contributions to finding one's way through the pitfalls of a busy life.

Sarah uses clear language and direct illustrations that enable the reader to identify situations of stress. I found the chapter entitled 'Body Management' particularly helpful. Did you know that the way you breathe leads either to health or stress?

Stress within oneself, within the family, as well as in the context of work, are among the situations dealt with sensitively. Chapters on relaxation, massage and exercise all contribute to finding the answer. Perhaps most important of all is Sarah's *stress* on the need for adequate support and care for those suffering the strains of a busy life, whatever their cause.

This is a book not only for those in ministry, but very definitely for those church leaders who ought to be caring in depth for the ministers who serve them, often with heavy loads of responsibility and with the consequent stress that it brings.

And for a practical application of some of the book's advice, a stay at the Sheldon Centre is to be highly recommended.

Leslie Gregory

THE NEXT GENERATION: LIVES OF THIRD WORLD CHILDREN

This is the first comprehensive overview of the rights of children in Third World countries. It is a country by country survey which includes comments from the children themselves and exposes the great disparity that often exists between policies designed to protect children and their actual implementation.

The book takes a look at the inequalities between children in rich and poor nations and at the children's conception of race, class, gender and age.

It is available from: Zed Books,
57 Caledonian Road, London
N1 9BU.

THE UNPROMISED LAND: AGRARIAN REFORM AND CONFLICT WORLDWIDE

This new publication addresses the plight of two billion rural people in the Third World who still face endemic poverty despite three decades of development efforts.

It is a well documented and policy-relevant study which investigates the origin and nature of agrarian conflict and patterns of agrarian reform.

This is also available from
Zed Books, 57 Caledonian
Road, London N1 9BU.

BMS 1990 CALENDAR

'Together in Christ'

is

available

NOW

As this year, the 1990 Calendar is an engagement Calendar and has 13 full colour pictures illustrating the variety of work in which BMS is involved

**The price is £1.50 by hand
or £1.75 by post**

**Orders to: BMS, 93 Gloucester Place
London W1H 4AA**

and, from 1 September

**to: BMS, Baptist House
129 Broadway, Didcot
Oxfordshire OX11 8RT**

MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

Arrivals

Miss K Norris on 26 May from Amp Pipal, Nepal.
Drs C and M Burnett on 31 May from Yakusu, Zaire (mid-term holiday).
Mr and Mrs H Blake on 8 June from Butwal, Nepal.
Mr and Mrs J Davis on 9 June from Yakusu, Zaire.
Mr and Mrs T Hinchliffe on 16 June from Yakusu, Zaire (mid-term holiday).

Departures

Mr and Mrs R Smith on 25 May to Bolobo, Zaire.
Mr and Mrs C Pavitt on 29 May to Luanda, Angola (from Brazil).
Rev and Mrs P Brewer on 30 May to Port of Spain, Trinidad.
Mr and Mrs S Seymour on 7 June to Ntongo, Zaire.
Miss W Aitchison on 7 June to Ntongo, Zaire.
Rev and Mrs J Pullin on 9 June to São Paulo, Brazil.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretaries acknowledge with grateful thanks the following legacies and anonymous gifts (to 31 May 1989).

Legacies	£
Mr L Bower	6,000.00
Florence Jennings	500.00
Mr K Fennals	100.00
Miss M Spolton	500.00
Miss A E Dando	12,500.00
Mrs E F Freeman	6,000.00
Mr A E Evans	4,750.00
Doreen J Ager	870.80
Miss C E Giles	100.00
Miss M Bicknell	13,271.68
Mrs M Lee Palling	100.00
Walter Turner Trust	835.08

General Work

St Albans: £3; Colchester: £10; J: £500; FAE, Aberdeen: £20; Anon: £50.

NOTICE

Because the Society is moving offices to Didcot many of our London staff are leaving. They are being replaced with people joining us from the Didcot area. But however smooth we try to make the changeover, we cannot escape some confusion and some difficulties as new members of staff are trained. We would therefore ask churches and individuals to be understanding about any delay in responding to requests, answering letters or acknowledging donations.

WILL HE LEARN TO GRIN AGAIN?

Suzanne Roberts writes about some of the people who attend the clinic at Ruhea in north Bangladesh.

★ ★ ★

Ayeshal came to the clinic and died. She was about 19 or 20 years of age and the mother of two small children. She had been sent home to live with her parents, despite the dowry given for her upkeep, because her illness had stopped her from being the family workhorse that is the expected role of all younger women.

Both her illness and death were preventable. Ante-natal care would have found and treated the anaemia. Adequate knowledge and care at the various places where they sought help would have saved her. None of the necessary treatment was expensive, but they had spent much for the unnecessary.

Rani attended the same clinic. She had also been sent from her husband's home for the same reasons. She was anaemic, tired and swollen, but had at least come in time. We hope that she will come regularly, over the next few months, until she is well. There is the possibility then that her husband will take her back.

A small boy, five or six, came weighing only 8 kgs. His parents had tried to find the right things to make him well and strong, but they had bought expensive and sometimes dangerous medicines that used up money which would have been better spent on food. But how were they to know it was food that was needed?

Gonesh has a cheeky grin. He's four and comes every week to the nutrition programme with his brother. The way his weight is shooting up the chart is a delight. His mother comes too for her treatment and we hope we

eventually persuade his father to let us treat his TB rather than the local *kobiraji*.

I hope too that the other little boy will be brought regularly and that he too will learn to grin again as he is fed and his parents learn about the right foods and about hygiene to stop the worm and parasite infections that are part of his trouble.

It takes strong-mindedness to stand against the blandishments of medicine sellers and particularly the strong grip of tradition and the wishes of older family members.

Suzanne Roberts at Ruhea



NOTICES



THE TOUR

STEVE CHALKE
MARTYN JOSEPH
SHOUT THEATRE COMPANY
WHAT IN THE
WORLD
ARE YOU DOING?

OCT. 5 CHATHAM	CENTRAL HALL THEATRE
OCT. 6 NEWCASTLE	BETHSHAN TABERNACLE
OCT. 7 GLASGOW	PAVILION THEATRE
OCT. 8 ST HELENS	THEATRE ROYAL
OCT. 9 LEICESTER	HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
OCT. 10 EXETER	ST GEORGES HALL
OCT. 11 IPSWICH	SUFFOLK COLLEGE
OCT. 12 SOUTHAMPTON	MOUNT BATTEN THEATRE
OCT. 13 LONDON	REGENT HALL, OXFORD ST
OCT. 14 PORT TALBOT	AFAN LIDO
OCT. 15 BRISTOL	VICTORIA ROOMS

TICKETS £2.50. SAE to:
THE TOUR 109 CROFTDOWN ROAD
BIRMINGHAM B17 8RE
BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY
93 GLOUCESTER PLACE
LONDON W1H 4AA

PIMU PLAN

S163: PROGRESS AT PIMU

The Tape/Slide set linked
with the current
Young People's Project
The PIMU PLAN
is now available

BIRTHDAY SCHEME NEW COLOURING CARDS FOR CHILDREN

In addition to the four new cards
for the BMS Birthday Scheme
we now have two for children
to colour in

WE'RE MOVING!

The BMS, along with the Baptist Union of
Great Britain, is moving to Didcot. At the time
of printing, we are hoping this move will take
place at the end of August. So please note
our new address from September:

BAPTIST HOUSE
129 BROADWAY
DIDCOT
OXFORDSHIRE
OX11 8RT

Please check Mission Talk, inside, for any
last minute changes to the above.

PERSONNEL NEEDED URGENTLY

ZAIRE

WATER ENGINEER –
for two year project to up date
hospital water supplies. Write
in for full job description.

TREASURER – for hospital in
Zaire. Qualified accountant
with some knowledge of
French.

DOCTORS – with post
graduate specialities such as
surgery, obstetrics, paediatrics,
casualty.

We are all involved in mission.

Finding our place in God's plan is not always easy.

Yet God has a place for each of us.

Where do you fit in?

BRAZIL

SOCIAL WORKERS – preferably
with CQSW for work among
deprived city dwellers

ANGOLA

EXPERIENCED MINISTER – to
train pastors, evangelists and
lay leaders. Not suitable for
couple with young family.

Please write to: The Personnel Secretary, Miss Joan Maple, 93 Gloucester Place, LONDON W1H 4AA