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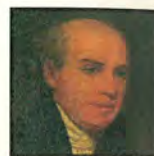
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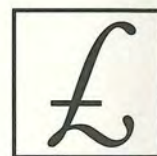
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THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE

TWO HUNDRED YEARS of God's grace. That is what is being celebrated as the Annual Report of the Society's work is presented in this BiCentenary year of 1992.

There have been changes of vast proportion — within Britain, throughout the world and in the Church. Two centuries of massive transformation, had inevitable effects upon the Society, but two things have remained constant.

First and foremost God has never ceased to be faithful, honouring the trusting service of people and furthering His own purposes of redemption. Second has been the Society's commitment to a task that has remained missionary — 'That the world may believe'.

Carey was gripped by the Gospel. Yet Carey also grasped the Gospel in its breadth. His endeavours encompassed at least seven different elements. He was eager in his preaching of the Good News. He was quick to offer teaching, through the Scriptures and in establishing education. With Dr John Thomas from the commencement of the work healing was part of the ministry. When Carey encountered some of the horrors of the Indian community he began the task of liberating. His understanding of horticulture and agriculture was used to assist in the developing of life for the poorer people. Sharing the evangelisation with Indian Christians was important, 'If India is to be won for Christ then it will be done so by Indian Christians,' William said. In his Enquiry he had made clear that he saw the task as being done in fellowship with the whole church of Christ.

The aim of this composite task was, as Carey saw it, a leading to faith, to the world believing. Not in the sense of the acceptance of some credal statement but rather of trusting the God of love so that lives, communities, all creation should be transformed by God's grace into the fulfilled wholeness in love and peace that is God's will.

In this Report we do not look back over the two hundred years of the Society's life, that being done admirably in the various histories of the Society available this year and advertised elsewhere in this Report. Here we face the question, 'Through the BMS, has there been a growth in life-changing faith? Are lives and situations being transformed by the activity of God's spirit?'

The answer is an indubitable 'Yes'. God is working His purpose out, the Gospel work of renewal is being seen. In this Report you will see how the preaching of the Gospel is transforming lives in places as far apart as Belgium and Brazil, as France and Nepal.

Suffering for and with a people is exemplified in the work that has gone on in El Salvador and Nicaragua and especially the support for the suffering peoples of Zaïre.

Teaching with integrity has continued, not least in Zaïre. Missionaries committed to development encourage a new sense of stewardship of God's creation. Partnership with God's people has continued to be a major factor in the Society's life. A ministry continues to be exercised, 'That the world may believe.' ■



BiCentenary

God Offers New Life In Christ

*Isn't it
wonderful
to be winning
souls!*



The Golf Church offering in Luanda, Angola

That the World may believe the good news that God cares enough, is concerned enough, loves enough to reach out through Jesus Christ to touch and change the lives of women and men the world over is at the heart of all missionary activity.

In these pages we hope to show how this is achieved in many different ways – through development, educational, and health work for instance, each revealing through the service of faithful, committed Christians the compassion of a God who weeps with those who weep, who suffers with those who are hurt and who stands to the point of death with those who are oppressed.

However preaching, evangelising, making disciples, baptising and planting churches are central to this work. In every area of BMS partnership with overseas Christians it is a joy to report on how men and women are coming to faith in Christ.





Learning to work in a time of peace

THE EVANGELICAL Baptist Church in Angola (IEBA) can now look at its work and plan for the future from within a country which is at peace for the first time in over 30 years.

In some ways this may be more difficult than during the civil war when churches were packed to overflowing and new work was established around Luanda, the capital. Pastors, who because of the troubles have had to stay in Luanda, are returning to various towns and villages in the north. Plans have been approved for a new church in the centre of Luanda and for a new IEBA headquarters.

Pastor Aniage is heading up work in Cabinda province which is separated from the rest of Angola by that part of Zaire which reaches towards the sea. This is a former area of BMS work.

IEBA chartered a plane to fly choirs, bands and members to Cabinda when ten

pastors were ordained. They wanted to show the church there that they were part of something bigger than themselves. Over 7,000 people were in the stadium that day, including several government representatives.

In Luanda Norte, work is progressing slowly. There is a need for more trained pastors in the area.

The Baptist Theological Seminary, which is now based in Luanda, is busily training leaders to take up the new opportunities now facing the church. It has 16 students, but the total student community, when wives and children are added, is 86.

As it plans for the future, IEBA is looking for an intensification of the Community Health programme, establishing agricultural work in the north and promoting primary education.

We join with Christians in Angola as they rejoice and praise God that hostilities have ceased. We also join them as they pray for the practical working out of the cease-fire agreement and that church leaders may have wisdom in dealing with state authorities. ■



Christians looking forward with hope and commitment in Angola

A real character



Vince and Sadie McDougall

Right: Thousands are coming to faith in Nepal

VINCENT and Sadie MacDougall describe their co-worker at Cacoal in the Brazilian state of Rondônia as a 'real character'.

The biography of Jadir would be a best seller. During his 14 years as the Cacoal Baptist Church Evangelist, working in the Amazon jungle, he has been surrounded by Indians, chased by snakes and jaguars, worn out bicycles, motorbikes and cars on the dirt roads and won many souls for Christ.

'Between Jadir and us we have 15 separate groups of Christians to care for. The total number of adherents is about 500.

'In 1991 we opened up three new works. They are all on Lines — the dirt roads constructed every four kilometres to open up the interior of our state, Rondônia.

'On Line 5, about 40 kilometres from Cacoal, we were called to the death bed of a man who had suffered a type of stroke which had paralysed him. He was only able to move his eyelashes. He afterwards said that he was only conscious of his heart beating. After much prayer we took him to a very experienced chemist who advised a course of vitamin injections. After five months he was up and able to walk. Although still very weak he is improving.

'We had a special prayer meeting in his house with 30 neighbours present. We were able to preach the gospel. The man, whose name is Vicente, and his brother Jose, trusted in Christ. We are confident that their families will follow, Vicente's house is our new preaching point.

'Two Baptist families moved into an area on Line 7B, one of them backslidden. After meeting with them for fellowship and worship, the backslidden family returned to the Lord.

'From both families a total of four people asked for baptism and we had a special river baptismal service with 180 of the local inhabitants attending. Between the families we have ten members and at least 40 adherents from the area.

'Last May we visited a family on Line 144, about 80 kilometres from Cacoal. They were very discouraged, feeling cut off and unwanted. After visiting in the area we found other Christians in a similar situation, without spiritual help.

'A Methodist family gave us land and we built a six by six metre wooden church. There are now 30 members and upwards of 100 attend when we visit. They have asked



for training in singing and prayer. We officially opened this work in November.

'The quote of the year must be the words of Jadir, who on a return journey from leading a man to Christ said: 'Isn't it wonderful to be winning souls!' ■

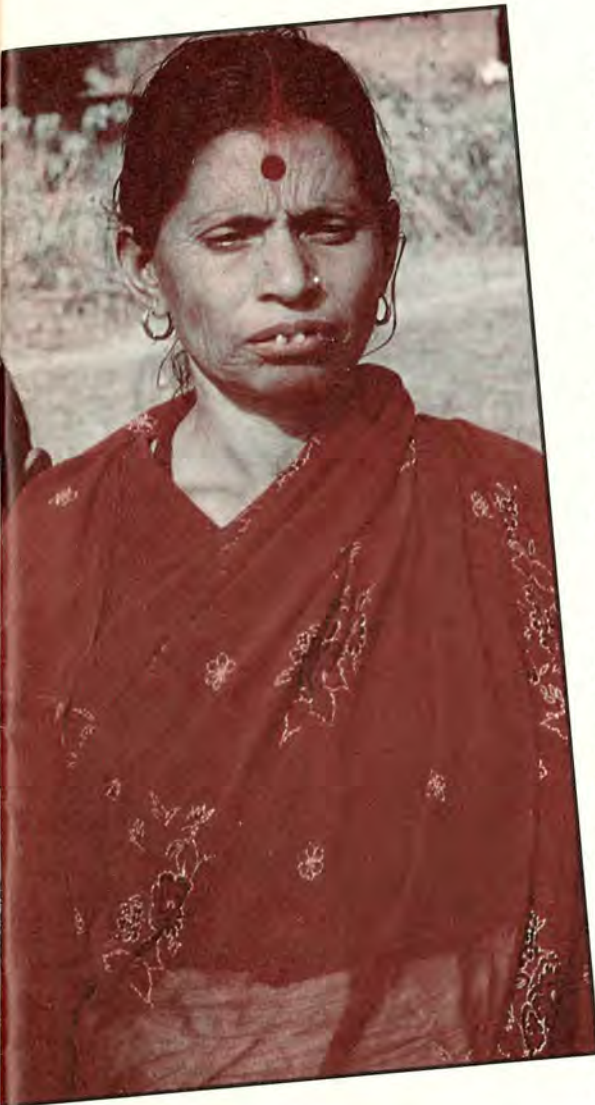


Young French Baptists

Pascal and Graciète

PASCAL WAS a silent, unobtrusive member of the Baptist Church in Versailles, France. However, he went out doing questionnaires with the BMS Summer Team of young people and now continues on Saturday afternoons with one or two other members of the youth group.

Pascal got an article into the local newspaper about a concert with John Featherstone linked with a team from Spurgeon's College. The summer of 1991



was big for Pascal. It began with his winning a prize as the most promising young artist in an important exhibition. He went on a Christian summer school. Then came the BMS team.

He was one of several young people who had the encouragement of seeing friends and family come to the concert. A couple of them asked to begin Bible study as a result.

The John Featherstone concert was a great success. 'A very clear message in perfect French and with very relevant songs,' said Robert Atkins. 'We didn't know how many people to expect, but in the end there were getting on for 100. At least one person became a Christian, Nathalie, a university student of English. She has been a faithful attender at church and at the midweek Bible study.'

'She is a close friend of Graciète who is excited by the conversion of her friend and is looking very much for the same with another. Graciète is hoping to begin a Bible

study group at her secondary school but is having difficulties with the school administration because of the secular nature of education in France. Still, school Bible groups do exist and the young people seem to be learning that difficulties can be overcome.'

Nathalie and a longstanding attender at the church, Rosemarie, were baptised in February. ■

Healing through prayer

THE CHURCH in Nepal has been busy evangelising since the new-found freedom of democracy.

'No one is quite sure whether freedom of religion will continue once Nepal's laws are drawn up,' report Andrew and Linda Mason. 'We have been encouraged to hear of many baptisms taking place. The joy and commitment of Nepali Christians is always wonderful to see.'

According to Ed Metzler, Executive Director of the United Mission to Nepal, the Church is growing in many places.

'The growth creates a great need for trained leadership who can teach and nurture the new believers. The UMN Board has agreed to find ways to provide more scholarship and other assistance to the training of Christian leaders and to enable more Christians to take their place in society in technical and professional roles.'

'The Nepal Christian Fellowship has responded to a request for development assistance from a group of Tamangs in a remote and very poor area where perhaps 15,000 persons have recently identified themselves with the Christian faith. It is a fascinating story of how healing through prayer in Jesus' name has become the basis by which thousands have taken the first step in believing.'

'A six month feasibility study is being conducted to determine the best approach. The project is being carried out by NCF with a senior Nepali staff member from UMN. UMN is able to do this because of the legal provision for Nepali groups to register with the government as a Non Government Organisation (NGO) to carry out development activities. These organisations can then receive technical assistance and funding from an international NGO like UMN.'

'For the first time in Nepal, a Christian group has been recognised by the government, making it possible for UMN to work legally with the Church.' ■

**NEW
Life**

When do they give Christmas Presents again?

BMS WORKERS in Europe have discovered a ministry amongst the many immigrants who have come as refugees from political 'persecution' or in search of a better life.

Not yet fluent in Flemish, Joyce and Stuart Filby are not yet in a position to communicate effectively with the local Belgian population, but this has not prevented them from reaching a number of others.

'We met a chemist who was going on holiday to Tibet with his family and we have continued contact by visiting to see their holiday photographs and lending them some video tapes on Tibet. They are Buddhists.

'We also made friends with two young men who are political refugees from Togoland and Zaire and had the joy of leading them to the Lord. The son of a Protestant minister also gave his life to the Lord and his girlfriend, who was once a JW, has since found Christ and now worships with us each week.

'Just recently we met little Jonathan, age seven, whose parents were from Zaire. His mother came to Belgium where Jonathan was born and then died leaving the father unable to leave Zaire and his son unable to return. He was brought up by his uncle but has been put out of the home by the uncle's new wife and now stays with a friend.

'We took him to the church Christmas concert and his eyes almost fell out when all the children, including himself, received a Christmas present. It was his first in seven years! The following Sunday he came to Sunday School and quickly made friends. His only question was, "When do they give out Christmas presents again?"' ■

Initiatives in Evangelism

RUTH BERRY is encouraged by news of the growing church in Nepal.

In Barpak the group of believers are led by an elderly man, who became a Christian whilst serving in the British army. In Talajung there's been a mixture of close contact with Christians from Amp Pipal, and many from there having been 'in

service' out of the village.

There was some very exciting news from Saurpani a few months ago. Somebody returning from Nagaland — North-east India — and sharing his faith with the village people there, has had amazing effect. The *jankri* (spirit healer) confessed that his 'power' was often one big con, and he turned to the one he recognised as having true power.



Above and right: A growing church community in Nepal



Ruth Berry

Were others influenced by his decision? Surely it had to be more than that, for over 150 people to change so radically. Does Satan have spiritual power in a place, vested in certain individuals? If that power is bound by the person turning to Christ, then the Holy Spirit is free to move and work in that area.

I don't know what happened in Saurpani, in terms of the spiritual battle, but I do feel encouraged and excited by the news from there.

In Changley too there have been encouraging reports recently. So much of our news is second, third or fourth hand, gradually over a period of time a story builds up, and the picture becomes clearer.

Lamagara is a community of Tamang Christians who have faithfully practised the gospel for some years. Often taking in people from other villages who have been rejected, perhaps because they were thought to have evil spirits, and were bringing bad luck on the community. The Lamagara church would take them in, love and support them back to health and mental wholeness, whilst sharing the gospel in words as well as actions.

In this new era of democracy, and freedom, it seems that they too are speaking out into surrounding areas, taking the initiatives in evangelism. ■



God Cares

It has been a privilege to share in the Christian community's response to help those of other faiths who have been rendered homeless.

That people may believe that God cares. In this modern world so many people appear to be at the mercy of forces beyond their control.

Global economics seem to benefit those who have to the detriment of the underdeveloped regions of the world. The ordinary person suffers as prices rise and money loses its value. Children die as the cost of food and medicine soars way above what families can afford.

Political oppression and the struggle towards freedom have marked several of the countries where BMS has been working. Missionaries have had to grapple with the question of when it is right to stand alongside people and when it is right to leave a country, albeit for a short time.

The mark of God's mission of love is the incarnation – the Son of God came to live amongst human beings, sharing their lives, touching their sorrows, facing what they had to face. You can't do mission at a distance. Around the world BMS workers are at the frontline of mission, where the needs are being felt by people, identifying themselves with them in Christ's name.





Cyclone damage to lives and property in Bangladesh

After the Storm

SUE HEADLAM was on Home Assignment when the cyclone hit Bangladesh last April. She quickly offered to return to see what help she could give.

Dhaka City was as normal, but as we flew down to Chittagong we could see vast areas of blackened, destroyed land, remains of shredded trees, and salt water flooding once prosperous rice fields.

On the way to Chittagong a large ship blocked one road and one can hardly imagine the force of the tidal wave that

could carry it there. Ship's containers were 200 yards inland having been blown ashore and, as they lay open and looted, families were making them into homes.

There were lines of tents and makeshift homes arranged by American marines as temporary shelters for the thousands of homeless families. The city was a mess and looked as though it had been at war.

I had a lovely welcome back to Chandraghona and as I climbed the hill to my house was amazed to see the nurses' hostel roof 50 yards away in the top of some teak trees. Many houses and buildings were roofless and many more in the villages reduced to pathetic outlines of huts.

The month was busy but extremely



The hostel roof blown onto teak trees

fulfilling. One of my roles was to co-ordinate some of the relief activities. We have rebuilt many homes in the area and have secured a grant to rebuild the houses of many weavers who lost everything.

There has been a lovely team spirit and business colleagues in Chittagong have donated many things including 10,000 bars of soap to help with skin problems following prolonged contact with sea water, 3,000 bottles of Penicillin syrup for children, and clothes.

The Chandraghona weaving section was not damaged, the wind going through the open chain-linked walls which saved us losing the roof. One bonus was that a German group gave us a large order for clothes to be made with our cloth for their relief operation.

At the end of my month back there Chandraghona was rebuilt and almost back to normal. The scene on the coastal islands and in Cox's Bazar is very different. The destruction goes on for mile after mile and rehabilitation and development will be a long process.

It has been a privilege to share in the Christian community's response to help those of other faiths who have been rendered homeless. ■

Identify with People

PHIL COMMONS, who works as a physiotherapist at Chandraghona, says that she continues to be shocked by the deep poverty she sees in Bangladesh.

A lot of repair work has occurred following the cyclone but still amongst the poorest there is much to be done.

In the leprosy hospital my work is interesting and challenging. Part of the challenge is to teach the older cases to care for themselves and to value themselves as people in a society where they have been ostracised because of deformity.

An even greater challenge is the health education of the younger cases especially aimed at prevention of deformity.

On the spiritual front there are lots of opportunities also and it's good to be able to link with a very keen Christian doctor here, Dr Reba Macfield, and plan Bible studies and think and pray how we can best use these opportunities.

I love Oswald Chamber's comment where he says 'Our Lord has told us how love to Him is to manifest itself. "Lovest thou me?" "Feed my sheep" ie, identify yourself with my interests in other people.' ■

Things are Changing

THE REVOLUTION in Nepal, with the breaking down of the old order, and the start towards the new, is still relatively recent. But there's been a new constitution, an election, and a new government. 'However,' writes Ruth Berry, 'the problems of poverty, suffering and oppression cannot be redressed so quickly.'

In the hospital we seem to have a constant stream of people with devastating stories to tell.

There is Dil Kumari, with a fractured spine. How can she go home to a village house, with one room downstairs, a narrow doorway and a high veranda? The family already owe Rs 40,000 in debts, from getting their three daughters married, and the three sons range from three years to 14 years old.

Krishna came to the hospital having had an argument with his neighbour about land. The neighbour cursed Krishna, and he's come because he is being tormented by evil spirits.

Lal Gurung was in a short while ago with a fractured femur. Whilst he was in hospital his wife gave birth to a child, then he heard that another of his children had been sick, and died at home.

What can the government do to help these people? What can we do at Amp Pipal hospital to help them?

Lal Gurung had several weeks of traction, so we sent him off with careful instructions of how to continue his traction at home, and he was gingerly carried in a hammock suspended on a pole the two days to his village.

Krishna's sister's husband turned up to visit and heard that he'd had teaching about Jesus. He said that if it was prayer to Jesus that was needed then he would take him back to his village, because many of the families in the area were receiving teaching from Lammagara, a Christian community near them, who were reaching out to some 200 households in the vicinity.

Last week, Isobel, a physiotherapist out on a work visit from Kathmandu; Prem, one of our nurse aides; and I went to visit Dil Kumari's home. The family had some good ideas as to how she could return there to live, and between us we could see a way ahead, a far from easy route.

Things can, and are, changing in Nepal, though for many the changes are not coming as quickly as they would like. Many throughout the country still feel themselves to be trapped in the net of poverty, hardship and oppression. ■

cares

Being with People

IT IS EXCITING to be with people who are discovering the Bible for the first time, and seeing the relevance to their own lives,' report Mike and Daveen Wilson who work in north-east Brazil.

'We offered a prize of a Bible storybook to children who could memorise the Ten Commandments. Within the week, four of them had managed it – not one of them can read.

'Last year we were excited to find we were expecting a baby. Sadly, in April we found out our baby had died and Daveen had to go into hospital. This was one occasion when we felt the prayers of those we managed to contact. They were like a warm

It was an example of the love of Christ constraining hearts to serve Him.

We made contact with hundreds of families of the community, many of whom had never been to an evangelical church in their lives. As a follow-up to the medical team's visit, Sheila is now installing a dispensary in the church, where for a few afternoons a week she will be giving medical and spiritual aid to the needy. It has been her aim for a long time but now we are seeing it come to fruition.

Through her contacts Sheila has gained the confidence and recognition of the directors of the large local hospital and is able to refer patients who need hospital treatment, without a whole lot of 'red tape'. For this new venture we ask for your prayers. ■

Against the Stream

IF YOU'RE IN a canoe you must all paddle in the same direction.' This was the advice given by the Headmaster at a staff meeting in Bolobo, reports Elizabeth Baker.

In some things it seems I've been paddling in the same direction as others, but in other areas it's been one long struggle against the current.

On the school front the problem of Deputy Head was temporarily resolved by me! I've had very little spare time. I have been working all day and all evening (catching up on a backlog of work, supervising the afternoon school, covering for the Préfet who was ill and teaching 27 out of 30 lessons in the morning).

Exam week was incredible. This time I was in charge and so was able to show the other teachers how exams could be organised. I typed and printed off all the exam papers and collated them all. Thus we were able to mix up the classes.

Very little cheating took place, and that which did was easily detected. As one walked around the school, it was silent! That in itself was a complete turn around. Usually there is a lot of noise as few teachers take the exams seriously.

The State Exams have been continually delayed and at last it seems they'll happen two months later than usual. This is a blessing in disguise as the teachers have been able to finish their syllabus and the pupils have had time to revise.

We've also just obtained the document which authorises our afternoon school, thus it shouldn't be long before we can recruit more teachers who will be entitled to a salary. That should make things easier for



The vulnerability of childhood in Brazil

wall holding us up and giving us courage to see the positive in the midst of grief.

'In the same month an epidemic killed almost every baby under a year old in Trapiá. It was a sad, sad time for us all and we sometimes felt we couldn't stand any more death. Because of our own experience, though, we could offer comfort to others, and they were more able to open up to us.' ■



Sheila Brown

Medical and Spiritual Aid

Last year a team of doctors, dentists and nurses from South Carolina in the USA came to the church in Rio de Janeiro, where David and Sheila Brown work, and gave of themselves and their talents to serve the community over a period of four days.

next year. But please pray for a new Deputy Head. I don't feel it's right to do it for just a few months. It's better that a Zairian does it. I can help, encourage and support whoever does it, but I feel the local people need to learn to accept responsibilities themselves.

Another worthwhile activity was the in-service training course I did at Easter.



Twelve teachers participated coming from as far away as 100km. I've seen and overheard things I taught there being used, which is encouraging. My next task is to train someone to take over from me when I leave. ■

Crying Freedom in Zaire

BULLETS ARE FLYING around the compound. Most shots pass either outside the compound area or overhead, but one bullet comes through a family's sitting-room. The missionaries are sitting together in one room. In other parts of the city expatriates stand outside and watch their houses being gutted by looters.

The mutiny is being organised by soldiers.

On the second day French and Belgian paratroopers move into Kinshasa. They hope to regain control of the city 'in order to protect expatriates'. As soon as the way is clear thousands of expats leave Kinshasa and Zaire. The BBC World Service begins broadcasting Foreign Office advice for all non-essential staff to leave. Later, as the trouble spreads throughout the whole country, they advise all British nationals to leave Zaire immediately.

Do we leave, or do we stay? Because of our BMS parentage national church leaders are reluctant to advise strongly either way, but affirm their support for whatever decision is taken. BMS headquarters staff are not in a position, 5,000 miles away, to direct either; but they too affirm support for whatever decision is taken.

To go may seem to leave the Church on its own. Would it also reflect a loss of identity with the Zairian people? What would be the right motive for staying? Should missionaries ever leave? To stay might endanger or embarrass national Christians and use up food stocks. Might it also reflect a 'guilt' motivation? What do we do?

The above events have caused many in the church to ask questions about their own role both in the past and the present. Have they given the impression of colluding with the government? Should they take a firmer stand for truth and righteousness?

The missionary too is forced to ask questions both inwardly and of the church in Zaire and in Britain in seeking to identify with Christians at all levels of society in the name of Christ. ■



The civil unrest in Zaire has caused a missionary evacuation, pain, heartache and many questions

God Suffers

For and With His

When
one part of the
body hurts, the
whole body
feels the pain.

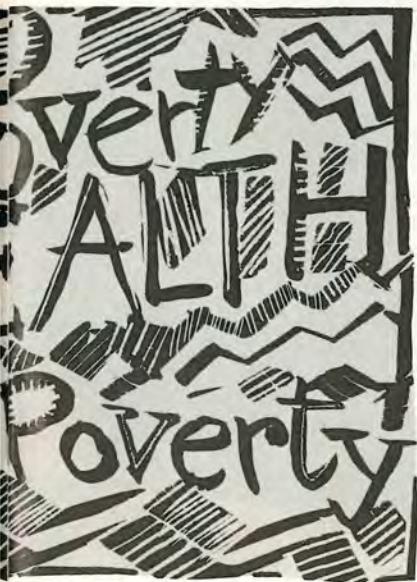


The Cross is more than a Christian symbol. It holds up, for all the world to see, the suffering heart of God who feels deeply the hurt of women and men wherever they may be. It shouts loudly of the willingness of Jesus to suffer and die for the redemption of the world. It tells plainly of the cost of discipleship as Jesus shows His wounded hands and side to us and says, 'As the Father has sent me so I send you.'

And that last one is hard for us. We admire those who are prepared to share the sufferings of people, for whatever reason. We are prepared to talk about, preach about and pray for those who are prepared to accept the full cost of discipleship. But when Jesus calls on us to enter into His wounds, to feel the pain, then that's different.

When one part of the body hurts, the whole body feels the pain. As part of Christ's world-wide body, the Church, it is our privilege to feel the pain of so many parts.

People



When you can't see where it hurts –

'feel the pain and pray,' says Carolyn Green.

ONLY WHEN an unseen part of our body starts playing up and causing disruption to our daily lives does it become the most important thing to us. The hitherto ignored organ becomes the number one item in our conversation.

Initially our friends are interested but after a very short time it becomes very boring and then totally embarrassing. When we need surgery, interest rises again, because everyone, especially our friends, are fascinated by the thought of someone else's suffering. They are just as quickly bored and move onto something else.

However, the pain continues and the convalescence may well take some considerable time. During convalescence, references to the problem are met with kind and pitying looks and the rapid desire to change the subject.

All this really does have something to do with the Zaïre problem. It's a problem in one of the ignored parts of the world which has been rumbling like a chronic illness for many years. A problem aggravated by the cynical exploitation of one man's desires for unlimited power and fortune and equally cynical and avaricious foreign powers.

Many people, and not least those of us working as overseas colleagues with the Zaïrian church, have talked much about our 'illness'. But like the unseen organ in your body, you've found it hard to 'feel' the problem. It hasn't caused you much grief.

Then for a few brief days, the world was aware of Zaïre. The reaction to the violence and economic murder of Zaïre was immediate – memories of the birth pangs of independence surfaced and Zaïre became news. Listening to the radio reports, one almost felt tempted to believe that it would have been 'better news' if there had been a slaughter or racial violence and not simply the devastation of the country's infrastructure.

Many foreigners fled. Many left unwillingly, but on the advice of companies, embassies or missions. Many Zaïrians also fled, but only those with the economic means to do so. Many missionaries and aid workers stayed, initially because trouble had not reached them, or because their work and commitment did not permit them to leave. Gradually they too felt obliged to leave, to protect their local colleagues.

The acute phase is past for the moment.

We anticipate more crises. But the eye of the world, which for a brief time was focused on the pain of Zaïre, has been distracted to other, equally sad situations. Interest has moved on.

Yet another medical parallel can be drawn, that of referred pain. After surgery, the wound may be healing, there may be some local discomfort, but there may very well be referred pain. You've heard about it as people describe the onset of a heart attack – an acute pain radiating down the arm because the heart is under stress. Unbearable pain in the shoulder because the diaphragm is irritated.

Those of us who know a little of Zaïre's sickness, who have experienced the acute phase of looting, violence and fear, who have experienced the surgery of seeing the country destroyed in the power struggle and who have now been displaced to watch from the sidelines, we are in pain. Like referred pain, the place is not the same, but the pain is real.

We know the church will suffer as it stands against corruption; having to confess her own past involvement and cleansing herself from association with an unjust state.



Pain, confession and cleansing in Zaïre

Prayer made the difference

▼ This is pain: we know that millions will be hungry as those in the cities who cannot grow food wait in vain for the produce from the countryside.

This is pain: we know that thousands will die, as the plundered pharmacies can no longer supply simple cures for malaria.

This is pain: we know that many will grieve when they at last hear the news of families, separated because they cannot travel. And students overseas cannot know if their parents and brothers are alive.

This is pain: we know that children will die because the carefully conserved vaccines cannot be distributed — fuel is unavailable and cold chains (to keep vaccines cool) are disrupted because of theft and vandalism.

This is pain: those with diabetes will die because there is no more insulin. Men, women and children with AIDS will be uncared for because they are expendable in the struggle for survival. Those with TB will die because their drug therapy will be interrupted, but not before they have unwittingly infected other members of their family.

Do you feel the pain yet?

During our last five weeks in Zaïre, we experienced many wonderful things. God seemed very close to us and the scriptures jumped into life. Verses read on the identical calendar day a year before with little meaning, held vibrant truths for us. In the midst of fear, and it was truly frightening, we experienced a sense of calm.

I would not wish that time on my least favourite person from the human point of view. But living those weeks with God's perspective, it became rich. Why? We believed during that time people were praying. Those who not only read the horrors in the national press and then forgot; but those who prayed daily for Zaïre and for us, they made the difference.

When we returned to the UK we discovered that people had been praying for specific things and people, on the days when these prayers were most needed. What joy for them to discover their prayers had been answered! What a boost for us to know our faith in your prayers had not been in vain. We have an awesome God.

So how can you help from far away the convalescence which will be long and slow and fraught with relapses? You too can pray. Feel the pain — pray. ■

What if you can't do a good job?

MY WITNESS as a Christian missionary should be to carry out the task given to me in the most professional way possible,' writes Dr Adrian Hopkins, from Pimu, Zaïre.

But what if you cannot do a good job? This is one of the questions that has been worrying me over the last two years. Zaïre is in political and economic chaos. Most missionaries and other expatriates have been evacuated. We do not know when or if we will be going back. But the economic situation has not come about suddenly.

Over the last two years at Pimu we have had to resort to refusing treatment if people cannot pay. How do you tell that to a patient and then say you are there to show the love of God by your actions? What hypocrites we are forced to be.

Three-quarters of a million pounds were



Now is the time for peace. Reconstruction and reconciliation are the key words on many lips right now.

found to build a new hospital, but few are prepared to give regularly so that our running costs can be covered. We appreciate the contribution from the BMS, the CBM, the Leprosy Mission and US AID who do help us with our running expenses but these are insufficient to cover the needs of a population living at subsistence level. Lack of staff means that we do too much and nothing properly.

We get tired and take the easy way out. Patients die as a result. Square that one with your professional conscience. Why do the rich Christians of Europe and North America not care enough to give of their time, skills and money to help? Why do we enjoy all our cassettes of Christian music, our Christian literature, our retreats and conferences when a pastor in Zaïre will probably only go to one or two retreats in his life and whilst his lay workers out in the villages will only have the Bible in their second language?

The answer is a difficult one, but if everyone did something the total would be remarkable. Someone has said that there is no lack of money for God's work, it's getting it out of Christian pockets that is the problem. Could the same be said of all the Christian work waiting to be done?

These questions may have challenged me during a very difficult last two years but as I look back over 17 years I can only say the work has often been hard and challenging, the frustrations many, the living conditions at times a bit difficult, the salary a pittance compared to what I could have earned back in the UK, but the job has been giving bonuses in so many other ways. Job satisfaction is enormous. Would you expect anything different if you are doing God's will in your life?

So many people seem surprised to hear that actually we enjoy life. Missionary work is so rewarding, exciting and enjoyable. Whether or not it is back to Pimu in 1992 I hope God does not ask me to stay in Britain!

Relief Fund

THE BMS RELIEF FUND enables the Society to respond quickly to emergency needs without having to wait for money to come in from special appeals to the churches. The Fund is quickly topped up as churches hear of the way it is being used.

Over the past 12 months we have been able to send £10,000 worth of insulin to Bulgaria to treat diabetic children and £10,000 to help in Albanian and Yugoslavian refugee work.

Money has gone to Bangladesh and India for cyclone relief, to Brazil for work amongst street children, to El Salvador to help a displaced community moved from their rubbish tip settlement, and to Angola, Mozambique and Zaïre to help in a variety of emergency projects related to the sufferings of people because of civil war and economic chaos. More than £100,000 has been used in this way in just over 12 months. ■

A Time for Peace, Reconstruction and Reconciliation

AFTER A VISIT to Central America at the end of 1991, David Martin, BMS Representative for Central America, reported:

'Both Nicaragua and El Salvador have endured more than their fair share of suffering and hardship in recent years. Tens of thousands in each country have been killed. Countless more have been maimed or scarred. More than a million people have been displaced. The overwhelming majority live in poverty.'

They have passed through the tragic turmoil when they experienced 'a time to kill . . . to break down . . . to weep . . . to mourn . . . to hate, and a time of war'.

Now is the time for peace. Reconstruction and reconciliation are the key words on many lips right now.

As the people of El Salvador rejoice in the signing of a peace accord the churches are preparing for the task of helping to rebuild a country and standing by people as they seek to re-establish their lives, working in every way for a peace that will last.

For Carlos Sanchez, Executive Secretary of the Baptist Association of El Salvador (ABES), celebrations began in Mexico, on 16 January. Carlos, with two other ABES pastors, was invited to attend as the UN mediated peace accord was signed by the Salvadoran government and its opposition, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). They were unanimous in acclaiming the prophetic significance of the moment.

Public celebrations drowned out church bells as thousands of people packed San Salvador's central square, both when the accord was signed and when the ceasefire took effect, on 1 February.

Central to the accord is the demilitarization of society. This includes halving the armed forces and disbanding the three

After years of tragic turmoil, now is the time for peace in El Salvador

Suffers

'security forces', the National Guard, National Police and Treasury Police. The FMLN also agreed to disarm and become a political party. Both groups will retrain some members to form a National Civil Police Force.

These changes will be supported by constitutional and judicial reforms, including the vital one of land reform. They will happen, mostly, during a nine-month transition period (1 February-31 October), monitored by an all-party Salvadoran commission and the UN. Salvadorans themselves, however, will be the greatest guarantee as, being freed from fear, they face the challenge of re-shaping their nation.

Images from Mary's song, the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) are widely recognised. The pregnancy is announced and, like Elizabeth, many of the sister nations in Latin America have felt the movement of joyous anticipation. The pregnancy, like any other, needs constant attention and support if the October birth is to be all it can be. Some still found it hard to be optimistic after many betrayals, and the risks are high.

As BMS celebrates 200 years of missionary endeavour, Latin America marks 500 years since the arrival of Columbus. Years which, for the majority, have meant slavery, financial and human exploitation, and the transformation of what was one of the world's richest areas into what we now often call 'the poor world'. The significance of El Salvador's opportunity is not lost on our Salvadoran Baptist partners. It could prove to be the first time in 50 years that the majority of Salvadorans will be heard and be able to play a genuine part in determining their country's identity and future.

Pray that it may be so. Give thanks for the privilege of attending the birth. ■

Fighting to Survive

1 991 will go down as one of the hardest years the people of Brazil have faced,' writes David Perry.

1992 promises little better. The recession is biting, unemployment is rising, and inflation is back to 25 per cent a month. There is no unemployment benefit. Hospitals are overfull and lack drugs.

In such circumstances violence and crime are rocketing. The rich suffer little, and build higher walls and fences to protect their homes.

Kidnapping of businessmen and their sons and daughters are weekly events and make the headlines. Yet the suffering of the poor goes unrecorded. In a school in São

Paulo three teenagers were shot dead. Someone wanted their tennis shoes!

In the same city 450 street children have been eliminated by gangs of assassins, paid for by rich shop owners and hotel keepers. No one has been arrested. The killers are mainly drawn from the Police.

In Paraná too these are the tears of oppressed, homeless, jobless families, who seem to have no one but God on their side. Wandering from town to town in search of work they're treated worse than animals — low wages and houses which barely keep out the rain.

Small farmers struggle against a harsh climate, poor soil and low prices. Wages have fallen so much that vegetables here are a luxury and meat has almost vanished off the menu. Farmers thus find their crops unwanted.

Bowing to external pressures, President Collor has decreed that no more Atlantic forest can be cut. Farmers who cut down trees to plant maize and black beans are fined. Those caught hunting, say Armadillo or Toucan, are imprisoned for two years or more. Yet the rich destroy the forest and hunt with impunity.

In Cedro, 300 hectare farms have been cleared. Owners want the wood and then abandon the land. Power is on the side of the oppressor. Against such a background, who cares for the abandoned child, forced into crime, gunned down in the night?

Yet God cares, He cared so much that He sent His Son, to be born into poverty, to die, to be nailed on a cross. Because He suffered, He knows what it's like to be alone, abandoned, fighting to survive in the jungle of the city.

We thank God that through His call, your prayers and generous giving we can offer Christ's comfort to people. We have the treasure of the Lord's Word to share, and the power of prayer to transform lives. As agriculturalists we can offer practical skills which should make a difference, providing more food on the dinner table and an inheritance of fertile land to pass on.

God often answers prayers in marvellous ways. A pastor asked Alcindo, 'If God could bless your family with one thing what would it be?'

'A cow,' came the reply. 'A cow would give milk, we could make butter and make a reasonable living selling the milk.'

We prayed, 'Father in your mercy send Alcindo a cow.' Three days later it arrived! A business man has a small farm, near Alcindo's. He comes down once or twice a month. He bought a cow and gave it to Alcindo to look after. He just wants some milk when he is in the area. ■





BMS

FINANCIAL REPORT *IN BRIEF*

First the good news. BMS ended its financial year with a surplus in income over expenditure of £7,074!

And now the bad news. Church giving decreased over the previous year.

How can this be? A massive increase in legacy income – from money left in wills – of £382,000 over the previous year added to our income.

Clearly we are grateful for the surplus but very concerned about the increased dependency on legacies.

During the year, our reserves – the money kept prudently in hand to cover unforeseen circumstances – was enhanced by the sale of the remaining BMS premises in Gloucester Place, London.

Arthur Garman, BMS Treasurer says, 'How do we feel about the financial results? We have finished with the small surplus, and for that we should be very thankful.

'We did, however, miss our appeal target of a 10 per cent increase by a very large margin and this should cause us concern,

especially since we are asking for a 9.5 per cent increase this year, and asking for £2 million over and above that for the Bi-Centenary Fund for the Future.

'Legacies are always very welcome and have made a great difference this year. But it is difficult

to know how to budget realistically when we can never be sure if legacies will be £900,000 or £400,000. If we don't know how much income to expect then how can we fix a definite budget?

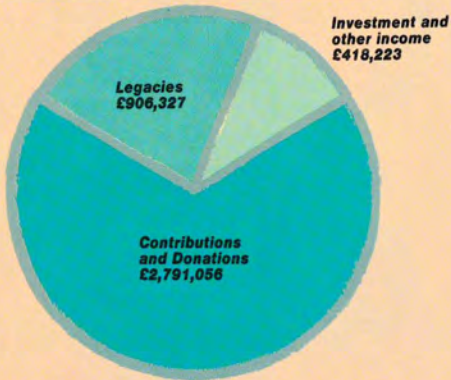
'We really must try and reach the appeal target each year.'



Distributing relief aid in Bangladesh

WHERE DID THE MONEY COME FROM?

BMS Income 1990/91



- Direct giving by the churches was down by 1% compared with the previous year.
- There was a 73% increase in income from legacies during 1990/91.
- Income from investments showed a healthy increase and provided 10% of our income.
- Although income was £7,074 greater than expenditure we missed our appeal target of a 10% increase by a very large margin.
- But for a record increase in legacies of £381,872, the accounts would have shown a substantial deficit.

| |
|-----------------------------|
| |
| |
| Contributions and donations |
| Legacies |
| Investment and other income |
| |
| Total Income |



HOW WAS IT SPENT?

BMS Expenditure 1990/91



- Over £2.5m was spent on overseas work including training and missionary retirement costs.
- 18% of our income was invested in recruitment of missionaries, promotion and education in World Mission, including BiCentenary expenses of £42,350.
- General administration, though less than in the previous year, accounted for 19.7% of expenditure, although this included HQ relocation of £13,814.
- Missionary retirement costs, which includes accommodation and pensions, required 3% of our budget.
- We have finished the year with a small surplus compared with a massive deficit of £482,540 the previous year.

| |
|--|
| |
| |
| Missionary support grants to overseas churches and other |
| Training missionaries and overseas personnel |
| Missionary retirement costs |
| Education, promotion, recruitment |
| Administration |
| Total expenditure |
| Deficit/surplus |

FINANCIAL REPORT IN BRIEF

| | 31.10.90 | 31.10.91 |
|--------|------------|------------|
| | £ | £ |
| ations | 2,810,755 | 2,791,056 |
| | 524,455 | 906,327 |
| come | 307,424 | 418,223 |
| | £3,642,634 | £4,115,606 |



| | 31.10.90 | 31.10.91 |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| ts to overseas xpenses | 2,249,816 | 2,213,624 |
| id | 202,352 | 226,256 |
| osts | 151,658 | 118,556 |
| recruitment | 651,078 | 739,821 |
| | 870,270 | 810,275 |
| | 4,125,174 (482,540) | 4,108,532 7,074 |
| | £3,642,634 | £4,115,606 |

ts – the full accounts are available on application.)



WHY GIVE?

Our stewardship of God's resources

As Christians, we believe that God made people with an inbuilt responsibility for the world's resources and

for each other (Gen 1:26). Our money and possessions are God's blessings for us to share (Rom 15:27). Learning to give and receive in partnership is a virtue which particularly pleases God (Phil 4:14-19).

PLEASE SEND ME MORE INFORMATION ON

GIFT AID

GIVE AS YOU EARN

WILLS AND LEGACIES

SHAREHOLDERS' SCHEME

BIRTHDAY SCHEME

COLLECTING GLOBES

PROJECTS

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PO Box 49, Baptist House,
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The rightness of generous giving

The word charity is borrowed from the Greek word charis which means 'a free gift'. Compassion is foremost among the marks of a Christian (Col 3:12). Jesus Himself emphasised it as a practice which distinguished His followers from others (John 14:34-35; 1 John 4:7-8, 20-21).

Compassion in the light of the Kingdom

Jesus' announcement of the Good News adds another dimension to the call for compassion (Luke 4:18-19). The Kingdom of God contains the future hope that wrongs suffered by the poor, hungry and victimised will be righted (Luke 6:20-21). It would be wrong simply to sit back and wait. We are called to mission — sent out to be like Jesus. We need to give and act in accordance with that commission.

HOW SHOULD WE GIVE?

Giving in Partnership

The BMS believes that partnership between those who provide resources and those who receive them is fundamental. Mission agencies and recipients need to share in the allocation of resources. Giving in partnership enables everyone to contribute their share in bringing in God's Kingdom.

Giving in relationship

Giving is always part of a relationship. It can

emphasise friendship, it can help in meeting common goals like justice and the proclamation of the Good News.

Giving in fairness

Many projects have more appeal than others, partly because they provide easier means of raising money. The majority of needs for which our partner bodies overseas ask our help cannot be instantly solved and may not immediately catch our imagination. Supplying a vehicle is easier to understand than the importance of supporting an accountant or administrator. But we must not forget that our partners know their own priorities and our support is welcomed as an expression of our love and commitment.

We believe that stewardship of our giving involves supporting the whole work of our overseas' partners and should reflect the meeting of needs as they see them rather than as we might prefer them.

GIFT AID

GIFT AID, the government scheme introduced in 1990, has proved to be a very successful way of giving to charities. BMS is no exception.

With £600 being the legal minimum amount, gifts of £52,650 in the first year were transformed to over £70,000 when tax was reclaimed. In July 1992, it is hoped that the minimum level of gift will be reduced to £400, enabling others to join in giving for mission through this valuable scheme. ■

God Sends People



We are told that Carey, when he was trying to convince his contemporaries that Christ's Great Commission was for them and not just the disciples of old, was rebuffed by a senior minister who said that if God wanted to convert other peoples he would do it without Carey's help.

Fortunately Carey didn't listen, for the story of the Bible is the story of how God has chosen and commissioned people to act as his spokespersons and missionaries. From the judges and the prophets right through to John the Baptist, the apostles and the members of the early church we read of the way God uses women and men to tell the world about Himself.

And so it is today. Our personnel department received 330 enquiries last year about Christian service overseas. In that time nine people were accepted by Candidate Board to serve in Zaïre, Nepal and Brazil. God is using people for His work today and if the long list of needs from Albania through to Sri Lanka is to be met many others need to listen for His call.

*So, what
am I doing
in all this?*





The nurture and training of new Christians is vital

Enriched and Challenged

IN NOVEMBER 1991, a group from the Baptist Unions of Scotland, Wales and Great Britain and the BMS, visited the former USSR.

Politically it was in a tense, confused state. It was already obvious that the USSR would disintegrate. Everyone reckoned Mr Gorbachev's days were numbered. Few seemed sure whether Mr Yeltsin could establish stability and economic recovery.

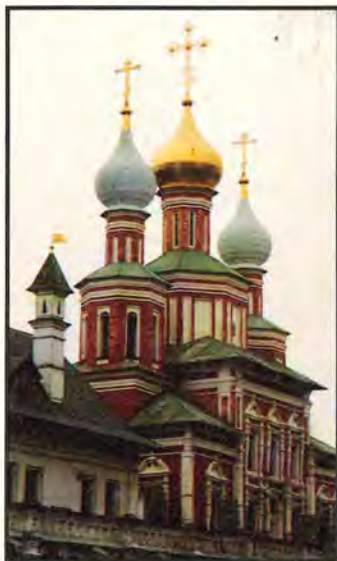
A major concern was whether ethnic groups within the independent republics would be given a fair deal. Many spoke of the potential for the persecution of minorities, violence and bloodshed.

Economically the people were in a sorry state. Basic foodstuffs were scarce. Queues could be seen wherever supplies were available. There was also an urgent need for medical supplies.

In church life the picture is mixed. The Russian Orthodox Church is trying to re-establish its role as the state church. Baptists and others are being marginalised and harassed. Misrepresentation of Protestants is taking place.

Religious and anti-religious movements are sweeping the region. Mormons have three churches in Kiev and one in Moscow. Jehovah Witnesses are proselytising. New Age teaching is spreading and there are signs of moral decadence.

As far as Evangelical churches, like the Baptists, are concerned the situation is confusing. Para-church, interdenominational and independent movements are streaming into the republics causing havoc. Several present a shallow 'believism' that dismisses Russian believers. 'Converts' are drawn away to form housegroups unrelated



The Russian Orthodox Church is trying to re-establish its role as the state church

to existing churches. Some decry the existing church and their leaders.

Others behave more responsibly. Baptist leaders are asking 'which groups do we work with and on what conditions?'

It calls for a reaffirmation of Baptist identity and loyalties if the good work done over many years is not to be undermined. We were impressed by progress among Baptists. Doors have opened for evangelism and social ministries.

Bibles and Christian literature are getting through and there is a big demand. They have access to the radio and television, and are taking advantage of the opportunities.

A programme of church planting is underway. In Moscow there are six Baptist churches whereas formerly there was only one.

The financing of full-time pastors for new churches is urgent. One Moscow church has grown from 60 to 180 members in six months. They meet in a community hall and a school and feel the need for a building of their own, but the costs are high. They believe that the credibility of their witness depends on having an attractive building.

The nurture and training of new Christians is vital. They need help in training a new generation of pastors and leaders. They also require Baptist literature to help in this work.

We were spiritually enriched and challenged by all we experienced. We resolved to encourage closer links with and support for Baptists there. We were able to identify a number of areas where British Baptists, should be able to help. ■

The Forgotten Land

NEW OPPORTUNITIES of service don't always mean new countries. Sometimes they are in countries where BMS already serves, like Brazil, where Margaret Swires has moved to the City of Natal in the North East.

The North East is very different from the Central West, it looks and is the forgotten land. Parts of the interior of the state are now green — once you've seen the areas where the rain (two days this year) didn't fall you would say, 'Well yes it is kind of greenish.'

The drought is causing much suffering and, with no more Government money for milk tickets for under fives, or emergency food baskets or lorries of fresh water, people are on the move and angry.

One Municipal area of the State announced a 400 per cent rise in December

in the infant mortality rate — exact figures (ie. would be higher) are not possible as the rural areas do not provide accurate figures, just more fresh mounds in the cemeteries!

The harsh methods to fight inflation are having drastic effects on the poor, and here in the North East it only aggravates an already bad picture. The tendency is that each person becomes preoccupied with him or herself and this breeds disunity and selfishness. (To be seen especially among the rich who fear losing what they have and will secure it at any cost.)

This picture of the State is not what the average visitor sees, as Natal is world famous for sun (365 days a year), beaches and coconuts. This side of it is very beautiful and the sand dunes separate the city from

two continents, South America and Africa — end of lesson!

Another claim to fame is that Natal has the largest housing estate in South America (or so they say!). As I work on this estate I can assure you that it is enormous and difficult to get around as sand dunes cut it in the middle and at various other points! It is a fairly middle-class estate having poorer areas with, on the outskirts, the inevitable favelas (housing the poorer) which are gradually becoming an integral part of the estate — natural growth?

Near to the entrance of the estate is a small Baptist church, four years old with 47 members; so few to reach so many! But the church is active and has a vision to grow again (it once reached 92 members) for the Glory of God.

So, what am I doing in all this?

I'm leader of Evangelistic Bible Studies, Director of Christian Ministries to the community (social work), Sunday School teacher for nine to eleven and a half, Director of Young People's work 13-35's, visitor/counsellor etc, etc! ■



Margaret Swires

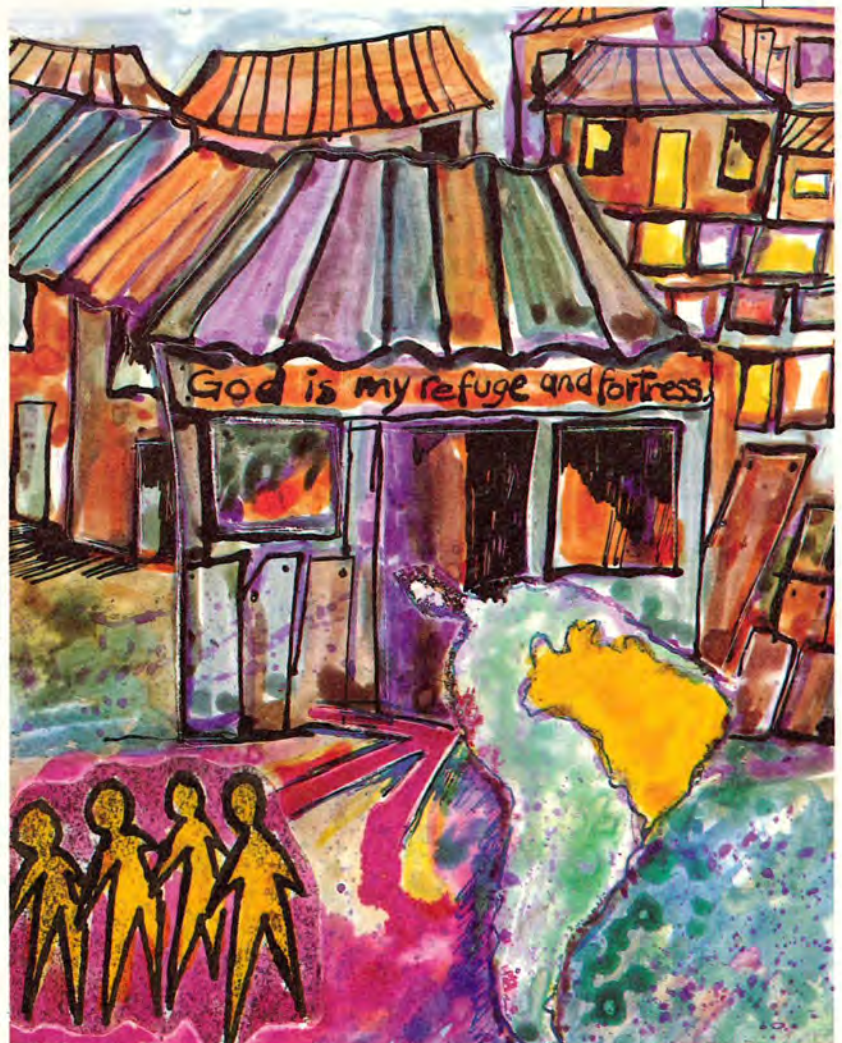


Baptist Church in Natal

the sea so that you can forget that the city is there! Although the temperature is between 31 and 34°C (88-94°F) from 5 am — 5 pm, the lovely sea breeze keeps the temperature bearable. At night, 5 pm — 5 am as we are almost on the Equator, it's just a little cooler and lovely! (I can almost hear the envious, 'Cor, wish I was there' — I have a spare room. . . .)

Natal is situated on a peninsula between the river and the sea, has a population of 700,000 and has large Army, Air Force and Naval bases. These latter help to keep the city going and exist because we are the capital of the State.

But not only for this. Natal is the most easterly city in South America and from here it is the shortest distance between the



BMS Youth Action Teams –

are proving to be a new and vital element in BMS strategy. Wherever they go they are being appreciated by missionaries and local people alike. We now wait for them to come storming back into the life of the home churches.

They have been working in . . .

France . . .

We survived the Olympics and came back with gold medals for tract distribution! We were working with Action Evangelique Olympique or AEO for short. It was made up of many organisations including local churches, the Dijon Tract Mission, Pocket Testament League, Christian bookshops and the youth departments of the Federation des Eglises Evangeliques Baptistes and the Federation des Eglises Evangeliques Libres.

We joined people from all around the world to make up a multi-national, multi-lingual and interdenominational team of 100-120.

How exciting this was, particularly for the French people who joined us, most of whom are used to working in very small local church situations. We were not able to get permission to do street theatre or music, however we had an exciting programme of concerts and films. During the Olympic fortnight wherever there were people there were AEO team members distributing specially designed tracts and gospels.

In many cases tracts, gospels and casual conversations on the street will not lead to instant conversion, however God can take what has been done and use it to move people nearer to His Kingdom.

Getting Gospels into French homes could prove strategic. It is reckoned that 80 per cent of French people have never looked at a Bible.

Pray for France for an opening of people's hearts and minds and a growing awareness of a need for God. After all it was a Frenchman, Blaise Pascal, who originally remarked that inside every human being there is a God shaped hole.

Asia . . .

After working in India – in Calcutta and then in Vellore – the Asia Youth Action Team moved to Bangladesh. . . .

Robby worked for a week at the Bangladesh Baptist Sangha, collecting information for a 10 year plan. That involved looking back through old account



SPORTS



books finding various bits of information for each year and, with the aid of a computer, processing it and printing graphs.

He then joined Mark, working at CPEC, a Christian primary school for missionaries' and 'tent-makers' kids. The work involved being a classroom helper, leading sports, art and crafts, and being useful in general.

Chris worked at the Christian Hospital in Chandraghona – helping reorganise all the records and filing.

Ruth and Rose went to the BBS Girls' High School in Barisal. They arrived in the midst of a teachers' strike and have been very busy taking English classes – with new and stimulating methods. They also hoped to have a Christian input and befriend the girls and the staff, as well as helping with extra curricular arts and crafts.

. . . And Brazil

BEING A PART of a group of eight has had its problems both on a social and organisational level. This situation provided us all with a lesson in the art of compromise, which is essential if a group this big is to function well. We have rotas for everything.

However we have had answers to some of our prayers for people and situations outside of our group. This has been a real encouragement to us. In short we have had to learn to live and work together.

The BMS thought it would be good if we studied Portuguese so for a few weeks we trailed down to the local church for our lesson. Our vocabulary is limited but we seem to be making ourselves understood, using mime, expressions, etc.

Things are improving and our understanding and communication with the language is improving.

The hardest thing we had to face was the contrast of rich and poor living side by side. The worst factor is the attitude of indifference – the social problem has become so big that tolerance has turned into indifference.

'God is my refuge and my fortress.' When visiting a favela we noticed this verse inscribed on a flimsy bit of plywood. Do we know what it is for God to literally be our fortress? For this family God was keeping their shack together. One thing we are all learning is that our God isn't just a British God.

Paul and Debbie Holmes have been fantastic! They have helped us settle in and tried to make things easier for us. They have a great vision for Brazil despite the large scale of its problems. ■

Looking to the Future in Serampore, India

SERAMPORE, THE college founded by Carey, Marshman and Ward in the early years of mission activity, is planning to celebrate the BMS BiCentenary too.

Dr J K Daniel, College Principal, said, 'We have had three or four consultations on how to celebrate the BiCentenary year. Some of these buildings are very old and need to be renovated — an important priority.

'We would also like to build a new auditorium and Conference Centre because the present Convocation Hall only holds around 400 people. We are even planning to invite to teach theology a professor from Africa. This college has a long tradition of inviting people from England, Scotland and America — but we would also like to learn from other developing countries what their aspirations and frustrations are, so that mission develops in the context of all these problems and perplexities.

'We hope to develop theological education further by having Serampore as a centre for post-graduate research. But we need a lot of qualified staff.

'We would also like to establish the William Carey chair for mission studies. This will have to be developed carefully, because what Carey understood was great indeed. Most of it is relevant today. But things have changed and we have to study mission in the context of our time. When he came, there was hardly any church at all. Now I think our emphasis must be with the local church.

'And it's not just the idea of missionaries being sent from the west. From what we know and we read we may have to send more missionaries from our countries to the west! Things are changing!' ■

Planning for the Future

DAVID BROWN, working with the World Mission Board of the Brazil National Convention, is responsible for the selection and training of candidates.

This means maintaining contact with the mission fields and missionaries and, in general terms, administering the Brazilian Baptist work in these areas.

The mission board has been through two very difficult years because of the economic situation in Brazil, but praise God, this year



David and Sheila Brown

Karen Poole
Chris Burnett
Dave Champion



we are beginning to see a more stable situation, which is allowing us to plan for the future. We hope to send out at least 15 new missionaries by the spring of next year.

We have both continued to teach at the missionary training school and have received great blessing through this ministry. David has been invited to teach Trans-Cultural Mission at the Baptist Theological Seminary here in Rio, where there are more than 400 students training for ministry as pastors and musicians. ■

Called to Serve

IN 1977 Kabiraj and his widowed mother arrived on Carole Whitmee's doorstep in Balangir, India. They were in abject poverty one Christmas Eve.

They had neither money, food nor clothing. Kabiraj was eventually taken into the hostel and for some years his mother worked for me. He completed his schooling while living in the hostel and went on to college. During this time he came to know the Lord as his Saviour and was baptised.

Recently he believed the Lord was calling him to serve Him. Last August, he went to join the New Theological College in Dehra Dun — only miles from where the recent earthquake took place, leaving thousands dead, injured and homeless. ■

REDEPLOYED

AFTER RETURNING quickly from Zaire last September several BMS workers have found opportunities of service elsewhere. Karen Poole and David Champion are working, initially for six months, in Hungary. Both are teaching English at the International Baptist Lay Academy and Karen is also teaching at ordinary day schools.

Ian and Pauline Thomas now find themselves in France, for the time being, working with the Baptist community at Carcassonne.

Christopher Burnett finds himself co-ordinating something called ZACON which is a grouping of mission and aid agencies with a concern for Zaire.

Others are looking at opportunities in different directions whilst all are waiting for God's leading for the future of the work in Zaire and their involvement in it. ■

God Creates co



'How these Christians love each other!' There was something different about the life of the early Church which made people sit up and take notice. In spite of all its blemishes, there is something very special about the Church when it is truly alive to Christ.

One woman in Brazil joined a church at worship because, she said, 'I liked what I saw when I saw you coming out of church.'

Communities of Christian people, because of the quality of their worship and the dedication of their service, are meant to be 'attractive' in the right sense of the word.

So the BMS through its missionaries and through its direct support of national churches is involved in helping to create strong, witnessing and, we hope, attractive Christian congregations.

Community

God
was good and
blessed us!



Studying the Bible like this!

LAST SEPTEMBER Jacqui Wells closed her language books and went out on a two week visit to the Chiang Mai Association of the Karen Baptist Convention, in Thailand.

The aim was to have fellowship with Karen Christians in their homes. I wanted to be a 'listener' and I achieved this aim because in the mountain village only Karen is spoken. So, I could listen to Karen, virtually non-stop, for two weeks.

This was good for my language. Also, since we were staying in Karen homes, I could use my eyes and observe how the

Karen live and appreciate more fully the Karen culture and customs.

There's so much to learn; to understand; and to appreciate. However, on this trip I was going to begin teaching in Karen and this, for me, was the best. The culmination of over a year's study in Karen!

Before going I had prepared as well as I could. I put together four Bible Studies for use in the villages. I decided that we would study the Bible in small groups and therefore I prepared work sheets for each group to use. My language teacher Thra Thunu and one of my Karen friends, Phi Ler Say, helped me with this. We went over what I'd written to check for any mistakes.

I was rather apprehensive and you could say nervous! How would this teaching be accepted? Would the women and their families be able to understand? Would I have the words to express myself well in Karen?

Needless to say I prayed a lot and asked for God's help. Perhaps you can guess the rest. God was good and blessed us! The women 'worked' so well and took great delight in studying God's word! I enjoyed listening to the 'buzz' as they discussed the various questions.

One of the Karen women leaders was with me and we went from group to group helping wherever we were needed. God spoke to us and touched our lives as each group reported back. It was as if God was speaking through them. I was really thrilled and greatly encouraged.

I haven't cracked the Karen language yet and there's a lot more to learn. However, I know God can use me, and the language ability I have now, to bless His Church. . . . Lots of the women said. . . . 'Oh, studying the Bible like this gives us real joy.' Take time to praise God now and rejoice with us! ■





Placing the cross at Pimu Church, Zaire



Flocking to the opening of Pimu Church



Women's Choir, Pimu Church

Pimu Church Opened

PIMU CHURCH was opened on the 22 June with the first full service the following day. For the many who had walked too far to go home they stayed and sang and danced all night as there was no accommodation.

It was a wonderful weekend although actually delayed by a week at only a couple of days' notice. All the senior pastors from the region came, together with several choirs, one from over 70 miles away.

The official opening was on the Saturday afternoon. Several thousand gathered outside, a short shower of rain laying the dust an hour before proceedings got under way. After the preliminaries the crowds flocked into the building singing and dancing until there was no more room.

Standing room only was also the order of the day on the Sunday when many of the visiting pastors took part, as well as the many choirs. Every one felt very snug and dry in spite of a storm that raged outside for a while.

The Regional President of the Church preached on the theme of building a place of worship in our hearts and not just putting our efforts into a building. The service concluded with a choir singing the Hallelujah Chorus in French — no mean achievement when you think it was unaccompanied and they had no music from which to learn it! ■

More than a Building

OUR FRENCH speaking church at Mbanza Ngungu has moved out of the garage into the new church building, although there is still a lot of work to do,' writes Margot Bafende.

The Church benches are placed on rubble, with the floor one third paved, no

glass in windows, no paint, no front steps and porch, etc. But it gives us great joy to be worshipping there.

Building operations in rural Zaire, with no building contractor, where the pastor, and building committee do all the purchasing and supervising of the workmen, is not easy, and the building has been frustratingly slow.

It seems often to have been characterised by sheer lack of know-how, incompetence, stubbornness, self-interest or lack of interest, lack of commitment, caring and stewardship, and sadly this led to mendacious accusations among members which blocked the building operations for some months.

For many months now we have been waiting for the last instalment of the BMS building grant, held up by administrative blockage somewhere in the pipeline. But even if the grant comes now, building materials are no longer available, and the electrical materials awaiting installation have been looted along with spare roofing tins we were hoping to sell. . . .

But the church is far more than the building, our French speaking community is growing. At the end of September the young people led a series of evening meetings on 'Strengthening our Faith', having in mind a group of newly baptised.

In fact this attracted a much wider audience with 50 to 60 at most sessions including quite a few who do not normally come. We found this very encouraging, firstly because the whole series was planned and carried out by the young people, secondly because of the spirit of heart searching and openness, which was especially expressed in the prayer sessions.

There is no doubt that the troubles in Kinshasa led to much reflection and self-examination and a desire to 'seek the Lord while He may be found'. ■



An Association That Works

'because God's people care,' says Peter Cousins.

IN CUIABÁ and Várzea Grande, amidst a population of some 700,000 people, there are just 1,200 Baptists.

In other words, about half the number per thousand than in Britain. The 1,200 are distributed between 16 churches. The 16 churches support, between them, 11 pastors and a part-time Association Secretary.

Besides these, their denominational contributions support perhaps another five missionaries. The churches have nearly 20 new causes in the suburbs which they are nurturing to become fully established churches in the future.

What does it cost the church member? All members are encouraged to tithe their salary, to give one tenth of what they earn to the local church.

Certainly in our little group at Parque Universitário all our members faithfully give 10 per cent. Each church passes on 10 per cent of its income to the Baptist Convention of Mato Grosso and two per cent to the Association.

Three times a year there are additional offerings for missions – overseas, home mission in Brazil and home mission in Mato Grosso. On top of that, the church members participate in building programmes in their own churches, as well as in the poorer new works in Cuiabá and Várzea Grande. People who cannot offer money give up a Saturday to shovel cement or lay bricks for one of the poor, struggling congregations.

The result is that despite the recession we are surviving – although the pastors' salaries are too low and a number of them are having to take on some teaching as a sideline.

New works are being planted and God's people are moving forward. It demands sacrifice but our church members care intensely about their church and give willingly. They feel that God has done infinitely more for them.

If the churches are growing, it is not because the 'ground is fertile', neither is there some 'secret of church growth', but rather, it is because God's people care enough to work towards it.

That is why we feel it is worth our while helping them. We hope one day they will be strong enough to need no help from outside. In the meantime their sacrifice calls for a response from us. ■



Peter Cousins

Time for the Wider Work

George and Betsy Lee send greetings from Hendala, Sri Lanka

THE CHURCH is one with much potential. There are many fine leaders, well trained, well-accustomed to taking all their many responsibilities, both practical and spiritual.

These include leaders with the thorough grounding of the two year Lay Training Institute Diploma, well used to taking services or taking part in them.

The women are similarly capable, while members of the strong Young People's group are particularly active in leadership in the Western Area as well as the denomination as a whole.

The church was concerned that they would have no one person to be 'The Pastor', since BMS have appointed us as Western Area Missionaries, while the local BU (Sri Lanka Baptist Sangamaya) have decided that their new Probationers, now out of Theological College, should not be ordained or take the full responsibilities until completing their probation in two years' time.

So George is to be 'Moderator' and Willie Ranasinghe, the probationer George will help to train, will gradually take over more responsibilities as he develops.

The church has been without a pastor since January, when their previous pastor moved to Kandy. The first phase (five rooms) of an Old People's Home is now also built next to the manse, so several things need to be done to get it into use.

Once some of these initial needs start to be met, there should be more time for the wider work! ■

Creates



God Reigns



A
*mustard seed
silently
growing.*

It is hard sometimes to believe that the Lord is King. So many other powers seem to hold sway over the minds and lives of men and women.

Economic forces hold tight power over large portions of the globe enriching the privileged few but forcing millions into a beggarly existence.

Political power promises democracy and freedom but so often ends in oppressive tyranny.

It is good then to remember that Jesus describes the Kingdom in terms of a mustard seed silently growing, as a pinch of salt subtly savouring and as yeast working slowly to lighten the doughy mass of society.

We give thanks then, not in any triumphalist way, that God reigns and that we have seen Him at work extending His Kingdom throughout the 200 years of BMS history. We rejoice in the way He is working through His church throughout the world today and how He is still prepared to use British Baptists in His mission of love now and into the work of another century.

A Missionary Church in Trinidad and Tobago

RECONCILIATION HAS been the word in Trinidad over the past year both in the media and the church. It was the Presidential theme of this year's Baptist Union of Trinidad and Tobago President, the Revd John Brambles.



A new General Secretary of the BUTT was designated, Adrian Thompson, to succeed the Revd Ken Cadette who moves on this year. Mr Thompson is a capable young layman, from a traditional Baptist home who has studied in both Britain and Trinidad.

John Clark, BMS Overseas Representative for South America and the Caribbean, paid a visit to the island in October 1991. He writes:

'The national reconciliation theme is allied to a strong nationalistic spirit in which the colours of the Trinidadian flag are always evident: black – symbol of the fertile soil; white – symbol of purity, and red – symbol of vitality. Yet the colours spoke to me of another symbolism. Black and white united by the blood of Jesus Christ.

'I was encouraged by the spirit of cooperation in the Baptist Union. It was good to see new leaders emerging and the growing concern for outreach and church planting.

'The old people's home in Port of Spain, the ministry to the mentally disabled in San Fernando, the various feeding ministries and other efforts attest the holistic concern of Trinidadian Baptists.

'Above all there was a concern with taking the Gospel beyond their own shores. Mission in Canada, mission in the UK, mission in the Caribbean – all this and more is firmly on the agenda. We must pray that the flowers will bloom, that the plant will bear fruit and our partnership in the Gospel will be glorifying to God.' ■

Without your Support it just wouldn't be Possible . . .

AGAIN, SUPPORT schemes and groups have raised a tremendous amount of money for world mission through the BMS.

The **BMS Birthday Scheme** continues to grow in popularity and in giving – raising over £180,000 for BMS medical work last year. This money goes in a number of directions including drugs and equipment, hospital maintenance, the training of medical personnel and the support of BMS medical missionaries. New look Birthday Scheme publicity material will be available in the coming year.

Operation Agri, run by the Baptist Men's Movement, has contributed over £120,000 to BMS related rural development work from building wells to thatching roofs and continues to be a vital and much appreciated support in this way.

Young people contributed over £38,000 to the project, **'Four Wheel Drive'**, buying a vehicle for the Ruhea Clinic in northern Bangladesh. This year the Young People's Project **'Where Angels Dare'** – a two year venture – has already raised £5,548 for missionary travel costs. A comprehensive pack of materials has been well received by churches.

Baptist women raised over £32,000 for **'Making Tracks in Thailand'**, buying two vehicles for BMS missionaries and supporting a Mizo missionary also at work in Thailand. The BMS Women's Project **'Give Us This Day'** which is raising money to support Christian Education in Zaïre is well on the way to reaching the target figure of £24,000. A new project will be launched at the 1992 Baptist Assembly.

The **BMS Stamp Bureau** donated over £4,600 to the BMS during the year – and is now dealing with cards and coins too. ■



PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

Support for the BMS is found in all shapes and sizes – and a central ingredient to it all is prayer. Much of the publicity from BMS urges the whole Baptist community to greater prayer involvement. An invaluable part of that is the **BMS Prayer Guide** which takes people on a day by day journey through prayer for the world.



A Fanfare for World Mission Link

World Mission Link – the new BMS mission education programme – was launched at Easter 1991. Replacing the gracefully maturing 'Deputation Scheme', World Mission Link has been a much needed shot-in-the-arm to many churches as they re-assess their world mission involvement.

World Mission Link is made up of three important parts.

Link Up

The scheme aims to make world mission a live issue through a relationship! So, throughout the country, churches have been forming themselves into groups who then covenant to support through prayer and interest a missionary or missionary family.

Around 400 groups of churches have been formed with more of those yellow forms arriving each day as the number grows. Missionaries have expressed their delight at being able to get to know supporting churches better, and how good it is to be able to spend a longer period of time with groups of churches. Churches, too, have been thrilled to have missionaries available to them for longer than just the 'weekend drop'.

Staff Teams

A new feature of the scheme is the emergence of untapped talent from BMS Staff as the 'No Small Change' Roadshow has travelled the country. Who would have thought of sober Chris Hutt, BMS Financial Secretary, donning an old mack and wellington boots to play Gabriel Rootworthy in an opening sketch?? Or who could have imagined Derek Mucklow, BMS Area Representative for London, keeping his closing remarks down to five minutes??

'No Small Change' – a programme of afternoon workshops and talks, and then an evening hour and half presentation on the urgent need for world mission – has been a tremendous success. Many Baptists have re-committed themselves to dedicated prayer and action as a result.

Mission Education

Throughout the year, churches have been looking at the place of world mission in their normal time-table and material has been produced for them by the BMS Promotion Department. Much more is planned for the coming year. ■

WorldWide is the monthly BMS prayertape – and hundreds of groups throughout the country listen in to news, views and interviews with missionaries, staff and overseas visitors. It has been used in worship services, youth meetings, women's meetings, etc. – and its flexibility makes it a powerful audio aid to urgent prayer for the world.



From Your Pens . . .

Dear BMS

'... the "new look" World Mission Link has permeated our church quite powerfully and we have been encouraged to build on the good foundations laid.'

'Thank you so much for sending our link missionaries to us. As a fellowship we have been praying for them in particular for the last two years since we adopted them. Now the fellowship will pray with greater zeal since we know them personally.'

Just a quick report on our first Link visit this weekend. It went splendidly – a really wonderful speaker – adjusting his teaching and leading to the audience. We look forward to meeting his whole family on their next World Mission Link visit.'

'I am no doubt speaking for many people who attended the "No Small Change" day yesterday when I express thanks to God and the staff team who took part in it. They showed a professionalism and dedication which deepened the impact of the message.'

From Missionaries' Pens . . .

'I am very impressed by our responsibility in this new system which seems to involve making relationships with churches, whereas under "deputation" we made one visit of a lifetime to a church. It's a very challenging system and I hope that we can all prove ourselves worthy of it.'

'Well, I've now got round all my link churches, and a few others and have enjoyed it! Almost all were live and active churches and they will all be a powerful prayer support for us in the future. We hope to get round them again before going off next year. . . .' ■

NO
SMALL

Former Missionaries – Keep in Touch!

AN EXCITING DEVELOPMENT during the year is the newly formed 'Former Missionaries' Association' – FMA. Any former BMS missionary who has served overseas, short or long term, can join.

The FMA plans to mobilise former missionaries in urgent prayer for areas of the world; to use the expertise of former missionaries where possible; to help former missionaries in their local church and Association involvement; to maintain a live-link between BMS and former missionaries; to produce an annual newsletter and to arrange reunions from time to time.

For more information on the FMA please write to the Correspondent: Revd Neil McVicar, The Manse, St Ninian's Baptist Church, Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire DG4 6DX, Scotland. ■



Consultation in India and Bangladesh

TWO IMPORTANT meetings took place in December. The first was a two day discussion in Dhaka, Bangladesh, between the Bangladesh Baptist Sangha (BBS) and representatives of the BMS. The second was a four day meeting in Calcutta, India, with delegates from the three Provincial Unions that make up the Council of Baptist Churches of North India, ie, the Baptist Union of North India, the Bengal Baptist Union and the Baptist Church of Mizoram. On both these occasions, the talks centred on how co-operation in mission could be improved.

How do we shape Christian witness in the midst of poverty? How can the spirit of evangelism be stirred at local church level? How do we cope with the challenge of the cities and the hopes and dreams of a new generation of young people? Where are tomorrow's leaders? These were the issues before us in Bangladesh. In India, we talked about ways in which fellowship in the Gospel could be strengthened between the three Provincial Unions and especially of how a strong Mizo Baptist Church would support and stimulate the other two Unions.

As we talked, we were conscious that the challenge of Mission in Christ's name in the Indian Sub-continent, is still a gift of God to His Church and that we, as a Missionary Society based in Britain, still have the privilege of co-operating in this. ■

At the Sharp End

THE BMS Area Representatives often say that they are the ones 'at the sharp end' – spending their days meeting with churches, supporting missionary secretaries, presenting the BMS to groups, hearing the joys and concerns of Baptists all over Britain.

This year has seen them concentrate on the establishment of World Mission Link, drawing together groups of churches, explaining the new scheme in hundreds of meetings and raising the BMS profile at many levels.

The BiCentenary Celebrations are making their mark on local churches too, as many plan innovative and exciting programmes.

'The BiCentenary is proving to be a launching pad to stimulate world mission awareness in many churches!' says Derek Mucklow, BMS Area Representative for London. ■



200 YEARS IN PRINT

Two histories of BMS work and witness are to be published by October, 1992.

THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE BMS by Brian Stanley

Price £30.00

A subscription list for 1,000 copies at £22.50 will be opened. Further details in due course.

THE ANSWERED CALL by Gwenda Bond

Price £3.99

The paperback popular history of the BMS.

BiCentenary Blitz

IT HAD to happen! 1991 saw the beginning of the BMS BiCentenary Celebrations at the Baptist Assembly. It is a time for rejoicing and reflection, commitment and confession as we listen for God's voice guiding us into the future. And it's an exciting time!

The Fund for the Future – a fundraising scheme to gather 'new money', over and above normal giving to BMS – is going to enable all sorts of new ventures in mission.

Already plans have gathered apace – and finishing touches are being made for

- Overseas choir visits;
- 'Mission in Time,' a BMS roadshow arranged by Elizabeth Webb from Harrow Baptist Church;
- Many overseas visitors who will take part in local and national events;
- LOUD! a young people's tour featuring Steve Chalke and the Shout Theatre Company;
- Overseas tours;
- Celebration Days throughout the country;
- Prayer concerts
- BiCentenary Musicals
- and much more . . . ■

God Redeems *All Creation*



God cares about His creation, which, according to Paul, is also 'to be freed from the shackles of mortality and enter upon the liberty and splendour of the children of God'.

World ecology, environmental disasters and human tragedy are all bound up together. So redemption has implications beyond the salvation of single individuals. Redeemed humanity, at one with God the Father, has a new awareness of God's creation and begins to take the stewardship of the world seriously.

On different continents and in several countries, BMS missionaries and others, faithfully supported by Operation Agri, are helping people to see that a proper stewardship of land and natural resources has benefits for everyone.

The use of new and appropriate building materials in Nepal is helping to preserve mountain vegetation and so prevent disastrous erosion. Wise cultivation of hillsides and the planting of soil holding plants along the contour lines is having a similar effect in Brazil.

Such projects are small but they have a potential beyond their size as people see new methods work.

Yet there is still much to do. We are reminded that people need to know the liberating life of Christ before experiencing real change in their circumstances.

The liberty
and splendour of
the children of
God.



Back in Nepal

AFTER SERVING in Nepal for three years, David Payne returned to the UK to do research at university and in industry. He is now back in Nepal working with the United Mission, supported by BMS!

Returning to the vivid sights, sounds and smells of the Nepal I left five years ago makes the interval seem more like five weeks. Yet there are some very noticeable changes.

Although Nepal has a long history of isolation from the wider world, characterised by its warm, hospitable people, ancient Hindu-Buddhist culture and buildings and leisurely pace of life, it has had growing exposure to the fast changing times of the 20th century.

More buildings, electricity, telephones, cars and 'high technology' are some of the more obvious signs in the urban areas. The disparity between rich and poor, the neglected rural areas, urban pollution and the silently approaching environmental disaster of deforestation are the more sobering aspects.

Since April I have been busy at work in the Development and Consulting Services of the United Mission to Nepal. Three areas



Testing and demonstrating lower cost concrete roofing tiles in Nepal

of work beckon at once. I act as programme leader for what is called the Roofing Tiles Programme. I recruit and support senior Nepal staff to take over responsibility for this programme and I am laying the ground work for a new programme of other building materials development.

The Roofing Tile Programme is promoting the use of a light-weight, lower cost, concrete roofing tile — through training, equipment supply and follow-up to private individuals who are adopting this technology as an income-generating small industry.

Since 1984, 71 entrepreneurs have established independent workshops from the far west to eastern Nepal and the demand for this technology is still high. Six Nepali staff work on this programme.

The aim of the materials development programme is to form an information database of traditional, modern and potential building materials and of organisations in the field; to develop research and development skills among the staff; and in response to specific requests, to carry out appropriate research and development suitable to our limited resources.

I have already been approached to give input into a potential project, under the government's Ministry of Housing, for the development of alternative building materials. So there may be the opportunity of national as well as local involvement in this area. ■

LINKS WITH CHINA

continue to be maintained through the Amity Fellowship and the encouraging of exchange visits between China and the UK. We support teachers of English working in China through Amity, although this has not been picked up as a challenge by many within our Baptist constituency. The post 'Tianamen Square China' is still struggling to come to terms with itself and the outside world. A successful China Conference was held in UK in 1991 as a means of encouraging greater interest in and prayer for China and the church in China. There is a danger that China will become the forgotten area of Christian witness.



Redeems

Foiling the Birds

IT WAS quite like old times in Bangladesh,' reports David Stockley from the CEBADER project in Brazil.

Mid-December-sown irrigated rice gave a good yield. Because birds normally eat the seeds we sowed sprouted seed into standing water in the field. We grew the rice and managed to harvest it. The same rice sown in November, the birds and neighbour's chickens and ducks, ate the lot!

There was a weed problem, partly solved by 15 children of the church, who wanted to earn money for 'Missions'. It was quite like old times in Bangladesh!

Our new small hand-dug fish tanks are proving very productive – away from predator fish. Tilapia small fry that David Perry brought from Santa Catarina have so multiplied that we have encouraged several families to make tanks, which we have stocked.

As an extension exercise we combined with David and Jean Perry, and produced a "Garden for Health" book in Portuguese. We have sold "Garden Packs" consisting of the book, eight types of vegetable seeds, two kg of lime and one kg of mixed fertiliser all in a plastic holdall for 75p. We advertised in our areas, in bars, shops, dispensary and one school. Some 200 packs have been sold! Making up little packs from tins of seed, and weighing fertiliser and lime from large sacks is quite time consuming! This scheme has made openings to contact new people and in new areas!

We gathered 50 families to talk with the leaders of Co-op Cotia, who are interested in buying more bananas! The discussion ended when it discovered Cotia buy bananas where one bunch fills two and a half boxes of bananas worth Cz\$3,000 per box; whereas local bananas need five bunches to fill ONE box of bananas worth Cz\$300 per box!!

The shock of discovery that their product is worthless caused eight farmers who still

sell bananas to the Governador (State Governor) provided "pro-horta" truck, to take up CEBADER's offer to work together as a co-op to improve the quality of 'our' bananas.

We have enlarged a room in the ex-worker's house to make a 'sala' or living room to make a meeting place and once a month we meet to discuss our banana business. CEBADER has promised to assist in liming and fertilising 100 trees and help in setting out new banana gardens at two metres by two metres, where hill-slopes are involved. This will need erosion control measures.

At each meeting each member deposits Cz\$500 or 90p towards a fund. To practise what we preach, we are planting about 1000 banana trees on CEBADER. While bananas grow we are inter-cropping with beans and soya beans. ■

Signs of Growth

'Things seem so slow to change in the Litoral,' writes David Perry, from Brazil.

YET WE HAVE been greatly encouraged by various signs that our labour in the Lord is not in vain.

Jean has developed a Bible teaching ministry. She takes the Women's Bible Study each Sunday morning in Morretes and has been encouraged to see more and more women gaining confidence to participate.

It was lovely when Escolastica, a very old almost blind lady, told Jean she enjoys the studies so much she never wants to miss church now.

If Jean is reaching the old people so, too, is her ministry showing fruit in the lives of some teenagers. We have regularly led a Bible study at Cisero's who has established a small church on his farm. We usually get very little response during the Bible studies, as the people are very shy. However it was lovely recently to hear one lady saying how she feels the studies have encouraged her two teenage daughters in their faith. They are now reading and studying their Bibles every day.

The agricultural work is starting to bear fruit too. The passion fruit gave a bumper crop. This has motivated Roberto and Marinaze. The giant passion fruit are proving to be easy to sell. They sell them in Paranaguá and make about £6 a box. As a result the family can now afford new clothes, wellington boots and the children now have bunk beds to sleep on!

If Roberto's standard of living has risen





so too has Rosindo's. We helped towards the cost of a boat. As a result he has been able to sell things in Guaratuba and buy provisions there in a supermarket. In only two and a half months he has been able to buy a new bed and mattress, second hand sofa and table and chairs, and even afford the luxury of an electric shower!

Often a little encouragement and a few seeds work wonders. Alcindo has planted more than ever and by using lime and a little chemical fertilizer has succeeded in gaining enough money to start making a little bathroom and toilet for his home.

David Stockley and I launched a 'grow vegetables, have better health' campaign, supplying seeds, lime and fertilizer and a booklet. About 200 families were reached. Unfortunately unseasonal dry, hot weather has resulted in poor germination. We are giving more seeds and hope this time things will go according to plan!

We believe there are signs that our labour is not in vain. The trust and good relationship we are building up we are certain God will use. ■

David Perry and David Stockley launched a 'Grow vegetables, Have better health' campaign



HOW MANY MORE?

There is every evidence that those committed to world mission are, as one hymn puts it, 'Facing a task unfinished That drives us to our knees.' Reminders come of the size of the need within the world for its life to be fulfilled in our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ. What is equally clear is that God is opening fresh doors of opportunity for serving in His name. Very recent decisions by the Society to be involved in Albania and Indonesia indicate this, as does the increasing level of cooperation with overseas partners in multi-lateral mission — with Brazilians in Guyana and Mizos in Nepal for instance.

Our title is a verse from the Gospel According to John. In the context of belief for unity and action, the phrase reads 'that the world may believe that you sent me . . . and have loved them even as you have loved me' (John 17:21 and 23).

This is re-emphasised towards the end of the gospel where the whole purpose of the announcing of good news is seen as 'that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name' (John 20:21). No peripheral issue this! The belief, the faith commitment, was and remains the call to life itself.

How many more within this world are still denied such life? How many reminders do we require that our God is faithful and the missionary task remains — that the world may believe and may find fullness of life in our God of love? ■



EXPECT GREAT Things

EXPECT GREAT THINGS

BMS Family Celebration Day
10.00 am – late!

SATURDAY, 30 MAY 1992

Harvey Hadden Stadium
Nottingham

Come and celebrate through a multitude of events through the day

Worship

Mission in Time
multi-media presentation

Seminars
Prayer and Mission
Simon Barrington-Ward
Biblical Basis of Mission
Peter Barber

Planting Churches
Derek Tidball
Stephen Ibbotson
Crossing Cultural Boundaries
Peter Cotterell
Sharing our Faith
David Neil
Media and Mission
Richard Thomas
What on Earth are we Doing?
John Biggs

Response to Vocation
Paul Fiddes
Mission, Justice and Human Rights
Ingrid Keith
Janet Morley
Pointers from History
Gwenda Bond
Basil Amey

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Outreach through Drama

Children's activities

Rolling Magazine
Chat-Show

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A spiced up programme for young people

Exhibitions
GREAT THINGS!
Action packed evening programme for young people with
Eden Burning

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.....

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