

HERALD

M I S S I O N A R Y

GHEISTRASSE 31
SCHLICKOW, SWITZERLAND
RECEIVED 60.1.1992



SEEING CHRIST IN THE FACE OF A CHILD

DECEMBER 1992

PRICE 25p

F
E
A
T
U
R
E
S



Cover picture:
Hubert de Coligny
with his family

THE VERY BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT	3
<i>The story of a changed life in France</i>	
MULTI-LATERAL EUROPE	
<i>The experiences of BiCentenary Multi-lateral team</i>	7
ROOM FOR CHANGE	
<i>The new World Mission Link staff team presentation</i>	9
CAMBRENSIS IN FRANCE	10
<i>The Welsh sing their way through France</i>	
THE HERALD 1993	
<i>Some changes but a better magazine</i>	11
CLOUD OF WITNESSES	
<i>A lay-training programme in Brazil</i>	12
NATAL STAR IN BRAZIL	
<i>Radio and TV evangelism in north-east Brazil</i>	13
GENERAL COMMITTEE IN VIEW	14
IN VIEW	
<i>News and views from around the world</i>	16
CALL TO PRAYER	
<i>Updating the Prayer Guide</i>	18
MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS, ETC	19

The BMS shares mission with:

Albania	France	Nicaragua
Angola	Hungary	Sri Lanka
Bangladesh	India	Thailand
Belgium	Indonesia	Trinidad
Brazil	Jamaica	Zaire
El Salvador	Nepal	

MISSIONARY HERALD The Magazine of The Baptist Missionary Society, PO Box 49, Baptist House, 129 Broadway, Didcot, Oxon OX11 8XA
Telephone: 0235 512077 Telex: 94070435 BMSB G Fax: 0235 511265

GENERAL SECRETARY Revd Reg Harvey **OVERSEAS SECRETARY** Revd Angus MacNeill
EDITOR Revd David Pountain **DESIGN** Anthony Viney
Enquiries about service overseas to: Personnel Secretary, Janet Claxton

COPYRIGHT **1992 Baptist Missionary Society**
photoset and printed by Stanley L Hunt (Printers) Ltd, Rushden, Northamptonshire

ISSN 0264-1372

H E R A L D

IT WAS CHRISTMAS morning in Bangladesh and people were arriving at church, amongst them a woman, leading a calf.

'My cow gave birth to this calf and now it is weaned I want to offer it to God.' After the service the calf was auctioned and the proceeds used for the work of the church.

A love-gift to God in thanksgiving for the gift of His Son. How many of us will be making similar gifts this Christmas? It is not going to be an easy Christmas for many redundancy-hit families in Britain. Some are restricting the number of presents they are prepared to give and others are putting a limit on what they are willing to spend. A change from the over-indulgence and overspending we've become used to during the last 20 years or so.

However, for the majority of people in the developing world, we are still 'rich beyond compare'. To the Christian family in Luanda, the capital city of Angola, hoping for an end to the more than 30 year old civil conflict and whose five year old child strayed into the street and was shot dead during a gun-battle last month, we are rich in security and peace. To the street children of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro with no safe place to lay their heads, we are aristocrats living in palaces. To the children of Kinshasa, whose parents, with bags containing millions of worthless notes, cannot afford the basics of life, we are true millionaires.

So let's follow the example of the Bangladeshi woman and make a love gift in thanksgiving to God. Why not offer as much towards God's mission of love and care in the world today as we shall spend on ourselves this Christmas!

THE VERY BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT

ONE YEAR ago, Hubert de Coligny and his wife Cathy sent out their Christmas cards. Inside was a photograph of their daughter, Eve-Angélique, delivered to them on 14 December.

'She is our very best Christmas present,' they said later, Hubert remarked, 'She is truly the image of the Lord in our home. That's why we called her Eve-Angélique.'

Hubert de Coligny, a true French aristocrat, is in charge of the Baptist printing press at Massy, just outside Paris. He is a committed Christian who is not afraid of telling the story of his Christian pilgrimage as any visitor to Massy can testify. . . .

MY EARLIEST 'spiritual' memory is a story mother told me when I was five years old. I was being silly and had hidden myself in the dark.

'A black ant, on a black stone, during a black night – but God can see it,' she said.

So my idea of God was of one who spied and noted down in a little book every stupid and naughty deed, for one day we shall be called to account. It was not reassuring because nothing escaped Him.

When I was about ten, during mass at boarding school, one sentence rang a bell. *I am the light of the world.*

I discovered, by simple deduction, that if he was light then I too would be able to see the little ant, merely by being close to Him. God, therefore, was

CHRISTMAS

THE VERY BEST



CHRISTMAS PRESENT

◀ not just a 'bogeyman'.

The Lord was working within me.

Brought up in the Catholic faith, I went through all the different stages — private communion, confirmation, solemn communion.

Then when I was about twelve, I was the victim of a serious accident and came very close to looking death in the face. During a stay in a special hospital, I watched a lad about my age, pass away. During those long months my thoughts turned towards matters of life and death. So many questions without answers! But one stuck out more than any other and became an obsession: 'Why?'

When I returned home, completely healed — considered something of a miracle — my inner rebellion, which had been simmering away for some time, boiled over. Anything to do with God or religion filled me with loathing. I rejected it out of hand.

Life resumed little by little and I was apprenticed to a printer. Discovering life and its pleasures, I considered religion as nothing more than a refuge for bigots embittered by life. Then one day, during a visit home, I decided to

Above: Hubert de Coligny

Below: The French Language School at Massy

Below right: Computer typesetting in the printshop



CHRISTMAS
CHRISTMAS
CHRISTMAS
CHRISTMAS



see what was happening at Taizé, a little village about 40 kms away. I'd heard there were 20,000 young people there. Imagining it to be some pop-festival, I went along, but discovered something quite different.

The great surprise was that all my ideas about God and religion were turned inside out. For the first time I saw young people of my own age praying, or more exactly speaking to God. But they acted as though they were speaking to someone face to face, someone living and present. Until then I'd looked at prayer as a kind of bargain. 'Our Father,' 'I worship you,' . . . recited and carefully totted up as on a primitive adding machine.

An encounter with an American girl opened my mind to the subject of God. She spoke about new birth, about the Bible, and also about the door behind which someone was waiting, ready to enter into my heart and to help me if I was sincere in wanting to go further forward.

I didn't understand much about it at the time, but I was certain these encounters were going to leave their mark. Confused feelings of joy and sadness, mingled together, overcame me.

The Lord was working within me.

Work and leisure took over my life again in the months which followed until one day, when I was feeling down, memories of Taizé came back. Remembering the advice I had been given, I opened a Bible and read, 'For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.' I could visualise the illuminated yoke installed in my parents' living room. So I offered my first prayer to the Lord!

'Yes, I want to open the door behind which Jesus is waiting. I want to take this yoke but I want Jesus to place Himself under the yoke alongside me, because I don't know where to go. I want Him to show me the way.'

That was in 1973. The Lord came into my life and answered me straight away. This certainty of being heard is something inexpressible. A great peace swept over me and my heart overflowed with joy. *The Lord was working within me.*

The Lord continued His work within me on the road to conversion. He put Cathy in front of me. The very first time we met she asked whether I was a Christian.

'Yes,' I said, 'I'm a Christian, but not practising!'

'Oh, that's just like me,' she said. 'I'm a sportswoman, but not practising!'

That surprised me and made me smile. Cathy explained that 'Christian' meant a disciple of Christ. Cathy also taught me about repentance. I knew that Jesus had died for *our* sins, but I never felt personally responsible for them. Faced with all the sins committed by the millions of people in the world, my sins were nothing. When I understood the difference between *our* sins and *my* sins, I wept. The Lord had become personal to me. He had saved me by dying for me, personally as for each person in the world, yet it is necessary to understand and not just to hear.

Cathy accepted me as her husband, and Jesus became the centre of our union. We asked His will for our lives and He answered our prayers beyond all our hopes in calling us into His service.

No, not as a priest or pastor. My ideas about service at that time were such. But as a printer of *Croire et Servir* amongst other things. The Lord has given us a family, brothers and sisters, with



whom to live a Christian life worthy of that name. It is the family of the Church. Prayer also has become as indispensable as oxygen. *Today the Lord is working within me.*

That's the story of my conversion, but the Lord has done many more things in our family. In particular He has given us a little girl. Her story is very special since she existed in hearts for ten years.

We believe the Lord was working within us leading us to 14 December 1991 when we adopted a baby girl with Downs

syndrome. We have three children, a boy of 16, another who is eight and now a little girl.

After our first child we wanted another, but nothing happened. We considered adoption and visited many agencies. We saw plenty of places where we could 'purchase' a child for adoption, but that didn't interest us. Then we found a society which specialises in placing handicapped children. So we thought about adopting a physically handicapped child but not one with a mental disability. We filled in the necessary forms and sent them off.

A month later, we learned that Cathy was pregnant and stopped the adoption process. We didn't understand what was happening, but said, 'Thank you Lord!'

The idea of adoption, however, would not go away. And after we arrived at Massy to work at the printing press and in the Language School we started the investigations all over again. There seemed to be many obstacles in the way, lots of red tape, and the adoption of a child seemed many months, if not years, away. In fact things moved very quickly and smoothly towards adopting not a physically handicapped child, but one with Downs syndrome.

At first the older of the two boys was not very happy. 'My friends will shout "gol-gol" and laugh,' he said. We regarded it as a decision for the family and not just the parents and so we spent time talking about it and praying. In the end our son volunteered to post the letter of acceptance.

Through our lives the Lord has been doing His work and now, every day, we see His face in Eve-Angelique. ■



One of the classes in the language school

MULTI - LATERAL EUROPE

Steve and Carolyn Green out and about with a very special team.

TWELVE YEARS without regular use of a telephone can have a strange effect. When someone calls you with an outlandish request, you have no skills, finely honed with which to refuse.

And so it was. An innocent sounding Viv Lewis with a flattering sounding commission, 'Can Steve lead a multi-lateral Team on a visit round Europe? Just driving and translating.'

It sounded straightforward and we still hadn't had any holiday. With what was probably our last sensible thought, we suggested that seeing there would be ladies on the visit, would it not be appropriate for Carolyn to go along?

Once we'd said 'yes', we suddenly realised what we might be getting ourselves into! Too late. Viv is so nice; he'd even been in Zaire with us! We couldn't back out! Well, could we?

We met the six other members of our team at the Abbey Road Language School and tentatively eyed each other, and realised we were to be together in the close confines of a minibus for the next four weeks. We wondered if calling 'four weeks' a month would make it sound any better, but it didn't.

So who were we? We were a brilliant BMS idea. No we are a brilliant idea, but that's getting ahead of ourselves. We were an idea to bring someone from each country where BMS has been working, and give them the chance to see the BMS and Baptist work in other countries. We were the Europe tour. We were from Thailand, Brazil, El Salvador, Scotland, Sri Lanka and India. Steve and I are British and



Multi-lateral team with Stuart Filby (centre) outside Middelkerke Baptist Church, Belgium

have worked with the Baptist Church in Zaire for twelve years.

We should have had three other members right at the beginning, but for the usual sorts of third world reasons (visa, passports or tickets not being available in time) we started without Zaire, Angola and Nicaragua.

We were scheduled to leave for Belgium and France, return to England, Scotland and Wales and take in Didcot and Westminster Abbey.

After a day at Abbey Road singing, praying and sharing together in a number of our possible 21 languages, an open top bus tour of London and a crash course on Continental culture, we set off for Dover and

the ferry. We had the bus, passports, £200 and our Bank cards, nervous expressions and seasickness pills.

Some of us started our cross cultural education by watching *Wayne's World* in the cinema on the ferry! The multi-purpose expression 'facilities', originally intended to mean comfort stop, coffee stop and so on we had to stop using in France because it meant something else. If you ever come across one of us, ask us how you say 'horse', and you'll get the same nonverbal response in Thai, Singhalese or Glaswegian.

Belgium may mean many things to many people; Maastricht perhaps, or Anderlecht; chocolate or beer.

But to the BMS multi-lateral group it meant wonderfully warm welcomes, real interest in us and where we came from and what our churches were doing.

It also means a small, tough, fighting and persecuted Baptist church which is in financial straits. Because all Baptists are independent individuals, and the Baptist Church is an independent denomination which values its right to freedom from the State, the Baptist Church in Belgium has withstood the temptation to become part of the officially recognised Protestant Church. As part of the official Protestant church, its financial worries would be over, as the State would pay the pastors, but its hands would be tied, its precious freedom gone.

Sadly, the Catholic State will only recognise the official church, and Baptists are regarded as a sect and penalised through taxation and other restrictions.

Members of a BMS Youth Action Team leafleted Ostend this summer, and the church was fined. All this in the heart of Europe. Do we not have freedom of religion? We felt that our Belgian brothers and sisters had taken us into their hearts, and in return asked for our prayers.

We continued to France, feeling nothing would be able to supplant the experience we had just had. All of us knew that we didn't value our freedom to say

The team with Robert Atkins, Versailles, France

and do as we pleased nearly enough. The nearest we could feel was from the experiences of Pradeep from India, and we were shocked.

Our first stop was Paris! Well why go anywhere else? And what a start! Robert Atkins had given us meticulous instructions, and we arrived in central Paris and the appropriate underground car park which would have us handy for the Metro.

So much for plan 'A'! Our Transit van was not only extra long, to fit us in, but extra high in case we bought souvenirs of our trip. And so we were too tall to go underground.

We didn't have a plan 'B' so we devised one which consisted of driving round central Paris at lunchtime looking for a parking place where of course it didn't matter how tall you were but it did matter how long you were. As this was before we had acquainted ourselves with the 'bump-the-other-chap-out-of-the-way' method of parking, common in Paris, it took a long time!

Arriving at the Baptist Federation office, we were rather more interested in 'facilities', food and strong coffee than the intricacies of Baptist church life! Our priorities dealt with, we gradually recovered our happy spirit!

We also found that our



Nicaraguan, Pedro, had managed to catch up with us, but that he spoke zero English, was very tired and that Sandra's El Salvadoran Spanish didn't always catch his meaning.

Our combined Oriya, Singhalese, Thai, English and French didn't help either, but there was a glimpse of light when Nilsen's Portuguese seemed to be the missing link. We found that the greatest barrier to sharing the gospel of Jesus in France is the insularity of French family life and its self-sufficiency.

S H A N G H A I

A C H I N A O P P O R T U N I T Y J U N E 1 9 9 3 - 1 9 9 4

Are you interested in Christianity in China?

Do you have a Christian commitment? Are you aged approximately 20 -25

We are looking for someone to participate in the programmes of the YM/YWCA in Shanghai and at the same time study some aspects of Chinese culture.

July 1993:
Orientation at YMCA Training College, London.

Mid-August 1993 - March 1994

Placement with YM/YWCA Shanghai, including a period of travel time on completion.

April-June 1994

3 Months work placement with YM/YWCA in UK. The successful candidate

will be expected to raise the return airfare to China. All other expenses in China will be covered. Applicants should note that some experience of youth work would be an advantage, as would an ability to communicate in Chinese. Please send a stamped addressed envelope for

details and application forms to:
Department for China Study and Relations, Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL. Tel 071 620 4444

Completed applications to be returned by 31 December 1992



Perhaps this is an easy answer to a hard problem, for even the most self-sufficient have spiritual needs, and in France there is a great interest in the Occult, and because of residual knowledge left over from an older strong Catholic influence, people are susceptible to the false spirituality of the New Age. Even the Catholic Church regards France as a mission field. There is no opposition from the secular State to religious activity.

We worshipped with French, Korean and Rumanian Baptist congregations who use the same buildings in Paris and prayed with the Atkins and other French Christians. The church is definitely alive, which is the good news, and there are good opportunities to use music and radio to make people aware of the church's existence. But the real evangelism is done one to one, and that is hard graft. It's not an easy option anywhere, but it does seem harder in France. You have to be aware of the spiritual battle in hand, or you would become very down-hearted.

After Paris came Lille. We call it our Lille-experience, because it's

hard to call it anything else. We had heard that in Lille the church was 'a community', and to be truthful that scared us, and we were right to be scared. Seeing a body of people living right on the edge is something you can't walk past. You have to be aware that God could call us to live in the same way, or in another equally nail-biting fashion. But with what results!

The Baptist Church in Lille has taken the Gospel to the people who have fallen off the edge of what is a very materialistic society. They have recognised God's call to go into the streets of Lille, an enormous industrial city, and present Christ to the homeless, the drug addict, the inadequate, the abused. They don't just meet them in the street, they invite them into their homes.

As we talked with and lived with that part of us which is the church in Lille, we knew that we would go back to our own places very different in our outlook on the gospel in practice. We saw too that Christians must be involved in fighting all injustice, economic, racial and moral, if any of us wants the Gospel we preach to be taken seriously. Ask us about Lille. There will be one of our team in a country near you!

We'd seen European culture in the raw, and were beginning to form our opinions. Some of us had come thinking that Europe was the place to be emulated, and found instead that there was a coldness and distance between people that would be unthinkable in India or Zaire. We found that putting the gospel into action on the streets was putting your life at the mercy of drug dealers, whereas in Nicaragua it was the military who were the threat. We found Europeans breaking their hearts over a relatively few homeless, while in Brazil we were letting thousands of street kids die with a shrug of the shoulder. We were re-evaluating the ideas we'd had, not just about Europe, but about ourselves. ■

To be continued

Room for Change

ROOM FOR CHANGE

This is the name chosen for the 1993 Staff Teams. How many remember the last name?

ROOM FOR CHANGE

Does it raise questions in your mind? Are you already asking who should change, or where change should take place or how?

ROOM FOR CHANGE

An event for the whole church, young and old. An afternoon of workshops and seminars, experiences and action. An evening presentation which will surprise, involve, encourage and challenge you. An event which will provide inspiration for the Sunday services the next day.

There will be 22 'Room for Change' events – from Edinburgh to Torquay, Ipswich to Swansea. Look out for the details on the back page.

ROOM FOR CHANGE

Most of the local groups hosting 'Room for Change' have started planning. There is a lot to do – getting publicity off the ground, finding people to run a creche, preparing volunteers for the children's programme, providing refreshments and organising the Sunday programme in local churches.

ROOM FOR CHANGE

For the last event some people travelled many miles to be at the event. Do you know where and when your area will host 'Room for Change'? Have you booked the date in the church diary?

If you've answered 'no' to the last two questions, how about a New Year's resolution? To get your church involved!

Happy Christmas!

The name of the last Staff Teams event was, of course, 'No Small Change'.

CAMBRENSIS EN FRANCE



ONE HUNDRED and sixty years ago the first Baptist missionaries arrived in France, as Welshman John Jenkins went to preach the gospel at Marmaix in Brittany. And this year is the tenth birthday of Cambrensis, the South Wales Baptist Choir. Mix these ingredients, add an invitation from the BMS to Cambrensis to cross the channel in BiCentenary year, and you end up with *Cambrensis en France* — a two week tour to Paris, Versailles, Orléans, the Loire Valley and Brittany.

Two of Cambrensis' former members, Robert and Catherine Atkins, are now working for the BMS in Versailles. They were with the choir when we made our first European trip in 1989 to the European Baptist Congress at Budapest.

It was never going to be easy, taking 53 people, including a dozen children, on a 14 day tour

which included eleven concerts and services. It would have been tiring without the problems of a coach which broke down, some serious mosquito bites on exceptionally hot days, an outbreak of chickenpox among the children and gastric flu for the adults . . . but these were only minor hiccups!

We took with us a string quartet, and soloists Miriam Bowen, Elizabeth Woollett and Huw Priday, all professional opera singers who are Christians and work regularly with Cambrensis. This ensured high musical standards and the choir's repertoire, which included Welsh hymns and folk songs, classical music, Negro spirituals and modern worship songs in English and French, delighted all those to whom we sang.

Our audiences during the first week were mainly from Baptist Churches in Paris, and though,

due to the holiday period, the congregations were not huge, they were most appreciated.

What came as something of a surprise to the choir was the cosmopolitan nature of the Baptist and non-conformist family in Paris. After our first engagement on the Sunday morning at Avenue du Maine we had to make way for a Korean choir to come in and rehearse for a concert they were giving that evening for the Korean Christian community that met there. We were delighted, of course, that many of the congregation who worship at the Baptist Church at Rue de Lille (the HQ of the French Baptist Federation) are Chinese — because the meal they provided was second to none!

It was a joy to sing at the Church of Robert and Catherine Atkins in Versailles, and to experience firsthand the work with which they are involved. Although many of their own members had departed to the South of France for the summer, the church was comfortably full, and the choir were received with great enthusiasm. Robert and Catherine were filled with *hiraeth* as the evening ended with the great strains of Arwel Hughes' hymn, 'Tydi a Roddaist' and its rousing 'Amen'.

It is evident that the Atkins' ministry in Versailles is much appreciated. Their situation has its trials — no building of their own but meeting in a community centre shared by other groups, 30 minutes drive from their flat, and their congregation spread over many miles. Not the primitive tribes of 'regions beyond' missionary work, but a very different kind of mission field in one of Europe's most affluent, yet Godless, areas.

The church premises of many French Baptists are somewhat

HERALD 1993

BIGGER BUT BETTER

I should like to take this opportunity to thank all responsible for the excellent coverage of the Missionary Herald over this BiCentenary period – both interesting and challenging and very comprehensive.

May God continue to bless the work of the BMS.

from Joan Johnson (Miss)

Can I congratulate you on producing a very readable magazine as is the Herald. I've just read from cover to cover your BiCentenary issue and I will confess this was the first time I had read a copy, but definitely not the last time. It was very stirring reading of all the great projects that you're involved in and I'm now making my way through all the other copies since so as to catch up on and inform myself. So thank you for all your work and efforts and I'm now able to understand and more effectively pray for all those involved in overseas mission. So keep on the good work.

from Miss P J Gardner

'I've just heard that we're only going to get ten issues of the 'Herald' in 1993.'

Yes, but that's not the end of the story. Our readers will not be getting less, in fact, we hope, a little more.

Two of next year's issues will cover two months – July/August and November/December. This will help ease our production and distribution schedule over busy holiday periods. But both these editions, to compensate, will have eight extra pages.

The May issue will, as usual, be our double Annual Report edition. The remaining issues will have four extra pages each.

unusual, and to sing in a church which used to be a bakery and another which was a warehouse, was most interesting!

We were unable to give one of our concerts because the bus broke down. When we eventually arrived at Orléans Baptist Church at 3 am (in a borrowed bus!) we saw the big banner advertising our concert which never happened!

The 150 or so people who turned up for the concert enjoyed an evening of hymn singing with a sermon delivered by the Pastor. And the food they had prepared was eaten at 4 am instead of 4 pm!

In Brittany the Baptist churches and Breton societies alike welcomed their fellow Gauls with great warmth. They spared themselves nothing in the way they arranged for meals, tours and concerts during the final leg of the trip. We visited the Baptist Church in Paimpol where three of its foundation stones had been laid by men from Cardiff, and whose first Pastor was Welshman Caradoc Jones.

We sang in some wonderful venues in Brittany, and large, enthusiastic audiences gave the choir a great filip as we came to the end of our two week stay in France. The final concert was held in the great Cathedral of St Briec, and to end the tour here with the strains of Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* followed by the Welsh and Breton National Anthems sung (to the same tune) simultaneously sent shivers down many a spine! ■

So each edition will be bigger. But what's going to be in the magazine next year?

Each edition will be focusing on a special topic. January, for instance, will be looking at the subject of Women – in developing countries, in mission, in the church. There will be the usual stories, articles and news items, however, there will also be a centre four pages of special material for use by church leaders, house groups, missionary prayer groups and others. There will be Biblical material, discussion topics based on the main articles in the magazine, prayers, background information, statistics, diagrams and graphs (if appropriate) and, from time to time, hymns, songs and music.

The idea is to make the *Herald* a tool which churches can use to examine some of the great world mission issues.

The four pages will be designed as a pull-out which can be filed for future use.

As the year progresses we hope to hear from churches and individuals about the usefulness of these pages and perhaps offering hints for their improvement. ■

OOOPS!

Rather an unfortunate mistake in my mission statement on page 17 of the October Herald.

In the last paragraph, third line up from the end, it should read '... but rather that God will judge' etc. This as it stands suggests that not only do I not believe that God is all that concerned with our orthodoxy, but also that our orthopraxis doesn't matter! Precisely the opposite of what I intended.

Alec Balfe-Mitchell

Sorry Alec. I hope this will not only act as an apology but also prevent lots of abusive letters and phonecalls to that 'heretical' parson in Manchester.

CLOUD OF WITNESSES

Some thoughts about Lay Training in Brazil by John Dyer

BRAZIL'S BAPTIST Seminaries are bursting at the seams with students preparing for full-time ministry. Most of these will be allocated to churches that have sufficient financial clout to afford them, like many of the churches in Brazil's cities.

Some of the largest churches have hundreds, even thousands of members. Many can afford more than one minister, sometimes three or four, each with his own special area of responsibility — music, youth, visitation, congregations, etc.

But there are many hundreds of smaller churches with an average of 70 members whose per capita income is very small, maybe £40 a month.

Ministry, like any other professional service has to be paid for. If you can't afford it, you go without. So are there any alternatives to full-time, seminary trained, ordained ministers? Lay Training offers the tools of leadership and ministry to those who have the ability and calling to serve in some particular way, but who are not able to consider full-time training, or who have not received the call to be ordained.

There is an attitude among Brazilian Baptists that only ordained pastors can baptise or preside at the Lord's Supper. This, so a Brazilian pastor told me, has nothing to do with theology, but with culture.

'Give 'em an inch,' he said, 'and they'll take a mile.' So pastors will not give an inch! Does this deny the point of training the laity for the work of

ministry? Allowing for the fact that the laity in Brazilian Baptist churches should 'know their place', they can still be better prepared to assume that place.

There are three principal areas in which the laity can engage in ministry:

1. Within the local church in the tasks to which they have already been assigned, Sunday School, Deacon, Youth work.

2. In the congregations of their local church as leaders and preachers and in other churches without a pastor.

3. Planting new congregations where there is no Baptist or evangelical work.

What kind of training is best for these people? My involvement with the Extension Course on the Litoral of Paraná has given me some valuable insights. First of all, it has to be experience related, that is, relevant. It has to relate to the work they are doing and the church situation from which they come.

There is obviously a need for some Biblical and other theoretical input. The Course on the Litoral covered a range of subjects from Old and New Testament, through Church History to how to lead a church meeting.

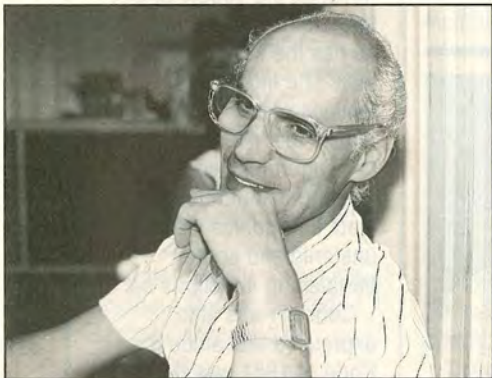
It became apparent that spending a day together once a fortnight and sharing a meal was important in creating group identity — I called the students 'my little congregation'. They represented the cream of the churches to which they belonged and yet they also belonged together as a special group with its own ethos and momentum.

The exchange of ideas and experiences and trying to resolve problems together whether academic or practical were fundamental to the learning process. The opportunity to pray and worship together (we had a short service after lunch) kept our vision clear. Students were able to lead us in a short meditation or offer a homily, for there's no doubt that practice makes perfect.



*Above: In the classroom
Below: Ferreira Baptist Church, São Paulo*

There are good reasons for doing lay training in Brazil as indeed anywhere else, but I could not conclude without paying tribute to the people who have passed through my life since childhood days, who pointed me to Christ and guided me in His ways. The 'cloud of witnesses' (Hebrews 12:1) to whom I owe so much. The laity no less! ■



Top: Coffee Break
Centre: Student

A NATAL STAR AT CHRISTMAS?

Radio and TV evangelism in Brazil

It is always exciting when dreams, cherished for many years, come true. Anyone who contributes to *Fund for the Future* can make this happen for Christians in Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil.

The dream is to produce high quality evangelistic programmes for local radio and television – programmes which challenge the usual message of the media. The Baptist Church in Brazil has a role which she takes very seriously, that is, to offer an alternative way of life in a climate of easy depersonalised sex, creeping materialism and violence and injustice which show little regard for human life.

The State, whose capital is Natal, is made up of mainly rural areas where communities are scattered and the people poor. Communications generally are sporadic and so television and local radio offer an important link for people.

As in most countries, people here are easily seduced by the glossy, tantalising scene so often portrayed by popular television programmes. The Baptist Convention of North Riograndense want to hold out the offer of real life instead.

And local radio, a lifeline for isolated peoples, can be an important means of presenting the Christian message and portraying the image of a Church which is vital, alive and caring.

£3,600 is needed. This will buy



Pastor Martins da Silva, General Secretary of the Baptist Convention of Rio Grande do Norte



A typical radio station in action

equipment to enable local trained people to make programmes of a high enough quality for radio and television.

A Communications Department of the State Convention already exists, and this will be responsible for bringing the dream to life. Only, however, if British Baptists come to their aid and continue to support *Fund for the Future*, making a change for the better in a particularly needy part of Brazil. ■



General Committee in session last month

A Trim BMS Budget

Allowances for BMS workers in Europe have had to be increased by 20 per cent because of the devaluation of the pound. At the last minute a further £50,000 was put into the Society's budget for next year to cover increased costs because of new exchange rates.

This means that the BMS is asking the churches for an increase in giving of six per cent instead of the 4.8 per cent it had been hoping for.

Nevertheless, for a third year in succession, the BMS has trimmed its budget to try and keep in line with inflation.

'Those preparing the estimates were asked to look at all possible savings, reducing expenditure wherever possible,' BMS treasurer, Arthur Garman, told the General Committee.

'Last year, we were aware that we had not achieved our appeal target for several years and that deficits had occurred in the previous five years. Since 1988 expenditure had been increasing at a steeper rate

than previously and at a much steeper rate than the giving by the churches.

'The gap between the two had been growing bigger and we knew that situation could not continue. We therefore had to examine the estimates very carefully and last year we agreed expenditure at £67,000 less than the year before.'

The Society did not replace one of the Area Representatives when he retired and although not making any person redundant other members of staff have not been replaced.

'By doing that and by being prepared to take £162,000 from reserves we reduced the appeal figure to a 9.5 per cent increase over the previous year. That was a considerable challenge but a figure we regarded as reasonable.'

In fact Mr Garman reported that because giving was up by 10 per cent and because legacies were again very high there would be no need to take anything from reserves.

'For 1993 we need £4,388,500 but because of expected interest of £425,000, possible legacies of £600,000, and drawing

£103,500 from reserves we can reduce our appeal to the churches to £3,240,000, an increase of 6 per cent over last year.'



Baby Milk

The BMS General Committee has decided to follow the lead given by the Alliance of Baptist Youth and support the boycott of Nescafé.

Members of the Committee heard that, although Nestlé have agreed to support the WHO and UNICEF 'Baby Friendly' initiative, they have not yet reached their own targets. Nestlé have made their intention known of phasing out all baby milk donations to hospitals within the next few years. The resolution from General Committee commends the intention and asks Nestlé to implement their decision.

It also points to breaches of the International Code of Marketing Breastmilk Substitutes (1981) and asks Nestlé to ensure that such breaches are dealt with.

There was no argument during the debate that, especially in developing countries, breastfeeding was preferable to bottle feeding where possible. Nestlé – and other formula milk manufacturers – have for many years given free formula milk to maternity wards and hospitals. This has encouraged medical staff to routinely give the milk to new mothers. In many parts of the world the belief is that 'Western' formula milk is better than breast milk.

However, once mother and baby have left the hospital, the supply of free formula milk has dried up – as has the supply of breast milk. The high cost to families of milk powder means that it is often diluted to dangerous levels, causing malnutrition. Also, teats and bottles are unsterile and so life threatening infections set in.

Concern was also expressed that since the Code of 1981 was drawn up, 'follow up' milks have been introduced to the market and caused confusion and misunderstanding – again threatening the health and lives of newborn babies.

The long list of Nestlé products was rather daunting to many members of the Committee. It was decided to concentrate on boycotting Nescafé coffee, although people are free to take the whole list seriously if they wish.

General Committee members will be encouraging their churches to take part in the boycott until such time as Nestlé have fulfilled the aims of the 'Baby-Friendly' initiative.

New Areas

Two new names are to appear on the BMS map as a result of decisions made at the General Committee.

Derek Rumbol, BMS overseas secretary for Africa, visited Zimbabwe, in Southern Africa, earlier this year. As a result, he recommended a partnership with the National Baptist Convention.

'Why BMS in Zimbabwe?' he asked. 'In view of the existence of four Baptist groups in Zimbabwe and of the presence of the Australians and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, why should BMS go in?'

'There are also other denominations working there. So I told every group I met that we were not interested in coming to a country to deepen division with the church or to compete or to duplicate.'

Mr Rumbol described the situation of the National Baptist Convention which has its origins in four churches expelled from the Southern Baptist backed Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe.

'The American missionaries cautioned the Convention leaders because the churches they were wanting to expel were the ones who were evangelising and where the work was going well. But it was made perfectly plain that the four

churches would not be allowed to remain with the Convention.

'Once expelled, they realised they would lose direction, vision and zeal if they were left isolated. Therefore they consolidated and created the National Baptist Convention with a strategy for evangelisation.'

Baptist leaders from other groups have supported the stand of the NBC.

'They really need your help because their situation is critical. I really support their stand, they are genuine,' said Raymond Motsi, pastor of Bulawayo Baptist Church.

The National Baptist Convention was founded in 1989 with just four churches. It now has 14 churches and five new congregations with 1,429 members and was received into the Baptist World Alliance in 1992.

The BMS has agreed to look for a missionary pastor to work with the leadership of the National Convention in church planting in unchurched areas and in the training of church workers and lay leaders in new congregations.

The General Committee also agreed to accept an invitation to work with the Baptist Convention of Goiás in Brazil. The intention is to help in church work and social action programmes as well as in the hospital and seminary.



Government Cuts

The proposed government cuts in overseas aid were discussed at length in the BMS General Committee last month.

It was reported that, in spite of election promises to increase the amount of money made available by the British public in overseas aid, the Treasury was demanding a 15 per cent cut in the overseas budget.

'This amounts to £320 million off the whole budget and £285 million being taken away from the poorest countries.'

The most recent figures show Britain giving only 0.32 per cent of its Gross National Product, less than half the UN target of 0.7 per cent which Britain has agreed to in principle.

Ben Jackson, Campaigns Co-ordinator for the World Development Movement, said, 'The hungry should

not be made to pay for the Government's economic mistakes. For the 40 million Africans facing starvation this would be one U-turn too many. While Britons dig deep to support the emergency appeal for Africa, the Government is sharpening the knives to cut out help to the hungry.'

Christian Aid reports, 'These cuts would particularly hit long-term programmes which help people to stand on their own two feet and make them less vulnerable to natural disaster.'

The General Committee of the BMS is urging Baptists to write to Michael Portillo, the Treasury Chief Secretary, asking him to protect the real aid increases promised by the government last autumn, to write to the Prime Minister urging him to meet election and Earth Summit pledges in Rio de Janeiro to increase development aid, and to write in similar vein to their local MP.



Street Scene, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Albanian Christian Programmes

Radio Tirana, the broadcasting station located in the capital of Albania that once broadcast Communist propaganda, was due to start airing evangelical Christian programmes to eastern Europe in October.

Officials of the government-owned radio station have signed an agreement with Trans World Radio, an international broadcasting network based in Cary, North Carolina.

Celebration

Since 1992 is a year of celebration for BMS *Herald* readers might be interested in a celebration that is taking place in Nepal at the moment.

Forty years ago a small group of Nepali and Western Christians entered Nepal from India for the first time and trekked to Pokhara. This marked the beginning of the work of the Nepal Evangelistic Band



(which later became the Nepal Evangelistic Fellowship) on Nepal soil.

Since then the INF has made a real contribution to development in the Western Region of the country starting with the famous 'Shining' Hospital in Pokhara and today including TB, Leprosy and Community Health programmes.

During this period too, the INF has stood beside the young Nepali church as it

has held firm and blossomed amid persecution.

The entry of Christians into Nepal in 1952 was made possible by a revolution the previous year which ended the rule of the Rana dynasty which had held the country in isolation from the rest of the world for over 100 years.

Today Christians are experiencing new-found freedom following another revolution two years ago.

The INF is using this 40th anniversary as an opportunity to thank God for His faithfulness over that period. It is also holding a series of public celebrations to which Nepali dignitaries will be invited.

BMS, which has been working the United Mission to Nepal for many years now is also co-operating with INF and has seconded Sue Frame and Chris and Alison Rudall to them.

Government Decision to Tax Evangelicals

The strong alliance between the Roman Catholic Church and Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's government has angered many Nicaraguan evangelicals.

Although they make up more than 15 per cent of the population, no evangelical holds a significant job in government. Evangelicals say such actions as the inclusion of Catholic catechism material in school primers, the use of public funds in the construction of Managua's new cathedral, out of both public funds and property for a new pontifical university, violate the separation of church and state guaranteed in the country's constitution.

A recent decision to tax evangelical activities not dedicated 'exclusively to worship' has aggravated the tension. In a letter to Minister of the Presidency, Antonio Lacayo, Gustavo Parajón of the Nicaraguan Council of Evangelical Churches complained of 'the apparent partiality of the government towards the Roman Catholic Church.'



Pokhara, Nepal

A fund for the future

Slow Start to Fund

'Don't give us presents, make a donation to the BMS Fund for the Future.'

That's how one couple, celebrating their silver wedding, raised £400. Others have done something similar for special birthday celebrations.

So after a slow start, money is now beginning to flow into the BMS BiCentenary 'Fund for the Future'. However, at the half-way mark, the Society has received only £250,000 of the £2 million it is asking for.

Many churches made their local appeals to coincide with the actual BMS anniversary on 2 October. Others have got further on with their special projects and have started to contribute to the Fund.

'So the rate at which money is coming in is accelerating,' said BMS General Secretary, Reg Harvey.

'It is encouraging to see the way people are using their initiative to raise money for the Fund and the sacrifices some are making.'

The Fund has been set up to help the BMS enter into new mission initiatives. The work being started in Indonesia and the beginning of Baptist witness

in Albania by Chris and Mairi Burnett have been made possible by the Fund.

All the money received so far has been allocated to different projects.

New Director for Feed the Minds

Feed the Minds, the international Christian literature aid charity, has announced the appointment of author and theologian Dr Alwyn Marriage, as its new Director and as General Secretary of the United Society for Christian Literature (USCL). She has been lecturer in Philosophy and English at the University of Surrey for 16 years. She took up her new post on 1 November.



Announcing the appointment the President of Feed the Minds, the Revd Dr Charles Elliott, Dean of Trinity Hall, Cambridge said: 'Dr Marriage brings the right combination of experience and enthusiasm to the task of promoting Christian literacy work in the Third World. A fine successor to Alec Gilmore on whose work she will be able to build, she will have the prayers and good wishes of all of us who care about freeing our fellow men and women from the chains of illiteracy, superstition and exploitation.'

Dr Alwyn Marriage said: 'As we are faced with the tragic consequences of starvation in many parts of the world, we should never overlook the fact that books and literacy are essential to any long-term plans to enable developing countries

to become self sufficient and lay the basis of a proper quality of life. I consider it a great privilege to be able to join Feed the Minds and USCL in their efforts to tackle one of the root causes of poverty.'



A Woman's Touch

Congratulations! We have had a tremendous response to this year's BMS Women's Project – *A Woman's Touch*. We have never before had so many bookings for the slide set!

Every day, fellowships all over Britain use the project slide set and booklet to learn of the various ways women can enter into mission throughout the world. There is also a poster to advertise the project and a bookmark to remind you to pray for this vital work.

The Women's Project materials can be used at any meeting or Sunday service. If you would like to receive the materials, please write stating the quantity you need and the date you would like to see the slides. We are booking dates now for 1993 but please hurry to avoid disappointment!

To date, £8,000 has been raised towards our target, so congratulations and warmest thanks to everyone who has contributed to this.

NEEDED OVERSEAS

Here are some of the needs that our overseas partners have asked us to fill.

ANGOLA

- Doctor for Community Health Programme.

BANGLADESH

- Couple for theological teaching

BRAZIL

- Church-based community/social workers
- Nurse for training nurses
- Hostel parents
- Pastors, especially in inner cities in favela areas working with the poor

CHINA

- TEFL teachers

INDIA

- Volunteer teacher of Western Music

INDONESIA

- Couple for theological/discipleship training, 1995 or 1996

ISRAEL

- Anaesthetist

ITALY

- Two pastors

CALL TO PRAYER

13-19 DECEMBER

Brazilian Baptist Convention

David and Sheila Brown live in Rio de Janeiro. David works for the Brazilian World Mission Board, involved in deputation, visiting churches and encouraging them. Both David and Sheila give lessons in the theological and missionary training colleges, which means extra work but also gives them an opportunity to help train future workers for ministry and mission work. Sheila is also involved in community work based at Usina Baptist Church and has begun work to set up a medical dispensary. The church is situated on the edge of a *favela* area in Rio de Janeiro. Every day they see armed men patrolling the streets, and drugs and arms trafficking in broad daylight, whilst the police are nowhere to be seen. Pray for them as they seek to carry out their normal lives against this background.

Ivo Seitz has replaced Oliveiro de Araujo as Secretary for Home Missions. Pray for him as he settles into this post. Also a successor is being sought for General Secretary of the Convention. May the selectors know the mind of Christ in making the decision for the new appointment.

20-26 DECEMBER

God with us

As we rejoice in our comfortable surroundings that God is indeed with us, let us remember those who echo those words, but in far from easy situations. Let us remember them as they seek to show their fellow men and women that God is with us: in war, in poverty, in hunger, in nakedness, in sickness, in prison and in despair.

Let us also remember the world's 'rich' people, who feel they need nothing. May God's Holy Spirit speak

to them this Christmas through all the celebrations, and create a desire within them to be poor in spirit, and rich towards God.

27 DECEMBER-2 JANUARY

A light for the Gentiles

Let us thank God who is always leading us into new ways, who has shown His goodness in the past and who will be faithful as we enter into the unknown of a new year. Let us look again at the lessons learned, over the past year. Let us use this new year as an opportunity to re-evaluate our lives and rededicate ourselves to His work in whatever area we are called.

Remember all our missionaries as they renew their commitment to God's work worldwide. May they not be afraid of what the new year will bring, knowing that whatever changes impinge upon their lives, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

3-9 JANUARY

Children of the World

Children are always the first to suffer. Where there is not enough food, babies are the first victims. When disease strikes, they are among the weakest and least resilient. Where there is conflict, their minds are more deeply scarred. They are the last to be considered when political differences turn into ugly warfare. In some cases, as with street children in Latin America, violence is actually focused upon them. In many places, they are denied their basic rights, as education and health care belong to the privileged few.

*This is no way
to start a new year
thinking of young life crushed
and hope,
for the new born,
dead.*

*That was no way
to start a new life
running from destruction
and a baby-hating king.*

*This is no way, Lord,
for our children to live
bruised, beaten, homeless and
terrified,
friendless, godless, confused and led
astray.*

*Lead in your angels now
to bind up Rachel's wounds
Call up your people now
to work together in compassion
to find a way for young lives
to make a new start
with hope.*

*Lord Jesus, who made children the shining
stars of the kingdom teach people with power
to think of them first.*

10-16 JANUARY

Bangladesh: Church Work

Despite the enormous Muslim majority (87 per cent) Bangladesh is still a secular state and the tiny Christian community is free to worship unhindered. Despite the hardness of the soil spiritually, the Spirit of God is at work. His servants are trying to witness to their faith and to win others. The different church denominations struggle to weather disagreement and disputes which damage the collective witness of the Church. But in Bangladesh there is evidence that God is 'building a people in power' and 'making a people of praise'.

Christine Preston is Secretary for Missionary Affairs and relates to the BMS' partnership with the Bangladesh Baptist Sangha (BBS). Christine is also involved with the Christian Medical Association of Bangladesh.

17-23 JANUARY

Albania, Hungary and Eastern Europe

In both Albania and Hungary, BMS workers, prevented from returning to Zaire, have enabled the BMS to accept quickly opportunities in Eastern Europe.

In Albania, a country which, after more than 40 years of tight communist

control, is being opened up to the rest of the world, Chris and Mairi Burnett are helping to establish a base in Tirana, from which aid, development and church work can be organised and co-ordinated on behalf of the European Baptist Federation.

In Hungary, the BMS contribution is through Karen Poole, teaching English in the International Baptist Lay Academy to which people come from several countries in Eastern Europe.

24-30 JANUARY

Nepal: General

United Mission to Nepal's Executive Director, Ed Metzler, has recently written: 'Our Christian sisters and brothers have felt free to live and proclaim their faith in ways that were not possible. . . . This was exemplified by the Easter march in Kathmandu when a couple of thousand Christians marched through the city with banners proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus and sharing thousands of pieces of Christian literature among the population.'

We pray that this new freedom will be used wisely.

Several BMS workers are tackling language study, among them Paul and Jackie Wicks and Iain and Karen Gordon. Jane Andrews working in UMN Headquarters in Kathmandu, is now Assistant to the Personnel Secretary.

31 JANUARY-6 FEBRUARY

Baptist World Alliance

The BWA is a worldwide fellowship of 36 million baptised believers in 152 conventions/unions. This represents a community of 70 million Baptists working in more than 200 countries around the world. It exists as an expression of the essential one-ness of Baptist people in Jesus Christ, to impart inspiration to the fellowship, to provide channels for sharing concerns and skills in witness and ministry.

7-13 FEBRUARY

Fellowship Visits and Scholarships

BMS offers study grants to partner churches to enable some leaders to take specialised courses in other countries to equip them for their work. Many who have benefited are now teachers in theological training or have been entrusted with key responsibilities in their national churches. Training away from home, in a strange culture and often in an unfamiliar language, demands real sacrifice both for those studying and their families. Culture shock abroad is frequently followed by 're-entry shock' upon their return home.

Churches on the receiving end of these visits also can be blessed and encouraged by the insights and experiences of the overseas friends who share in fellowship, worship and witness.

14-20 FEBRUARY

Zaire: Kinshasa

Kinshasa is the centre of all discussion about the future of Zaire. A new Prime Minister is trying to steer the country out of economic and political chaos and towards an effective democracy. The situation remains unstable and there is always the threat of a disintegration into chaotic violence.

The problems of the country have made it extremely difficult for the Baptist Community of the River Zaire (CBFZ) as a whole, which stretches over 1,000 miles along the length of the river, and for the separate regions of the Community, to be organised and administered. So we remember Pastor Koli, President of the whole CBFZ and the Rev Enguta, President of the Church Region of Kinshasa.

The Zaire British Association School has a few pupils and a limited number of classes. Ruth Montacute is the headmistress. John and Rena Mellor have returned to Zaire and are working for a while at the International Centre for Evangelism in Kinshasa.

MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

DEPARTURES

Joy Knapman to Sri Lanka
 Tim Sultaley to Zaire
 John and Rena Mellor to Zaire
 Margot Bafende to Zaire
 Avelino and Ana Ferreira to Portugal (holiday) prior to return to Brazil

VISITS

Basil Avey to India
 Theo Lambourne to Brazil
 John Passmore to Zimbabwe
 Derek Rumbol to Zaire
 Reg Harvey to Ruschlikon
 Angus MacNeill to France
 Carol MacNeill to France
 John Passmore to France
 Chris and Christine Spencer to France
 Steve Seymour to Zimbabwe

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LEGACIES

Winifred Grace Sales	11,700.00
Miss I E Sullivan	141,653.45
Miss Christina R Young	21,353.53
Mr B J Keogh	167.22
Dr Madge Atkinson	500.00
Miss E Sims	470.35
V M Rees	40,000.00
Miss M C Snow	2,955.83
Mrs B K Alexander	60.98
Mrs Amy H M Davies	14,000.00
Mr William Henry Davis	300.00
Miss M Underhill	7,500.00
Mrs F I M Outwin	180.00
Lilian Turnbull	1,000.00
Helen Hardin	1,531.48
Rosina Lewis	2,000.00
D L Fisk	110,700.03
L Lefebvre	7,379.58
M Underhill	22,243.93

GENERAL WORK

BMH: £5.00; BMH: £50.00; BMH: £27.00; via DP: £29; Garden Fete: £43.11; Halifax: £20.00; Charities Trust: £4.75; Prayer Letter Stamps: £1.62; Pembrokeshire: £5.00; Anon: £5.00; Anon: £10.00; Nationwide Cheque: £15.00; Postal Order: £20.00; Postal Order: £15.00; Cash: £10.00; Tyne and Wear: £14.00; Coventry 'Emergency Fund': £1.00; Coventry 'Emergency Fund': £34.00; Coventry 'Emergency Fund': £10.00; Coventry 'Emergency Fund' £50.00; Soton: £20.00; Charities Aid: £53.25; Anon: £62.00; Anon: £6.10.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY

General Committee Nominations

Nominations for the General Committee of the Society for the year 1993/94 can now be made by members of the Society, contributing churches, auxiliaries of the Society, Baptist Unions and Baptist Associations, and must be received not later than 31 December 1992.

Please act now and remember that the General Committee needs to be as representative as possible of the Baptist constituency.

Nominations in writing should be sent to:

Michael J Quantick
 Administration Secretary
 Baptist Missionary Society, PO Box 49,
 Baptist House, 129 Broadway, Didcot
 Oxon OX11 8XA

Room for Change



The NEW BMS Staff Team Roadshow hits the road in January!

January	23/24 30/31	Leeds Cambridge	May	8/9 15/16	Sussex Midlands	September	18/19 25/26	Chard Swansea	November	6/7 27/28	Nottingham Faringdon
February	13/14 27/28	Edinburgh Newport	June	5/6 12/13 26/27	Norwich Wales North	October	9/10 23/24 30/31	Kirkintilloch Lancs /Chesh Enfield	December	4/5	Central
March	13/14 27/28	Coventry Torquay	July	3/4	Luton						
April	3/4 24/25	Wales London									

If you have ever asked:
 How can I get more involved in the world church?
 How can I get my church to care about the world?
 How can I encourage more giving for world mission?
 Should I consider offering for overseas service?
 How do you build a refugee camp?
 How can I pray effectively for the world?
 What does the BMS really do? Join us for a weekend and find out!

Saturday 3:00 - 7:30

3:00 - 5:00 An afternoon of activities, discussion, hands-on experience, and talks to answer some of the questions you're asking. Children's programme and creche for the under-fives provided.
 6:00 - 7:30 An evening of facing the challenge to change - so that we can be more fully involved in the world church! Oh yes. And it's fun too.

Sunday - all day

Team members will take part in local church services.