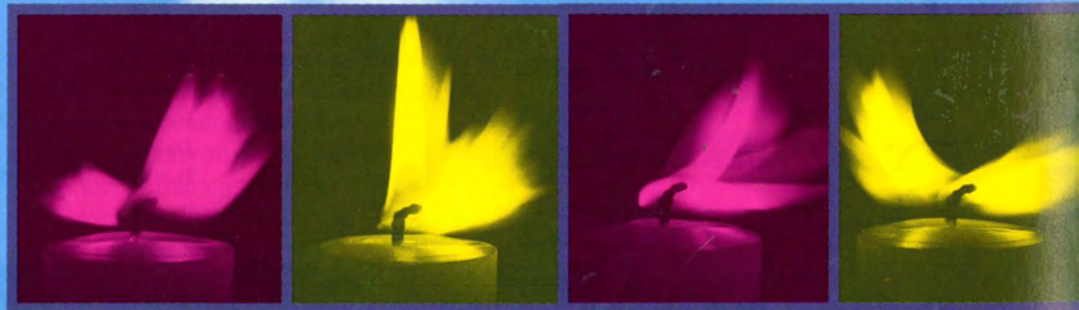


Driven by the Wind

May BMS ANNUAL REPORT 1993

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C O N T E N T S



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Albania	Angola	Bangladesh	Belgium	Brazil
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Portugal	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Trinidad	Zaire
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GENERAL SECRETARY Revd Reg Harvey **OVERSEAS SECRETARY** Revd Angus MacNeill

EDITOR Revd David Pountain **DESIGN** Anthony Viney Sarah Prentice

Enquiries about service overseas to: **PERSONNEL SECRETARY** Janet Claxton.

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INTRODUCTION

CONTRAST THE SCENES! In one the sun shines down from a clear blue sky onto families enjoying the beach. The strong breeze means kites are much in evidence swooping and soaring high. The same breezes are powering the brightly coloured sails of wind surfers, while farther out yachts are at full stretch, most with garish ballooning spinnakers. Just inland is a festooning of the fields with mini windmills, generating electricity, the power surging to bring light, warmth and available energy.

For the other, tall pampas grass is bending to the wind and eventually breaks to lie forlorn. Garden fences are whipping to and fro until eventually some fall. Roofing felt is lifting, ripping and flapping free. Roof tiles are dancing with the buffeting from the gale, but then stream away like projectiles from a gun. Mobile homes are turning topsy turvy, house windows shatter and trees are being swayed down in a domino toppling effect by winds of a hundred miles an hour.

Driven by the wind, both scenes are possible. Winds of destruction or danger or winds of blessing and good. Wind is a biblical image, picturing the hazards of life yet equally giving a sign of God's presence and activity.

"A searching wind from the barren heights in the desert blows towards my people, but not to winnow or cleanse."

"Now the wind went out from the Lord and drove quail in from the sea."

"The wind blows wherever it pleases so it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

"There was a sound as of a rushing mighty wind" and the Spirit of God renewed the lives of gathered disciples. There was plenty of evidence recalled, this BiCentenary year, of winds of difficulty and danger. We

remembered the wind of opposition to Carey and his colleagues; the wind blowing from the mountains of vested interests buffeting William Knibb as he fought slavery; the wind of anger bringing death in China as a result of the Boxer Rebellion; the winds of independence and civil war consuming peace and community life in Angola and now Zaire.

By contrast, the purposeful powerful wind of the Spirit has been driving on the Society's life in the Mission of God. There have been deeply moving reminders of



Driven by the Wind

Mission Partnerships as the Society has received special gifts from beyond and within the British Isles. A special banner from Mizoram, a scroll from China, a plaque from Brazil, a message from Jamaica, all these have pointed to the heritage of the past and to the contemporary co-operation in mission that the Society is exercising around the world.

Any Annual Report looks back both for encouragement and as an act of accountability. The BiCentenary made for an even more searching scrutiny. What emerges from such an examination? There is the world scene where the winds of change brought and bring their own buffetings, diversions, opposition and costliness. Despite this, God's Spirit, like the wind, has blown where he willed and driven the BMS onwards within the purposes and the progress of God's Kingdom. We acknowledge this in humility and thankfulness.



Celebration, joy, thanksgiving, praise and worship have always been at the very heart of the Church's life. The good news of what God has done in Jesus Christ,



The Revd Reg Harvey led the opening prayers at Westminster Abbey.

Driven To Celebrate

Driven by the wind

for women and men the world over, has always been worth shouting about. So we have not been ashamed to celebrate the way God has worked through the BMS for 200 years to transform the lives of countless thousands. We believe that God's Holy Spirit has driven us to celebration, not only to remember the past but to stimulate an interest in mission and to remind Baptist churches in Britain of their place within the World Church.

A rare and beautiful moment

Christian leaders and believers came from all over the world to join British Baptists, BMS missionaries, home staff and General Committee members in Westminster Abbey on October 2. It was *the* day of celebration, the actual 200th birthday of the BMS that many had worked for over several years.

Representatives of BMS partner churches and countries were there from the oldest, India and Bangladesh, to what was then the newest, Albania.

One of the European visitors described the service as "a rare and beautiful moment." The Abbey staff themselves commented on the quality of the congregational singing. When one BMS staff member apologised that the Abbey was still full of Baptists a long time after the end of the service - "Baptists are always like this" - he smiled. "It doesn't matter. It's good to have the place full of Christians for a change!"

The Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend Michael Mayne, welcomed everyone to the Abbey and pointed to the Carey Lectern, presented to the Abbey by the BMS in 1949.

The Karen Baptist choir, from Thailand, almost at the end of their tour of the UK, confessed to feeling very nervous at the prospect of singing in such an awe-inspiring building, but their contribution to the worship was just right.

Extracts were read from Carey's Enquiry by Basil Amey, and from the first minutes by Kathrine Tubbs. Carolyn Green

and David Stockley read the lessons from Isaiah 54 and Luke 15.

The address was given by Dr Horace Russell of Jamaica who is now Professor of Historical Theology at the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Philadelphia.

His address, which we printed in November's *Herald*, was entitled *The Elder Son*. Speaking about the privilege of being asked to preach at the BiCentenary service, he said that he, and "countless numbers of Jamaican and Caribbean Baptists are conscious of the great honour bestowed upon us. It tells us that we are accepted as brothers and sisters in one missionary enterprise."

"My being here is more than a symbolic gesture, it is a renewed call to those who have been blessed by Christian missions to participate more fully as equal partners with you in the evangelisation of the world."

Reg Harvey led the prayers at the beginning of the service, and the prayers of intercession were led by Angus MacNeill, Andre Bo-Likabe from Zaire, Joao Luis Manga, Brazil missionary in Guyana and Mrs Pairin Tangtrakulpaisan from Thailand.

A European observer summed the service up: "Undoubtedly, few Baptists living in England in Carey's 18th century would ever have dreamed of a celebration of this magnitude on behalf of their tiny missionary society. On the other hand, Carey's words were courageous as well as prophetic. *Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.* British Baptists have certainly done that!"

ate

From Humble Beginnings

October 2, 1992 was a day of celebration and reunion. On the way to Westminster, inside the Abbey, outside on the streets, in restaurants and cafes, people were meeting, hugging, renewing friendships. This carried through to Kettering, where it all began in 1792.

The service at Fuller Baptist church was a much more informal gathering, more a BMS family occasion. The Karen choir was there once again. There were on-the-spot interviews with missionaries and overseas Christians. Helen Matthews dressed up as Widow Wallis and read from the minutes of the first meeting of the BMS. Several gifts, commemorating the BiCentenary, were presented by BMS partner churches overseas.

"Two hundred years ago in this town, 14 men established what was to become the Baptist Missionary Society," said BMS Chairman, Peter Clark, as he opened the service. "Tonight we are gathered here to celebrate what God has done with those humble beginnings in spreading the faith around the world."

The spreading of that faith was illustrated by the banners of 17 BMS linked countries hung around the balcony.

Bishop D K Mohanty, from Orissa, India described himself as "a bishop in whom beats the heart of a true Baptist." As part of the Church of North India, he spoke of Carey whose "heart was wedded to India" and of the change in mission which now looks to equal partners in the Gospel.



Left: Outside Westminster Abbey; a time for reunions and discussion.
Below left: The Karen choir.
Below: Dr Horace Russell, the BiCentenary preacher at Westminster.



BMS General Secretary, Reg Harvey, pointed to the number of grey heads, including his own, and grey suits in the church. "But," he said, "we are in a minority. This is a young world and that is the challenge to mission into the next century." He wondered how "we carry a weighty title like the BMS." His answer? "With a straight back and a bowed head."



Family Days

They began in May with a celebration in Nottingham, the place where Carey delivered his challenging "deathless" sermon and set British Baptist sights on the ends of the earth.

"Expect Great Things" was the theme of the day, and more than 2000 people converged on the Harvey Haddon Sports Centre expecting something. For the opening worship the sports hall was packed to capacity leaving some worshippers to stand outside.

It was standing room too for all of the seminars. There was also a rolling magazine programme, the Mission in Time Roadshow, and outside, when it didn't rain, buskers, snack bars and children's entertainments.

The Scottish event, held in September, was "A Day in Another World." Something like 1800 people took the trouble to travel to Perth High School and into a variety of mission experiences.

They were tempted into halls



Left: The Harvey Haddon Sports Centre - packed to capacity.

Below: There was something for the children.

Bottom left: Susan Chalmers interviews a Zairian colleague.



where they could enter the worlds of Africa and Asia. The BMS exhibition was there and also Mission in Time. The Karen choir arrived during the day. Again there was a variety of seminars and musical experiences.

"Throughout the day there was an awareness of a strong family atmosphere, with all age groups represented and baby buggies much in evidence," wrote Robert Armstrong, editor of the *Scottish Baptist*. "The stewards were drawn from a number of churches and covered a wide age range. The sense of everyone mucking in for a family was illustrated by coffee being served by former presidents of the BU."

In Wales, 3000 Baptists worshipped together in a cattleshed. The Welsh Family Day was held at the Royal Welsh Showground in Powys on October 3 and it was described "as an occasion to enjoy."

Worship was bi-lingual. *Gwyl y gair ar gan* (Festival of Word and Song) was for young people - although not exclusively - and provided Welsh speakers with an opportunity to discover different



ways of expressing their faith.

The ubiquitous Mission in Time roadshow was there, although they had not long lost all their equipment. They played to packed houses.

Missionaries and overseas visitors were on hand to give first hand accounts of mission today and all its costs.

BMS is supported by churches from the two Baptist unions which function in Wales. Missionaries come from both English and Welsh speaking churches. So this was one of those rare events which brought together Baptists, of all backgrounds in Wales.

“I felt ushered into a big global family where we all belong to the same Lord, serve the same Lord, have the same care and concern and where we are growing in the same faith and grace, willing to meet the same God.”



Multilateral Visits

During 1992, the BMS organised mixed groups of people from various partner churches overseas. The idea was that they visited another country to sample something of church life and Christian witness there.

“We all learned about living in a different culture,” reported one group. That helped us when it came to seeing how the church ministers. But we learned, not only from the countries we visited, but from each other. It was unique to be together from different countries and to share our experiences. We’ve learned a lot.”

Sbhapati Hanuman, from Orissa in India, was part of the team which went to Bangladesh and other parts of India.

“We were all asked to share something about our churches and the congregations listened to us with keen interest and attention.”

“I felt ushered into a big global family where we all belong to the same Lord, serve the same Lord, have the same care and concern and where we are growing in the same faith and grace, willing to meet the same God.”

“How wonderful! No matter wherever in the globe we are, whatever our colour, whatever language we speak, we all belong to the same family.”

Ted Davison from Scotland was part of the team which visited Europe. He was quite shocked to discover how little he knew of Belgium until he read the Herald.

“It has got to be stressed that Europe is as big a mission field as anywhere.

“It was good to be with people from countries around the world, to see how they reacted to situations and how they compared France and Belgium with their own countries.”

Jinda, from the Karen Baptist

Jan Kendall interviewing members of the multi-lateral team which visited Europe.



Driven to Celebrate

Convention in Thailand, was impressed with the way Brazilian Baptists give in support of both home and overseas mission.

And from the receiving end, John Thompson in Trinidad said, “It was our privilege to share in such a tremendous experience of the global fellowship of the Body of Christ.”

On the Carey Trail

A group, 48 of us, from the Arfon Association, Gwynedd, in Wales, spent four never-to-be-forgotten days visiting the familiar haunts of the young William Carey. Those days were surely the finest of all summer.

Late May, in all its freshness, adorned the countryside in splendour. At every place we visited, we were received with such a warm welcome that we were quite overwhelmed with kindness.

Someone from each of the churches - Paulerspury, Hackleton, Olney, Moulton and Kettering shared something of their history with us, and we joined together in worship and rejoiced in fellowship.

To all those who made our “Carey Tour” such a memorable one, thank you.

Someone has described human relationships as “creating space for others.” You certainly “created space” for us and we returned to Wales rejoicing!

Intergalactic Mission?



Well, not yet! But one can only wonder about the future. In 1992, both *Mission in Time*, the BMS roadshow, and the LOUD spectacular managed to take their audiences on a journey through space and time.

Mission in Time was prepared by a team of young people under the guidance of Elizabeth Webb at Harrow. They took folk back through BMS history in a lively, imaginative way, and positive way.

"I can't remember a time when so much church history was communicated so effectively," wrote one correspondent.

The only thing that marred the tour was when all the equipment and costumes were stolen. However, they pulled things together again very quickly, like true troupers, and got the show back on the road.

LOUD was written by Nick Page and performed by Steve Chalke and the Shout Theatre Company. It was all about an evangelist who fell asleep at a Baptist assembly to be reawakened a century later in a space-craft. By instructing an incompetent crew in the basics of



evangelism the now wide-awake evangelist - and the rest of the LOUD team - was able to communicate missionary needs and opportunities.

"I thought we were just going to sit there and have someone preach at us," said one member of the audience at the Orpington preview. "It hasn't been like that. It was brilliant."

Loud Tour

The whole concept went down very well. I was really excited about the number of young people who stood up at the end wanting to commit themselves more fully and effectively to mission

But all that was the end result of weeks and weeks of hard work. Congratulations to all those who worked to produce a really good show. It is something you can be proud of and something we can be proud of as Baptists. Young people will be encouraged to see, as but a taste, of what it means to get involved in mission.

Iain Hoskins, Youth Officer, Baptist Union of Great Britain.





Although its real impact will only be seen over the long term, I am sure that what has been achieved will prove to be really significant over the years ahead.

Steve Chalke, Oasis.

As we mentioned at the top of the British Telecom Tower, the effects of LOUD will never ever be really known as lives touched during the Tour will go on being effective for many years to come.

Simon Parish, Oasis.

An Excellent Performance

An appreciation of Mission in Time by Miss A Wolstencroft of Accrington.

My friend and I enjoyed so much seeing the young people who gave an excellent performance of "Mission in Time" at both Burnley and Lytham St Annes.

After seeing it in Burnley I told my friend and she wanted to see it too. So we travelled to Lytham on the Wednesday night where we heard of the terrible happenings which had taken place in Burnley - all the equipment was stolen from the minibus.

Although the cast had to "make-do-and-mend" the performance lacked nothing of the enthusiasm which was shown at their previous venue.

"Thank you, Mission in Time team," said my friend. "Your adversity was taken on the chin - in true Showbiz and missionary fashion."

She has written an article all about the performance for our church News Letter. She attends a Methodist Church.

Driven to Celebrate

Mission in Time

Most people didn't know what to expect. They'd heard a little about "Mission in Time" on the Baptist grapevine and curiosity tempted some to come along and it turned their ideas of mission upside down.

"It was an excellent evening," reported Stephen Gaukroger, minister of Stopsley Baptist Church, Luton, when they sponsored a performance.

"Many people went away with a much more positive view of the BMS in particular and missionary work in general. In terms of breaking down people's stereotypes of missionary societies and encouraging a greater level of interest and involvement, this presentation was an excellent start."





Fun Runs, Cakes and Walks

they were all part of the celebrations.

They baked cakes - many cakes - for the BMS BiCentenary and there were teas galore. A BMS group in Kent held a tea in Deal. They produced a celebration cake based on BMS BiCentenary badges and stickers. There were candles for each BMS partner country, representing the light of the gospel of Christ brought to them over the past 200 years.

Cathcart Baptist Church, Glasgow, arranged a "Fun Run" in Pollok Park. They raced over five miles and raised £420 for the Fund for the Future.

Less energetic people walked mile after mile, and were sponsored. Others went on Carey trails and BiCentenary tours - on foot, in cars and on coaches. In Liverpool they marched in witness through drizzling rain.

Some prepared musicals and very professional they were: *Great Things* at Eastleigh, *Knibb* in Bristol and *Go Tell* by the South East Essex Baptist Fellowship.

In Carey's chapel at Moulton they held a Son-et-Lumiere drama. They were reminded of life in rural England 200 years ago. They watched Carey growing up. He was seen as "a real person, who coped with disappointment, health problems and a mother, a wife and friends who did not understand his burning enthusiasm for mission." The story was brought up-to-date with a look at BMS work today.

Larger celebrations and services were held in Edinburgh, York Minster, and in cathedrals in Liverpool, Exeter, Leicester, Bristol and elsewhere.

In other places there were bazaars and displays, exhibitions and garden designs, and many, many services as churches up and down the country joined enthusiastically into the BiCentenary celebrations.

Mair Bowen.



Carey Stamp

We sent in our request - a year or so before 1992. Many Baptists up and down the country wrote in as well, but in the end the Post Office was not prepared to produce a Carey stamp

Not so in India, where his contribution to India is highly valued. This year they have produced a stamp showing a slightly Indianised version of the familiar Carey portrait with Serampore College in the background.

Fellowship Visits

During the BiCentenary celebrations many leaders and members of BMS partner churches overseas visited the UK. They came at the invitation of BMS on goodwill fellowship visits.

Mrs Singh, from India, is principal of the Baptist Mission Gange Girls' Secondary School in Delhi. She said it was a rare opportunity to come to the UK to learn a lot.

"I have gathered a bundle of experiences to be shared with my people - with my schoolchildren, with my teachers and with my family members.

"I have seen that old people are taken care of. Of course we have residential homes in India, but these residential homes don't take the old women out for outings. Here they are taken care of. I will go back and tell my people to do the same.

"Then the playgroups I have enjoyed with the children. This too I shall share.

"Of course we have Sunday schools. That is nothing new. But I have learned other things, like mixing freely in church and bringing up young people to go out into the world. The Asia 28:19 Youth Action team gave a presentation of their visit to the BMS General Committee. I liked that very much. I think we must also give our young children an



opportunity to go out and visit other countries where they can be enriched by their Christian experiences and then return to work in India."

Another visitor from India was Mr C Nayak, the Finance Secretary from the Cuttack diocese in Orissa.

"I have enjoyed meeting friends and visiting different churches and attending BMM conferences in England in Scotland. I have found a strong missionary spirit. That impressed me very much. In my country, when we have similar meetings and conferences we look mostly at our own difficulties and problems. But in the UK you are concerned with other countries, with the people of other countries."



Mrs Singh: "A rare opportunity."

Driven to Celebrate



Owen Clark and Vivian Lewis, ably assisted by Tracey Booth, worked in the BiCentenary Office at Didcot throughout the period of celebration. Between them they were responsible for overseeing most of the preparation and hard work that went into the celebrations.

The bouncy castle at Nottingham attracted more than the young.

God's Spirit is a spirit of
unity revealing insights
and identifying
experiences throughout

Driven To Co-

the Church which are to
be used together in his
mission of love. God's
Spirit is driving his people
to co-operate, bringing
together the different
parts of the "body of
Christ", working more
effectively in mission and
revealing that unity which
can be achieved only
through Christ.



Partnership Consultation

From 6 to 9 October 1992, immediately following the main BiCentenary celebrations, 39 people, representing most of the BMS partner churches and groups, two of the home Baptist unions, and the BMS itself met to discuss partnership and co-operation in mission

The consultation, which was held at Malvern, was a development of two previous meetings held in Los Angeles in 1985 and in Seoul in 1990. BMS ViceChairman, Tom Bowman, led the worship and the Revd Luther Gibbs, General Secretary of the Jamaica Baptist Union, was appointed chairman.

Nineteen papers were submitted, and several of the participants had an opportunity to speak to them. From time to time, the consultation broke up into smaller language groups - Portuguese French, English. However, there were light hear

moments and an hilarious evening when ethnic music and songs, dance, games and even jokes were shared.

At the end, the consultation, representing 17 nationalities and a variety of agencies, presented the following report:

Content of Mission

Mission has its origin in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who reaches out to his world in love through Jesus Christ.

Mission is a living and dynamic witness by the people of God to the Good News of redemption and reconciliation. This witness expresses itself in proclaiming what God has done and is doing and is to be found in the context of worship, service, identification with people and an acceptance of a clear prophetic role within the world.

Mission has the aim of affirming the Kingdom of God and urging the acceptance of God's rule in all aspects of life and creation.

Driven by the wind



Operate

Mission Concerns arising from today's World

We recognise a multitude of social and environmental concerns and the decline in moral values, arising from the sin of humankind - loneliness in crowded cities (or churches!), homelessness, refugees, the rights and dignity of human beings, such as the abuse of children and young people and the exploitation of women, pressures on family life, the causes and effects of poverty, distribution of wealth, bewilderment caused



Bhutan refugees in Nepal setting up camp

by the speed of change....

We seek to respond by proclamation and demonstration of God's love, with sensitivity to all concerned. We would move from the local church level, affirming that every Baptist is a missionary, to the international level, training and nurturing believers for their task and working to free God's creation from all oppression.

Areas of Co-operation

We affirm that all believers share in a rich Christian heritage of God-given and varied resources so we approach each other with mutual respect. We offer to each other, in trust and love, mutually and multi-laterally, and with sensitivity to one another's cultural background, those gifts which God has granted to us for the tasks of mission.

Co-operation could then be in the areas of: prayer, theological education, technical education and co-operation, personnel for pastoral and evangelistic work, money and material resources, establishing an information network, research into strategy and styles of mission, literature, world-wide partnership missions, exchange of specialists for short-term tasks, ex-patriate "non-professional" missionaries (tent makers), youth action teams,

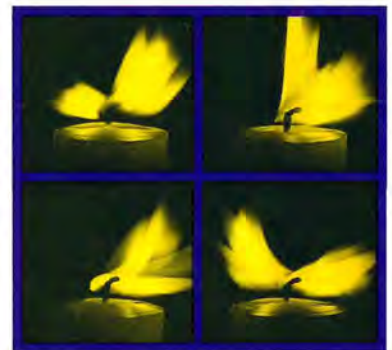
training in personal evangelism, strengthening of the prophetic role, theologian-missioners to reflect and gain insights to be shared, fellowship, working with other Christians wherever possible, training for trans-cultural missionaries, co-ordination of activities to avoid duplication of effort.

The Way Ahead

Recognising that in the matter of co-operation we are on a pilgrimage, we affirm the importance of maintaining and encouraging a system of regular multi-lateral as well as bi-lateral consultation and action.

Recognising that we are in favour of the participation of partners in the decision-making on partnership in mission and the sharing of resources, we conclude that the above is best investigated by establishing a small but representative international group which will report back with recommendations to the partner bodies.

Partnership



Baptism of a person from the Karen tribe Thailand



Let us join our hands, hearts and spirits

What some participants said -

"The Thai Church wants to co-operate with many non-governmental organisations and churches to help provide personnel, material resources as well as financial support in the area of human rights and refugee issues which face the country."

Dr Sint, Church of Christ in Thailand.

"We appropriate the scriptural mandate that tells us: 'Go into all the world' to be witnesses for Jesus Christ in our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth'. In this effort and this path, we are together with organisations like the BMS and others which have as a clear and immediate goal the fulfilment of the missionary mandate of our Lord."

Mary Kalil, Baptist Association of El Salvador.

"We recognise that the need for mission is urgent and that we are responsible for making Christ known to those around us; together with our international friends we are ready to do all that the Lord would direct us into."

The Revd Samuel Verhaeghe, Union of Baptists in Belgium.

Mary Kalil from El Salvador giving the Central American point of view at the consultation

"In the context of 500 years of devastating colonial forces, where the gospel was distorted and misused, we are directing efforts to reach the indigenous, the black and the women with the real gospel: fullness of life in all dimensions. They deserve to receive the good news of Christ and to receive consolation out of their long grieving."

The Revd Tomas Tellez, Baptist Convention of Nicaragua.

"We have offered to serve as a liaison between all South American countries in a global plan of action. We have also proposed to study and formulate a methodology and strategy of evangelisation, along with other countries, in order to proclaim more efficiently to all of South America, that Jesus Christ is Lord. We have suggested to our brothers in these other countries that they send young missionaries, on a short-term basis, to serve along with our short-term missionaries, for two-year periods in an evangelistic effort and an attempt to bring a missionary awareness to the people."

The Revd Waldemiro Tymchak, Brazilian Baptist Convention.

"The evangelisation of the world is our duty and we must continue to evangelise using the experience



gained over two centuries."

The Revd Pedro Timoteo, the Evangelical Baptist Church in Angola

"In all the evangelised countries of the world, there are people burning with desire to proclaim the gospel, but in countries in process of development, like ours, there is a lack of even the most basic material resources. Thus, although we may have the middle and distant view, it is impossible to follow it through..."

"Our request to the church in general and our partners in particular is to help us in mobilising this potential without distinction of place, race, or sex and to give to all who are called to the mission of God the necessary material resources to accomplish it."

The Revd Koli Mandole Molima, Baptist Community of the River Zaire.



If it is true to its missionary calling, the Church itself needs to be whole. It needs to enjoy freely the wide variety of gifts and graces which God has given to its various parts; it needs to demonstrate their harmony as a witness to the gospel; it needs to deploy them purposefully as it carries out its mission."

"Let us have a spirit of mutuality to tackle the challenge of world mission. Let us join our hands, hearts and spirits to fulfil the worldwide mission of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The Revd Raltawnga, Baptist Church of Mizoram.

The Revd Baptism in Orissa



Tigers are dangerous but...

The church in Orissa is facing other problems.

Mission work has changed the life and life-style of the people (of Orissa) for the best. After about 200 years of Baptist Missionary Society work, the whole mission field has been transformed from Barbarism to committed Christianity. Today, all except a few English missionaries have gone back home but mission work continues with great enthusiasm

The Diocese of Cuttack is the proud heir and partner of the BMS through which the transforming power of God is reaching the unreached. Even as the Church in other mission fields has become stagnant the Church in Orissa is growing fast.

Rural tribal people have realised the power of the gospel which has set them free from alcoholism and evil practices like human sacrifice, polygamy, child marriage, complicated and expensive rituals and superstitions.

Rapid church growth is being witnessed among the Soura tribe in the Ganjam district. It is not uncommon to see more than 200 people receiving baptism in a single ceremony. During the last three years 1547 communicant members have been added to the Diocese of Cuttack. This has increased the responsibility of the Diocese. New believers need pastoral care and proper teaching.

New buildings have to be constructed, more field workers appointed and training programmes conducted to raise local lay leadership.

Fast growth is not without hardship and even persecution. Workers have to walk great distances on hilly roads to reach people in remote villages. They manage with modest accommodation, which means sleeping on the floor or on a charpoy with half of the leg dangling.

When people have no rice to offer, mission workers accept with joy different kinds of roots and mango kernels. Drinking unsafe water and living in unhealthy conditions makes the workers sick. Malaria is one of the common fevers from which most mission workers suffer. The fear of being attacked by tigers, elephants, bears and other dangerous animals is always prevalent.

Tigers are dangerous but more dangerous are religious fanatics who do not take church growth so kindly and come out openly to attack Christians. Three years ago, 19 churches in Phulbani district were burnt down and many Christians were physically assaulted. Surprisingly, this has strengthened the church tremendously and has also contributed to its fast growth. Today the church is ready to face opposition from any direction.

From the report of the Diocese of Cuttack, 1992

Fast growth is not without hardship and even persecution

Home from Home

João and Celia Manga are Brazilian missionaries, working in Guyana and supported financially by the BMS. Through their work and because of the co-operation of Brazilian and British Baptists, people are coming to faith.

We say home is where we are so we try to think of home as being together with the family. Home right now is Guyana.

And we have a home which we can use for services. It is five miles away from the church and because there is no public transport, we use it for prayer meetings and Bible study mid-week, and for worship on Sunday night.

This has been the most rewarding part because we see the real people. They are very friendly and what is amazing, most of the people who came were non-believers. They were nominal Christians, but did not actually believe in God. They have come to faith through the worship in our home.

We call it the Church at Home. To start off we used our living room, but now we have moved to the garage so we can have more room.

This is a pattern of work used in Brazil. It is effective because it breaks away from the atmosphere of formality within a church. They feel more comfortable in our home. We make it very informal so they can ask questions, and that is how we really share the gospel.

There was a Cuban lady, an atheist, who we met at a swimming pool. We started talking about our home and she said, "I'll be there," just like that. Within three weeks she had accepted Christ who, she says, is making a difference in her life. After four weeks she said, "I am not an old Christian, but I do believe in everything I am reading about."

Others have voluntarily said, "I would like you to come to my house to hold a Bible study." An East Indian lady invited us to her



João and Celia Manga and their two boys

shop. She has one of the largest shops in the city.

She said, "We are experiencing some family problems and perhaps you could help us with our older boy."

Actually her problem was with the whole family, but she used the boy as an excuse to get us there. She came from a Muslim background, her husband was Hindu and the rest of the family was in between. She wanted something for them to believe.

She said, "We might as well try Christianity as neither of these two has worked for us."

The eight of them, after the third or fourth meeting, came to Christ in prayer.

Scholarships

One way the BMS co-operates with partner churches is in giving scholarships for further training. Sometimes the scholarship holders come to Britain for study. Often, however, the study is undertaken elsewhere.

Mr Hom Nath Dhakal is one of the eleven current BMS scholarship holders. He is a Christian, from Nepal, with an engineering background and is taking a degree at the Bolton Institute of Higher Education.

I was born into a strong Brahmin Hindu family in Gorkha, Nepal and converted to Christ in 1982. I am married to Sharada Dhakal and have one son, Bibek Dhakal. He is three years old. My wife Sharada also comes from a Brahmin Hindu. She was

converted in 1982. They have remained in Nepal.

I am an elder of the Prasansa Church in Kathmandu, Nepal. The church was one of the persecuted churches closed by the government in 1987. It is now open once again. I am working in the Institute of Engineering as an assistant instructor and also run a mechanical workshop where we manufacture manual irrigation and drinking water pumps for poor, landless farmers. We also manufacture wheel barrows.

My vision is to develop an economic base, for the support of the young but growing church in Nepal, by creating employment opportunities for Christian young people through practical training and through small businesses in the mechanical field.

In order to work better in the field of mechanical engineering as well as giving some Christian leadership in Society, I need to have some more qualifications in mechanical engineering. That's why I am studying at the Bolton Institute of Higher Education.

Engineering work, Nepal



Driven to Co-Operate

Where there is injustice,
 where people are being
 blatantly trodden down,
 where the poor are



Driven to Protest

forgotten and children
 abused, how are our
 consciences stirred?

The powerful wind of God's
 Spirit whirls us around,
 again and again, to look at
 the ugly face of the world.

What can we do as
 Christians? How can we
 protest?

Driven by the wind



Children in Nicaragua with a makeshift cart

Nicaragua

Last year, Baptists in Nicaragua protested to the government at their education and social work being taxed when other church bodies were not affected. The BMS also wrote, in November 1992, to the President of Nicaragua, Violeta Chamorro.

Madam President

Since 1990 we have had a partnership with the Nicaragua Baptist Convention and consequently have a deep interest in and concern for your country. We understand that the Nicaraguan Government has recently

introduced taxes on the education and social work carried out by Protestant Churches.

We believe that all Christians have a responsibility to fulfil their civic obligations, including the payment of appropriate taxes whenever possible, nevertheless we urge you to review this policy. We do so for the following reasons:

1. The churches are engaged in vital community services such as health care, education and self-help schemes in deprived areas. Since your government is not fully able to fulfil these basic responsibilities it seems inappropriate to place taxation burdens on organi-

sations that are trying to offer help.

2. In common with the great majority of Nicaraguan people, the churches lack sufficient resources to meet existing demands. The loss of income through taxation would mean that they have even less possibility of attending to pressing needs.

3. The new taxation appears to be a case of religious discrimination since, according to our understanding, the Roman Catholic church receives government grants and donations whilst the Protestant churches are taxed.

4. As a donor of funds for relief and development work in response to national calamities such as drought (in previous years) and destruction caused by tidal wave (earlier this year), we lament the fact that our funds, raised by voluntary contribution through a recognised charity, will now be subject to government levy and will not be wholly used to help people in need.

In view of the above, we would respectfully petition you to revoke the new taxation requirements being laid upon Protestant churches. We would call upon you to encourage and support their humanitarian work rather than to penalise it.

Albania

Baptists in Britain, including the BMS, were concerned at a draft law on religious freedom which seemed to penalise evangelical Christians. In October, we learned that the draft law did not go through as planned. However, we were prepared and are prepared to support Protestants in Albania so that as the Albanian government sorts out its new constitution it will enshrine a policy of religious freedom.

Bhutanese refugees streaming into Nepal



Driven to Protest



Children in Albania sitting on sacks of seeds provided by Operation Agri



Bhutan

In November and again in March the Missionary Herald featured injustice in Bhutan which is forcing many ethnic Nepalis to flee that country and seek refuge in Nepal itself.

The articles by Jerry Clewett were sent to the Didcot MP, Robert Jackson who forwarded them to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office together with the concern of the BMS.

Letters were also written to the Independent newspaper following an article by Tim McGirk featuring the King of Bhutan as a benevolent monarch, well loved by his people.

"I wonder if Tim McGirk has filed any articles on the effects of Bhutan's citizenship laws which have resulted in the majority of the population being made illegal immigrants. Clashes over the legislation started a flow of refugees that now number about 100,000," wrote David Martin in November.

Earlier this year, a report by jurists of the South Asia Association for Regional Co-operation described several of Bhutan's laws as 'overtly discriminatory'. The introduction of those laws has been the cause of much human rights violation and their implementation 'has brought about a reign of terror and intimidation.'"

The Spirit of God blows
where he wills. Sometimes,
as with Paul, he prevents
our moving in one

Driven To Diversify

direction and then scatters
us to a variety of
Macedonias. Maybe not to
Zaire, for the moment, but
elsewhere in Africa and
Europe is wide,
wide open.

Maputo,
Mozambique



Driven by the wind



Africa

Some of the missionaries who were unable to return Zaire took leave of absence or resigned. Some have been redeployed to other countries or seconded to Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Niger and Guinea thus adding a temporary extension to the African countries in which BMS works.

In Mozambique we are seconding Sue Roberts to ACRIS, a Community Health Project, which is desperately needed as that country turns from civil war to peace.

A new partnership began with the National Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe. This young and vibrantly growing Church has requested our help in the training of lay leaders and in church planting. We now seek the right people to help them.

EUROPE

France

Redeployed Zairian missionaries, Ian and Pauline Thomas, who are working for the time being at Carcassonne, are being joined in France by Chris and Christine Spencer who were evacuated from Mbanza Ngungu in 1991. They will be working in Le Havre.

Belgium

Les and Jane Bromley spent just over five weeks in Zaire before being evacuated from Kisangani. They have been waiting and searching for a new avenue of service. In the immediate future they will be joining the small Belgium Baptist Union by giving help to the church in Ferrieres.

Albania

Chris and Mairi Burnett moved to Albania last year to establish a Baptist work. Another couple will be joining them soon for development work.

Hungary

Karen Poole, another Zaire missionary who was in that country only for a very short time, has now spent two years teaching English at the International Baptist Lay Academy in Budapest.

Bulgaria

The Baptist Union of Bulgaria have asked BMS to recruit a pastor to serve in Bulgaria as soon as possible. Such a person, or couple, "should have experience of church strategy and administration because these are areas where we have little experience and need help."

LATIN AMERICA

Brazil

It is not long since BMS accepted an invitation to work with the State Baptist Convention of Santa Catarina. Chris and Marion Collicot moved there last year where Chris is pastoring the church at Canoinhas and oversees the work of the seven churches in the local association. Marion is now State President of the Women's Work.

Sadie and Vincent MacDougall have also moved to Santa Catarina to work in Joinville and John and Maria Dyer will be arriving in the state this year to get involved in a training programme.

The latest Brazilian state to forge a partnership with the BMS is Goias.

We had to look at the atlas too

"Where is Niger?" asked Ruth and Alan Wood

The events of September 1991 and our hasty departure from Zaire left us with a mixture of feelings: bewilderment at such sudden uprooting, a sense of loss in leaving the place we regarded as home, anxiety for our Zairian friends. All this left us depressed and uncertain for a while. It has been difficult to grasp the fact that Zaire will remain closed to us for some time to come.

Once it became clear that an immediate return to Zaire was impossible, we began to seek God's will for us for the next couple of years. Thus began a very frustrating, anxious and discouraging period as, unlike our experiences in the past, we had no clear leading as to what we should be doing.

After discussions with the BMS we decided to seek a secondment to another society for a short-term service period concentrating our efforts on francophone Africa. The Society for International Ministries (SIM) suggested a placement at a mission hospital Galmi in southern Niger - between Algeria and Nigeria; we had to look it up in an Atlas too. The post will use Alan's abilities and experience advising on laboratory procedures, teaching at a nursing school, setting up HIV screening procedures. There is a role for Ruth helping a dozen missionary children with their correspondence schooling



Top: Learning Albanian - a language class for Mairi Burnett.

Above: Chris and Mairi Burnett with Duncan and Keith.

Bottom: Alan and Ruth Wood with Martin and Helen





A family group in Sierra Leone. Photo by Brian Jones, CMS.



Africa at Last

After the uncertainty of her destination over the summer and through the autumn, Dr Helen Johnston, who was hoping to go to Zaire, has now arrived in Sierra Leone to work with the European Baptist Mission.

Freetown, the capital, is a city of about half a million people, a mixture of 16 or 17 tribal and ethnic groups, each with its own language and culture. Krio is the main language spoken, although English is, officially, the language of government and education. There is an atmosphere of intense activity with crowded markets selling fruit and vegetables. Bargaining is essential.

The houses are a mixture of Krio-style, reflecting the colonial era, modern government and commercial offices, local brick houses with corrugated iron roofs, shacks and slums - often along the same street. Many have no

electricity and rely on shared water standpipes and pit latrines.

The streets are congested with clapped out Japanese cars operating as taxis. Four-wheel drive vehicles and shining Mercedes are a bit incongruous.

For language study I have been based in Lunsar, a town 75 miles north-east of Freetown. Lunsar is also where there is a Baptist Eye Hospital and the Baptist Convention of Sierra Leone headquarters.

In March I begin work in the Samu Health Centre in Kassiri. I spent two days at the Health Centre shortly after my arrival in Sierra Leone, to meet staff and look around the clinic. I was introduced to the Paramount Chief of the Samu Chiefdom. He is a Muslim, as are the majority of the population in the area. The chief was friendly and gave me a warm welcome. I felt encouraged and am looking forward to going back to begin work.

Driven to Diversify



Helen Johnston is now working in Sierra Leone.



God's Timing

Andrea and Mark Hotchkin are both excited and at peace about going to Guinea.

We have heard that we are going to Guinea, West Africa. We have found that God can creatively redeem all situations for his and our good. We might have been so discouraged, at not being able to go to Zaire, that we had given up missionary work and stayed in the UK instead.

In October, our future seemed no clearer than earlier in July and we were making plans to work in the NHS until February. No sooner had Andrea signed her job contract than a contact with Leprosy Mission led to unexpected results.

A job in Guinea was available immediately! We had looked at this job previously but at that time it appeared to offer work for Mark as a leprosy surgeon only and nothing suitable for Andrea, so we had not pursued it. Unknown to us further enquiries had been made into the possibility of work in the general hospital as well as leprosy work. The Leprosy Mission received positive answers from Guinea. The job seemed right in all but timing. We had to make a decision.

Over the next 24 hours we were increasingly convinced that we should say yes and were given a sense both of excitement and peace about the decision.

A Chance To Show Our Concern and Love

Chris and Mairi Burnett moved from Zaire to Albania. What's the move been like?

“Neither Zaire nor Albania are poor countries, only countries where poor people live. Both have considerable resources, but they are mismanaged. Western influence in Zaire and Eastern influence in Albania have left people feeling raped and ‘used’.”

What about religion in Albania?

“Before 1939, statistics showed 60% Muslim, 30% Roman Catholic and 10% Albanian Orthodox. There was a small but active Protestant witness and Bible Society. Baptists were linked to the Conservative Baptist

View of Tirana, Albania



Convention in America.

“Generally there is moral anarchy in Albania. Theft is commonplace with families retreating behind high walls. Bars cover windows up to the third floor. You don't go out after dark in Tirana. Recently someone drew a gun on a foreign missionary.

“Yet people are curious about religion. There is a realisation of God in the hearts of many. Churches are being started. People are attending mosques and Catholic and Orthodox churches are reopening.

“In this vacuum we must present the full gospel that Christ offers. But we must present it as free as possible of our own cultural baggage. The Baptist tag can give the promise of a wider church family while guaranteeing that control of the local churches

will be in Albanian hands.”

The Albanian project has been going for nearly a year now. What does it involve?

“Karl Heinz Walter, General Secretary of the European Baptist Federation, was the driving visionary. Canadian Baptists, John and Virginia Keith, are external co-ordinators and Keith Parker of the Co-operating Baptist Fellowship in America has supported it.

“The BMS and many other Baptists are involved. The project is supervised within the EBF. Even the Albanian government has encouraged our participation.

“We are here to show people Jesus. They have been denied the gospel for over 40 years. Whole generations do not know Jesus.

“The project aims: to plant Albanian churches that will mature into autonomous

fellowships in communion with the wider Baptist family; to convey in deed and word our love for the Albanian people and our desire to see them once more part of the world; to get involved in the

fields of medicine, agriculture, education and others.

“We seek to present to the wider Baptist family a viable way to become involved in the work in Albania without duplicating many of the efforts themselves.

“Our team looks set to rise to three other couples, maybe four, by the end of 1993 and perhaps even a total of 15 to 20 personnel by the end of 1994, if present projects go ahead.

“We believe the only solution to this country's problems lies in its acceptance of God's good news. A heart change must follow political changes. Baptists and other Christians have stood on the outside for so long. We now have the chance to show our concern and our love for the Albanian people, a love that only poorly mirrors God's real love for them.”

In the BMS BiCentenary year, Baptist churches in the UK responded well to the missionary call and gave nearly ten per cent

Financial Report in Brief

more to the work of the Society.

That is good news indeed! But a word of caution. Although we ended up with what appears to be a healthy surplus of £195,922 that was only achieved because legacies topped the million mark.

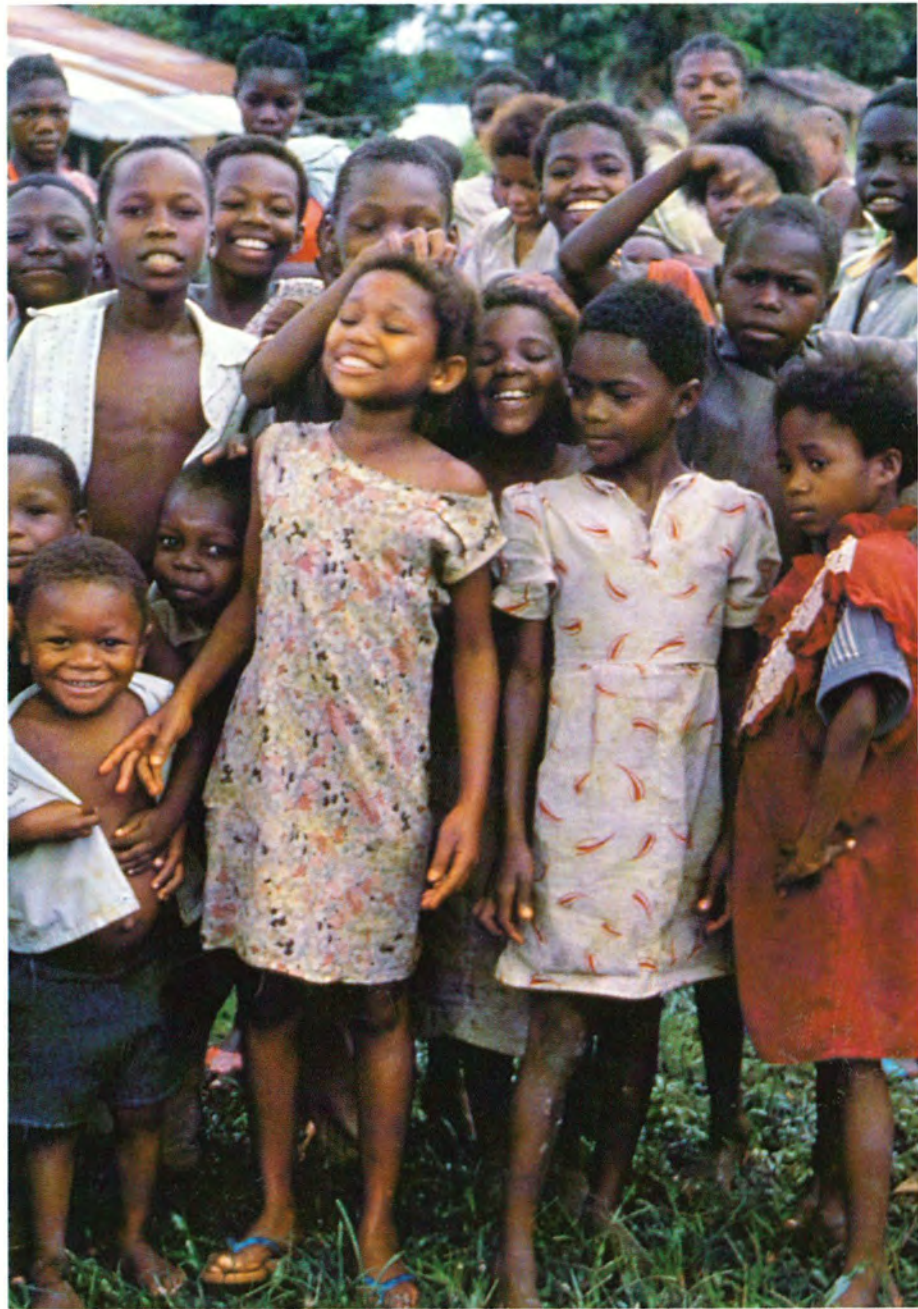
Of course we are extremely grateful to those who remember the work of mission in their wills.

Someone has called this "a final love-gift." But it is not the sort of income you can plan for. One sister missionary society found itself in deep financial trouble two or three years ago when its legacy income fell dramatically.

Today's outreach in mission, whether at home or abroad, is always the responsibility of today's church. The task is ours - to go, to pray, to give others the vision, to support financially.

Difficulties in Zaire meant that we had fewer missionaries in that country and overseas expenditure fell slightly. However, some of these missionaries are now seconded to work elsewhere in Africa and Europe. Calls for more workers are coming to us from Eastern Europe including a new partnership with Bulgaria.

As you read through the rest of this report it will become evident that the pressures on us are not to diminish our involvement in world mission but to take on more and more commitments. These are constantly and prayerfully being examined to discover what God is saying to us. But if the work God wants us to do is growing, then our commitment to supporting it must grow too.



In a young world the work God calls us to do is growing



Income	31.10.91	31.10.92
	£	£
Direct giving by the churches	2,791,056	3,068,483
Legacies	906,327	1,082,496
Investment and other income	418,223	223,145
Total income	4,115,606	4,374,124

Expenditure	31.10.91	31.10.92
	£	£
Missionary support grants to overseas churches and other expenses	2,213,624	2,039,610
Training missionaries and overseas personnel	226,256	255,013
Missionary retirement costs	118,556	130,060
Education, promotion and recruitment	697,471	764,704
Administration	810,275	798,694
BiCentenary expenditure	42,350	195,922
Total expenditure	4,108,532	4,184,003
Surplus	7,074	190,121
Total	4,115,606	4,374,124

WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM

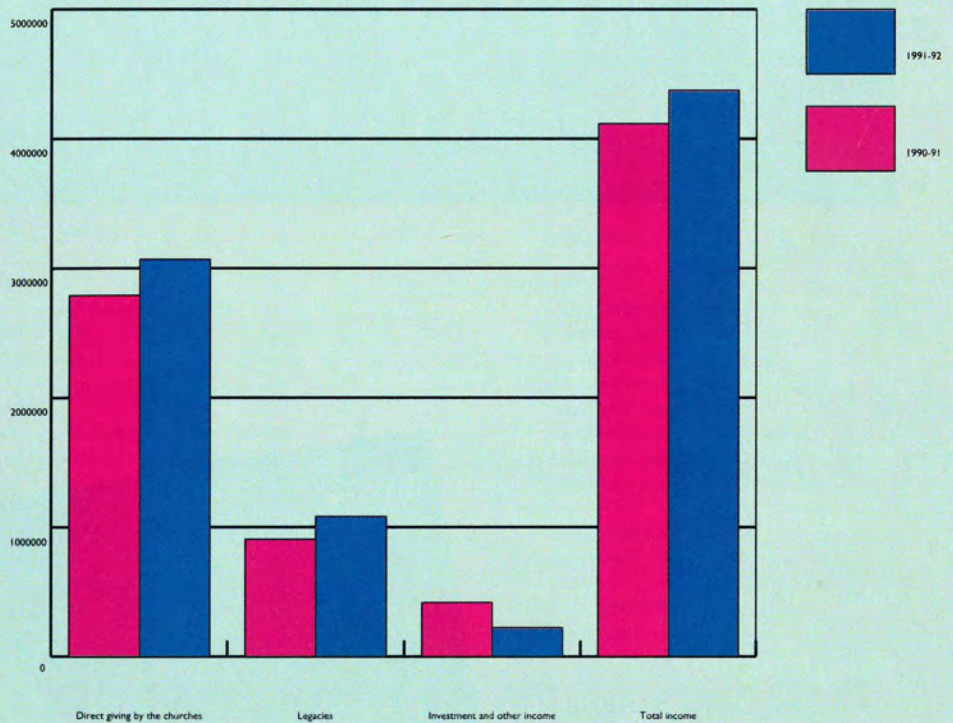
BMS Income 1991/92

Direct giving by the churches went up by 9.9% compared with the previous year. Thank you.

Income from legacies increased by 19.4% during 1991/92.

Investment and other income was almost half that of the previous year.

Despite the increase in giving and a surplus at the end of the year, but for another record year for legacies, we would have had a large deficit.



HOW THE MONEY WAS SPENT

BMS Expenditure 1991/92

Nearly £2.5 million was spent on overseas work including training missionaries and caring for retired missionaries, slightly less than the previous year due to the problems in Zaire.

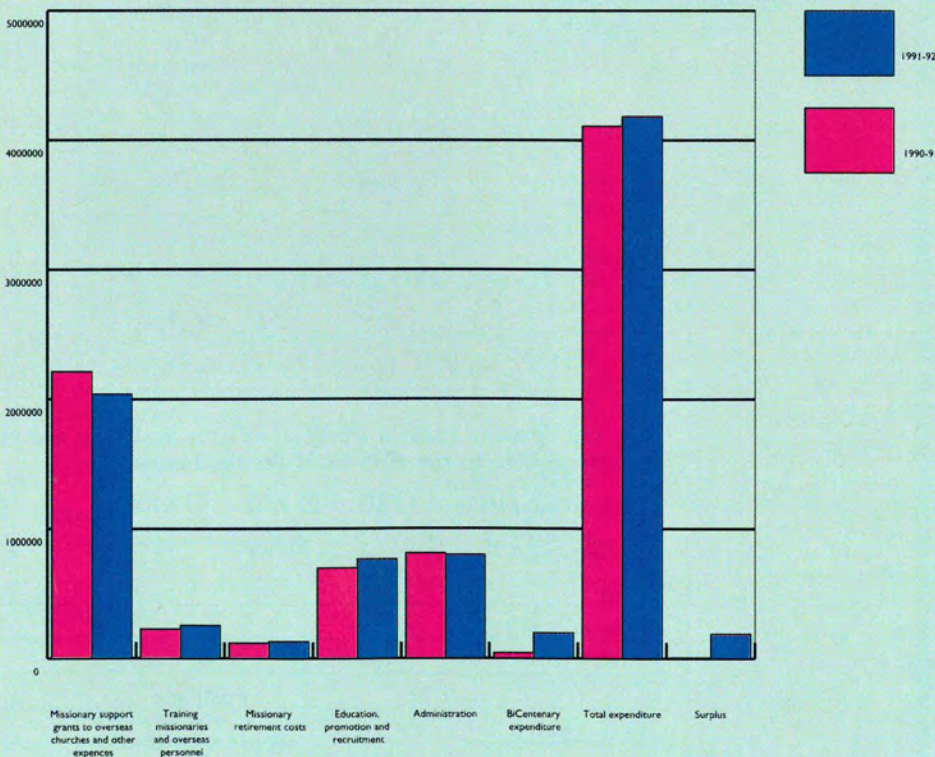
Just over 18% of our spending was for the recruitment of missionaries, promotion and education in World Mission, this included extra spending on special BiCentenary issues of our magazines.

General administration costs were, for the second time, lower than the previous year accounting for 19% of expenditure.

Just over 4.5% of spending covered the cost of the BiCentenary celebrations and the promotion of the Fund for the Future.

We ended the year with a healthy surplus.

(This is a simplified version of the accounts the full and audited accounts are available on application and will be printed in the 1993 Directory)



Help put us on the map for Rudolf's sake.

The one thing Rudolf has wanted to do all his life is read the Psalms. But the only time he actually held a borrowed Bible in his hands he was so overcome he could barely see them through his tears.

At the moment there are no Baptist churches in his country, Albania. Which is why we're asking for your support to help us establish a European Baptist centre in Tirana through *Fund for the Future* and bring encouragement to those like Rudolf.

Fund for the Future is a scheme which exists to fund exciting new projects and partnerships, providing for mission work globally.

Already it's changing lives. For example, in France we're helping to provide education and retreat facilities for young people. Whilst in Nicaragua we plan to buy motorcycles for regional pastors.

We need to raise £2m by October and with your help we can do it. If you'd like more details about the *Fund for the*

Future ask your Minister, or look out for the leaflets in your church.

It's easy to make a contribution. You can simply fill in the coupon now and send it to the Baptist Missionary Society along with your cheque. Your donation could mean that Rudolf can at last have his own Bible.

It doesn't take much to make a world of difference.



Fund for the Future

Baptist Missionary Society

Yes, I do want to make a world of difference. Please accept my gift payable to the BMS Fund for the Future.

- £5 £10 £20 £50 £100
 £250 GiftAid £ _____ Other

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Home church _____

Please detach and send to: BMS Fund for the Future, PO Box 49, Baptist House, 129 Broadway, Didcot, Oxon OX11 8XA.

Baptist Missionary Society is a Registered Charity.

BMS Workers and National Churches

ALBANIA

The European Baptist Federation
General Secretary: Karl Heinz Walter

Chris and Mairi Burnett
Glyn and Gill Jones (designated for)

ANGOLA

The Evangelical Baptist Church in Angola
General Secretary: Alvaro Rodrigues

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh Baptist Sangha
General Secretary: Martin Adhikary

Phil Commons
Valerie Hamilton
Sue Headlam
Christine Preston

BELGIUM

President: Samuel Verhaeghe

Jane and Les Bromley
Joyce and Stuart Filby

BRAZIL

Brazilian Baptist Convention
General Secretary: Salovi Bernard

David and Sheila Brown
Georgie and Stuart Christine
John and Norma Clark
Chris and Marion Collict
Angela and Roger Collinson
Peter and Susan Cousins
Margaret and Roy Deller
Rosimar and Timothy Deller
Kevin and Linda Donaghy
John and Maria Dyer
Ana and Avelino Ferreira
Jean and Michael Gardiner
Frank and Peggy Gouthwaite
Mark Greenwood
Kathie and Martin Hewitt
Barbara and Keith Hodges
Debbie and Paul Holmes
David and Sue Jackson
Sadie and Vincent MacDougall
Catherine and David Meikle
Evelyn and Lee Messeder
Gerry and Johan Myhill
Mary Parsons
David and Jean Perry
Maureen and Stan Porter
John and Lidia Pullin
Derek and Joanna Punchard
David and Joyce Stockley
Margaret Swires
Daveen and Michael Wilson

BULGARIA

General Secretary: Bozhidar Igoff

EL SALVADOR

El Salvador Baptist Association
General Secretary: Carlos Sanchez

James and Sue Grote
David and Rachel Quinney Mee

FRANCE

The Federation of Evangelical Baptist Churches
Executive Secretary: Jean Pierre Dassonville

Neil and Ruth Abbott
Catherine and Robert Atkins
Philip and Rosemary Halliday (designated for)
Chris and Christine Spencer
Ian and Pauline Thomas
John and Sue Wilson

HUNGARY

International Baptist Lay Academy

Karen Poole

INDONESIA

Convention of Indonesia Baptist Churches
National Secretary: Ronny Welong

INDIA

Church of North India
General Secretary: Pritam Santram
Baptist Union of North India
Secretary: J H Masih
Bengal Baptist Union
Secretary: S K Biswas
Baptist Church of Mizoram
General Secretary: Raltawnga

Ann Bothamley
Betty Marsh
Sheila Samuels
Carole Whitmee

ITALY

President: Franco Scaramuccia

Claire and Mark Ord (designated for)

JAMAICA

Jamaica Baptist Union
General Secretary: Luther Gibbs

NEPAL

United Mission to Nepal: Executive Director, Ed Metzler
International Nepal Fellowship: Director, John Bradley

Jane Andrews
Debbie and Graham Atkinson
Ruth Berry
Jeremy and Ruth Clewett
Bob and Ruth Ellett
Sue Frame
Karen and Iain Gordon
Peter and Valerie Harwood
Tim Lehane and Alison MacLean
Suzanne Linnell
Sheila Loader
Andrew and Linda Mason
Katie Norris
David Payne
Alison and Chris Rudall
Joy Ransom
Ian and Sally Smith
Isobel Strang
Jackie and Paul Wicks
Corinna Woods

NICARAGUA

Nicaragua Baptist Convention
General Secretary: Elias Sanchez

Peter and Sheila Brewer

PORTUGAL

The Portuguese Baptist Convention
General Secretary: Daniel Machado

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka Baptist Sangamaya
General Secretary: Kingsley Perera

Betsy and George Lee
Joy Knapman

THAILAND

Thailand Baptist Missionary Fellowship
General Secretary: Rupert Nelson
The Church of Christ in Thailand
General Secretary: Sint Kimhachandra
Karen Baptist Convention
General Secretary: Sunny Danpongpe
Lahu Baptist Churches
General Secretary: Suwit Damrongpong

Christine and Geoffrey Bland
Jacqui Wells

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

General Secretary: Adrian Thompson

ZAIRE

Baptist Community of the River Zaire
President: Koli Mondole Molima

Elizabeth and Stephen Allford
Margot Bafende
Deanna and Owen Clark
Brenda Earl
Gwen Hunter
John and Rena Mellor
Ruth Montacute
Elisabeth and Richard Smith
Pat Woolhouse

ZIMBABWE

The National Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe
President: Patrick Face Moyo

Pam and Steve Seymour (BWAid/Development Project)

SECONDMENTS

Cameroon: Andy and Jenny Wilson, with the European Baptist Mission.
Central African Republic: Adrian and Sylvia Hopkins, with the Christoffel Blindenmission.
Guinea: Mark and Andrea Hotchkin, with the Leprosy Mission
Niger: Alan and Ruth Wood, with the Society for International Ministries (UK).
Sierra Leone: Helen Johnston, with the European Baptist Mission.
Mozambique: Suzanne Roberts, with ACRIS
Tanzania: David Champion, with the Mission Aviation Fellowship

MISSIONARIES SERVING IN THE UK

Janet Claxton
Sue Evans
David and Elidia Grainger
John and Nan Passmore

CANDIDATES

Christopher and Sarah Mattock

Not listed are a number of missionaries who have taken leave of absence.

BMS Workers and National Churches

Mission is about communication. It is about the way God reaches out in love to touch our lives, to make

Driven to Com

himself known, to heal and save through his son Jesus Christ. Mission is the Holy Spirit impelling Christians to tell this good news to the whole world. So we are driven to let the churches in Britain know what is happening, where God is at work, where he is calling us to be and what he is calling us to do.

World Mission Link

In 1992 - 138 Link-Up visits, 20 Extended Stays, 159 Missionary events, 10 Staff Teams - well over 1000 churches visited by BMS missionaries, BMS Staff, and Special Speakers.

Missionaries - sharing with the churches both the needs of the people they work with and their own needs. The difficult times and the times of celebration and rejoicing;

BMS Staff - telling of their experiences, sharing news and views of world mission, exploring with churches what mission means in today's world, using their skills and talents in so many different ways;

Special Speakers - giving time



BMS Chairman Peter Clark interviewing Ranajit Sarker, President of the Bengal Baptist Union

to tell churches about BMS, about mission in other parts of the world, about the place of the local church in world mission.

Churches and people challenged to get involved.

This is World Mission Link in action. Hear what people had to say about their experience of:

Staff Teams

"The most exciting thing on mission we've seen for a long time." "... really made us think." "...fun, exciting, thoughtful."

Mission Education

"The visit really inspired us to do something both in our own churches and together, we know this is important." "Can you help us with suggestions and ideas for the programme." "Our group is going to organise a whole range of meetings over the next months."

Link-Up

"Small churches particularly appreciated the visit." "We felt we really got to know him." "We have always been interested in world mission. Link-up is giving us a new perspective." "The contribution into the local school was really appreciated."

The World Mission Link programme is there for the churches to use. It's for large and small churches, for mid-week groups and Sunday services. And not just meetings - the regular contacts with a missionary through letters, tapes,

Putting together a make-shift shelter as part of the 'experience' on a staff-team weekend





Below Children enjoying the experience

municate

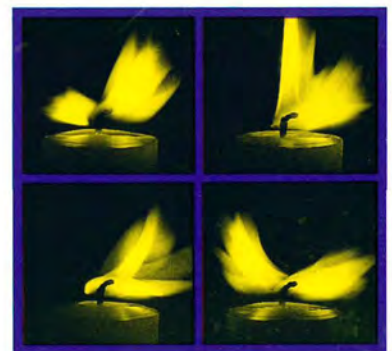


photographs, even telephone calls are also part of World Mission Link. There is also the possibility of having a speaker a number of times throughout the year who can lead your group or Bible Study or Women's Meeting.

And then there's **Room for Change** - a weekend of drama, multi-media presentations, workshops, seminars and the

chance to sample life in a refugee camp.

What does world mission mean to our churches? Is it an important part of our week by week life or does it get pushed to the one meeting a year? World Mission Link is there to help all parts of the church to hear the wind of challenge and concern and to get involved.



New BMS Reps

Two new BMS representatives began work during 1992. They both have large areas to cover.

Cath Mawson, the area representative for Northern England has charge of a region stretching from Cheshire and Sheffield in the south to Carlisle and Berwick-upon-Tweed in the north. Derek Clark, national representative for Scotland, has the whole of that land to cover including all the offshore islands.

How have they seen their first few months? Is life as a BMS rep. how they imagined it would be?

Cath admits that all has not been quite as she originally perceived it, mainly because of the BiCentenary.

"I imagined myself contacting people, arranging meetings and offering training for Missionary Secretaries, saying, 'I'm available. How can I help?'"

"But life isn't always as we plan it!"

Instead, she found herself responding to phone calls. A reactive response, she calls it, instead of a proactive move.

She recalls one lighter moment.



Derek Clark and Cath Mawson

At her initial interview for the post she was asked how she would react if she had to speak at a ministers' conference.

"I hadn't even thought of it," she replied. "I thought I would be dealing with ordinary people."

Actually, she remembers, she used the word "normal". This caused some hilarity as half the panel were ministers themselves!

"Yes, I have since spoken at a ministers' conference - and

survived."

Several impressions stick in Derek's mind.

"I've discovered how little I actually know! The reading, watching and talking of the last few months have only heightened this realisation. But at least I can use this to try not to make too many blanket assumptions about countries and cultures which I barely understand."



His impression is that many folk in our churches have quite an inaccurate impression of BMS.

"For some their knowledge is out-of-date; and others are just ill-informed.

"Sadly, in many churches world mission is seen as the hobby-horse of a few enthusiasts and not necessarily relevant for all Christians.

"I'm in a getting-to-know phase. Getting-to-know the countries, the missionaries and the enthusiasts in the churches and BMS itself. It's a time of change as the Society tries to keep in step with the Spirit and react to the new challenges and opportunities that God is opening up. And that's exciting to be a part of!"

1992 - a good year for resources

Although BiCentenary created extra pressures for BMS staff, it certainly added impetus to BMS resources! In particular, four videos made their debut.



Xpect The Video was the earliest arrival and is particularly geared to young people's groups. It asks and answers some fundamental questions about mission - questions young people are asking themselves. Set in India, it is lively and full of interest.

Crossing Bridges, a pot pourri of today's work in the name of BMS around the world. This has proved a very popular video of general interest and has been used in church services and house groups in particular.

A Weaver's Son is a good introduction to the history of the BMS and was an excellent BiCentenary resource. It remains a good video for anyone interested in the development of modern mission - and a great human interest story!

Monsters, Monkeys and a Big, Big Spider for children has been very well received. It focuses on five countries where BMS is at work, and is excellently narrated by Roy Castle. Groups have found it most useful to

show one story at a time and to use the follow up material which accompanies it.

An interesting trend has been noted - people have tended to first hire a video, then buy it once they have proved its value!



Malcolm Hardie

The Annual Report video, **That the World may Believe**, has also been a good general resource on the work of BMS today.

The Harvest pack, **Power to Live**, with its accompanying slides has received many favourable comments. It certainly has not been limited to use at harvest services, which is encouraging. We are aiming much of our material produced like the Harvest pack to be used widely in the church community. In the same way, it is hoped the the Women's Projects, such as last year's *A Woman's Touch*, will be seen of great value by ministers, home group leaders and so on.

A Woman's Touch focuses on four national women, from El Salvador, Brazil, India and Angola and links their stories with those of women from the Bible. It includes drama, an Order of Service and points for action and reflection.

1992 has been the most popular year so far for the **Birthday Scheme**. The six new designs for the cards are all attractive and colourful and the newly available poster should make the task of Birthday Secretaries even easier. The poster is designed to be displayed in a church foyer where people can write their names on their birthday date.



A new collection of dramatic sketches, **Fool's Gold**, sold out soon after it was introduced. A new batch has been delivered and is continuing to be in demand. This book of ten short plays heralds a new series and another book will appear for 1994. Church members are encouraged to exercise their writing gifts and to contribute sketches with a mission theme to the series.

1992 also saw a varied collection of books dealing with BMS history. Brian Stanley's definitive work and Gwenda Bond's popular history have proved equally 'popular'. From Scotland, Marjorie McVicar's **A Great Adventure** has filled a gap in the market with its unique perspective and **William Carey**, the updated Kellsye Finnie short biography is a valuable resource.

A new book of prayers, David Pountain's **Praying with God's People** is an invaluable resource for anyone leading worship with mission in mind.

New **In Views**, on Belgium and Nicaragua have helped to bring us up-to-date on BMS partnerships. Similarly, **Let's Take A Look At** Italy, Nicaragua, Albania, Belgium, Indonesia are all available for children (and grown ups who like lots of pictures with their reading!)

It is never possible to keep up with demand and we are still working on many other projects. It is always delightful to hear from demanding church members who are eager to keep their churches informed about mission. It is helpful to hear what people want and to receive ideas for new resources, as well as criticisms for existing

ones. We do hope that feedback continues to be wide ranging and lively.

So, all in all, a good year for mission resources - and we're still working on it!



Driven to Communicate



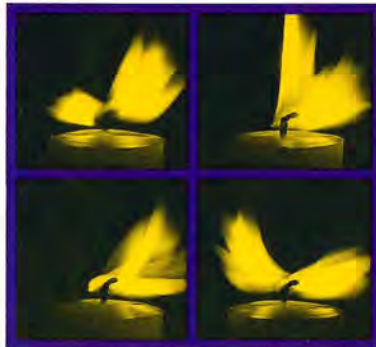
**Room
for
Change**

“God is love” and the driving concern of his Spirit is to impel us to actions of care and concern for the

Driven to Care



needs of women and men the world over. By all means let us tell the world that “God is love” but people are never going to believe us until they see that love working through our lives.



Urgent Aid to Angola

In March, Baptists in Angola sent out an urgent request for aid to meet the needs of those affected by the civil war. Because of the renewed fighting in Angola, people were flocking into the capital, Luanda.

Although Luanda itself was calm, every house was full and no accommodation was left. Many had to seek shelter on the streets or on any open space available

The Revd Alvaro Rodrigues, General Secretary of the Evangelical Baptist Church in Angola, said that medical supplies had run out and that there was a severe food shortage. He sent out an urgent request both to BMS and Baptist World Aid for immediate help.

He also said that many people from northern Angola, where Baptists are strongest, have been victimised. Because a large proportion of the population in the north lived in exile in Zaire, from 1960-1975, they were looked on with suspicion as “not truly Angolans”, a suspicion aggravated by the “support”

Zaire has been seen to give to the UNITA rebels.

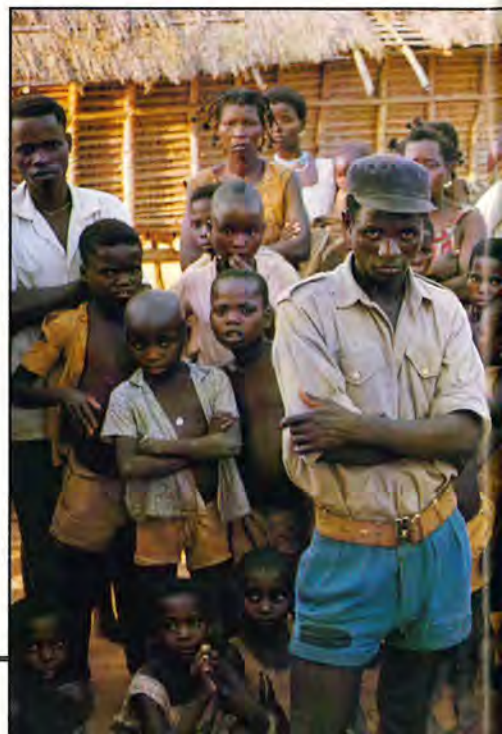
On 22 January there were several attacks, many injuries and at least 200 people were killed.

The Angolan government tried to “console” the different groups and to explain the situation. It set up a series of meetings with the different churches and on March 5, it was the turn of the Baptists of Luanda to meet with a government minister.

According to Alvaro Rodrigues the situation in the country is confusing.

“People feel insecure and are afraid to go out at night. Inflation is now at Zairian proportions. There has been a great drop in the value of money.”

Baptist World Aid set aside \$10 thousand as help for Angola. In addition, the BMS promised up to £10 thousand from its Relief Fund to cover the cost of medical and other supplies.



You Can Imagine Their Joy

In February, Phil Commons, a physiotherapist at Chandraghona, Bangladesh, went with two other members of staff to join the staff of the Physiotherapy Department of the American Hospital in a "Jaipur Foot Camp."

The camp was based at Potiya Baptist Church and provided about 30 amputees with artificial limbs. My role was to help with the female patients. I fitted a leg on a 23 year old who had lost her leg in a bus accident eight years ago.

Another man who received an artificial leg had not walked for over 40 years and another had never walked. You can imagine the joy as they started to walk about the church compound.

At the camp I was given a place to sleep on the church floor under a mosquito net. I felt like a Bedouin but I wouldn't have missed it for anything. It really enthused us to press on with our own artificial limb work at Chandraghona.

To date we have fitted four limbs. The first patient is now earning a living by rowing people across the river next to the hospital.

"What can I do for you sister?" he asked me. "You've done so

much for me, what can I feed you?"

In the end we decided that at a later date my Physiotherapy helper and I would visit his house and be entertained to tea and biscuits.

On the Same Wavelength

"AIDS patients have a very difficult time in Brazil," says Lee Messeder who is based at Campo Grande.

Generally they are discriminated against. Once they are HIV positive they often lose their jobs and their homes, if they don't own their own houses.

Hilson's story is typical. He is 21 and has been HIV positive for five years. Now he has full-blown AIDS.

At the age of eleven he was heavily involved with drugs and prostitution and that continued until he became a Christian. Six months later - he was over sixteen years of age - he was diagnosed as HIV positive. Since then he has lost an incredible amount of weight. He is very thin, almost blind and has had tuberculosis, which is associated with AIDS patients. He has had meningitis and all sorts of physical symptoms that come with AIDS.

He has no expectancy of a long life but with Hilson, who has a Christian faith, we are straight away on the same wavelength. We are able to share our Christian experiences and use the Word of God as a comfort and as a source to provide the help he needs.

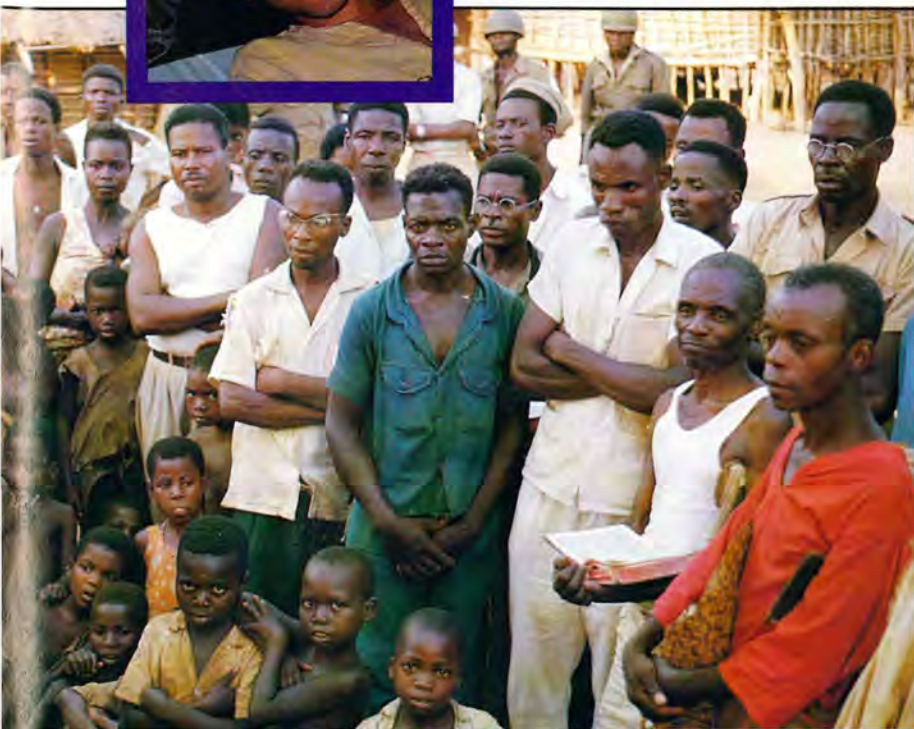
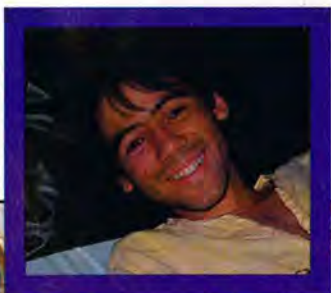
Most people in Brazil have some kind of faith and so most AIDS patients are prepared for me to speak with them and even pray with them. They realise their only hope is in God because medicine has not yet found a cure. We try and look at suffering as something positive that God can use for our own good.

Relief Fund

The BMS Relief fund enables the Society to respond very quickly to urgent appeals for emergency help. Recently grants have been made to Nicaragua for Food for Work Projects and to Thailand for a health project, linked to the AIDS epidemic in that country, for tribal people.

The quickly deteriorating situation in Angola is threatening a disaster of mammoth proportions. The following shows how the availability of money in the Relief Fund brought about an immediate response.

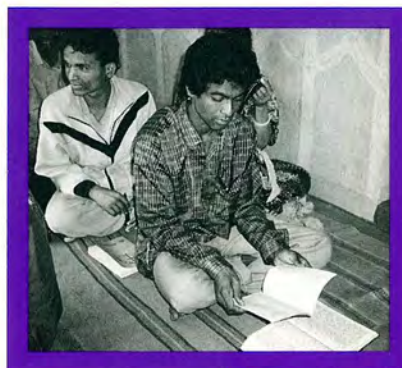
Bottom Angolan refugees in Zaire in 1964 Below Hilsdon is 21 and has AIDS



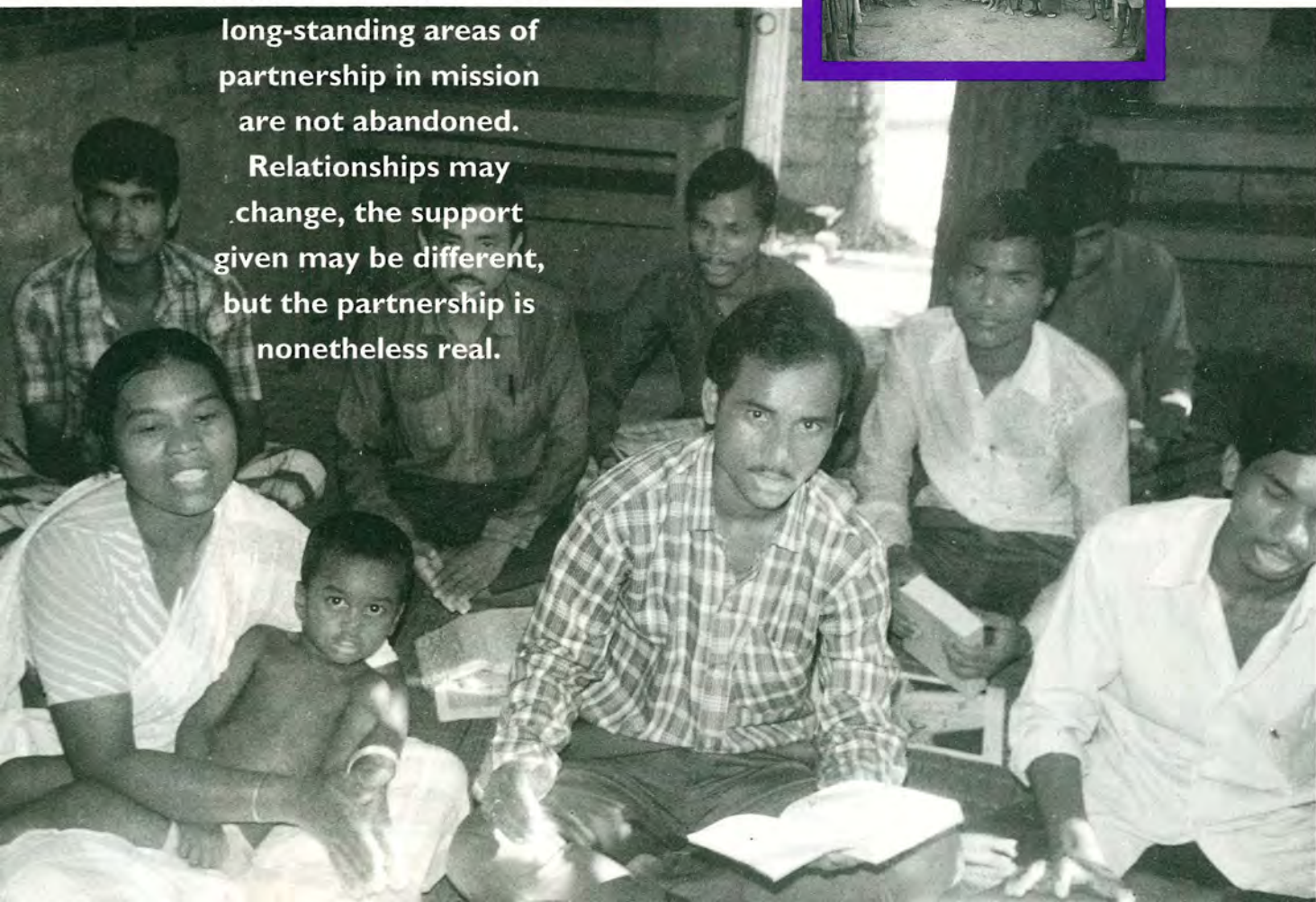
The Holy Spirit is not fickle, driving us hither and thither without any purpose or design. And

Driven to Persist

even when we are being driven into new areas of service, elsewhere the pressure of the wind makes us stay put in one place. When we are given a job, when we begin a work, we are meant faithfully to see it through, no matter what the difficulties. So long-standing areas of partnership in mission are not abandoned. Relationships may change, the support given may be different, but the partnership is nonetheless real.



Church groups in (top) India, (left) Mizoram and (bottom) Bangladesh.





Asia

There is nothing static about life in Asia. Whether in the realm of economics, social progress, daily living or Christian Mission which embraces them all.... Asia is on the move in her thinking, and in exploration of the world scene.

Mission began in Bengal - foundations were laid, strategies evolved and the life of the church established... Christ's name was introduced and is the cornerstone of his own people in Asia.

India continues to be an arena of religious fervour with a fanaticism which is difficult to restrain as demonstrated in Ayodhya last year. Will India revert to being the religiously exclusive Hindu dominion of a past era? A serious question which challenges Christians as well as other minority groups on the sub-continent.

But the Church is there, despite the tendency for mission to be obscured and sidetracked by obsessions to protect material interests and institutions which carry prestige and which, of course, can be part of Christian witness.

Despite struggles to retain property, to cling to the Christian tradition, there is evidence of the Spirit compelling and driving his people on - from Mizoram, Simla, Delhi the capital, Gaya, Monghyr and Patna in Bihar there is an ongoing witness, as also in West Bengal and Orissa.

The challenge of mission is being fulfilled significantly by the

Baptists of Mizoram who have a world vision and a passion to reach other parts of India, Asia and beyond. This vision is shared by brothers and sisters in Orissa who spearhead mission through the Church of North India.

God's people in Bangladesh continue to struggle with political and sociological questions, wrestling with moral issues prevalent in their country. Can compromise be avoided in a scene where corruption is incompatible with Christian witness? That's another hard question.

Through oppression, and struggles for recognition, in Bangladesh there are individuals and small groups being driven on in their zeal and passion for the Kingdom. The Spirit is at work in this small country and the Church of Christ is growing and cannot be overwhelmed.

In Nepal there is evidence of phenomenal growth. No one really knows how many Christian believers there are in the country. Fifty years ago none was known! Now tens of thousands acknowledge Christ. We continue to work with the United Mission to Nepal and also with the International Nepal Fellowship in these politically vital days. Nepal's people are learning how to survive and live democratically.

In Thailand we continue to serve with the Thailand Baptist Missionary Fellowship. Looking ahead, new patterns of mission strategy will surely emerge. In the present we face dramatically the challenge of AIDS, a problem being addressed through our partnership.

Our involvement in Issan and among the Karen convinces us that the mission of the church is facing ongoing challenges. Together with the Church of Christ in Thailand we pray for wisdom to meet the challenge of reaching out to neighbouring tribal peoples.

The small Baptist community of Sri Lanka established early in BMS history has suffered constraints through political

tensions between ethnic groups. Civil war continues in the north and east of the country. The Baptist community has experienced trauma during the recent past with changes in leadership, which struggles to establish identity and recognition and to perceive the patterns for future mission. Within local congregations there are evidences of God's Spirit at work, particularly among the young people.

Reflecting on the Asia scene, we see through the continent the Christian community turning from old things to the new. We have taken a new forward step in joining hands with the Kerapatan Gereja Baptis Indonesia and will



Easter procession (1992) in Kathmandu, Nepal, where Christians are now free to worship and witness.

continue to explore how to share in mission with them in North Sumatra. We are learning so much about the world through our Asia partnerships.

A time of inspiration was shared during the Fourth Asian Congress in Singapore during July 1992. Well over 600 delegates from around 20 countries, including Myanmar, Korea, Japan and Okinawa, representing 36 Baptist conventions affirmed their desire to cross over Asia by the year 2000. They resolved "to cast their nets now" with a passion affirming they truly are being driven by God's Spirit to share Good News from the East to the West.

Brazil and the Caribbean

As we see the results of the force of the wind, so we see the result of the work of the Holy Spirit. As in the influence on sailing boats, there are the sudden gusts which blow us in a new direction, but then we need the steady blow which keeps us on course to complete the task.

Though there is always the challenge of the new opportunities, and the excitement of going into new areas, there is also the need to consolidate what we have begun. From the beginning, it has



been church planting, evangelism and pastoral work in new communities which brought most of our early missionaries to Brazil.

With the recognition of this work on the national scene, the work has expanded to include new work in eleven states in Brazil, with strong participation in theological training and responding to the tremendous social needs as the Brazilian churches recognise the need to minister to the whole person.

This year has presented new difficulties to overcome when the economic recession has reduced the income of many churches, having a chain effect on the contributions sent on to the Mission Boards, Seminaries and the Convention offices. The consistent participation of Missions like the BMS is a tremendous encouragement in times like these.

In the consolidation of our ongoing work in Brazil we can give thanks to God for the encouragement of seeing the Holy Spirit

Driven to Persist

working constantly and highlight some of the new directions we have been following. We have fulfilled our promise to help in the State of Santa Catarina through the work of Chris and Marion Collicot in Canoinhas, and Vincent and Sadie MacDougall in Joinville in Church planting work, with John and Maria Dyer soon to join them to co-ordinate a lay-training programme in the State.

In São Paulo, two more couples, Stuart and Georgie Christine and David and Cath Meikle, are church planting in the favelas in different areas.

Our policy of helping in

theological education continues too, with the move of David and Sonia Jackson to the seminary in Brasilia, John and Norma Clark to the one in Fortaleza, Roy Deller teaching

in Curitiba and the move of John and Lidia Pullin to Campo Grande after their wedding in November. That makes a total of something like 14 missionaries in the work of training workers for the future.

Being involved in encouraging a ministry to the whole person has meant continuing our support in this area, with a social side to the work in the favelas in São Paulo, the work of Mary Parsons in the clinic in Fortaleza, Frank and Peggy Gouthwaite's involvement in the Social Services Board in Campo Grande and Lee Messeder's chaplaincy work with AIDS patients in a Campo Grande hospital. Many others too are involved in clinics and social projects alongside their main tasks.

In the Caribbean, even without any permanent missionary presence, our co-operation continues with the impact of the mobile Action Team and the financial support of the ongoing



Georgie Christine talking to a favela family in São Paulo, Brazil.

work and special projects in Jamaica and Trinidad. In Guyana, Brazilian missionaries, João and Celia Manga, continue their work through our support to the Brazilian World Mission Board.

So the work of proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom must go on, adapting to emerging needs, responding to new challenges, feeling the suffering of the deprived and seeking to share with them the spiritual wealth we have discovered in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and His purpose in redeeming lost men and women.



Nicaragua

Daily life is precarious. According to one newspaper, "70% live in poverty, 20% in dire poverty." Unofficial estimates put unemployment at 70%.

The governing coalition has broken up. Some former ministers are in disgrace and others accused of corruption. President Chamorro depends on the opposition Sandinistas to govern.

Former Contra rebels are taking up arms aggrieved at inadequate compensation for ending the civil war. Many Baptists are unhappy because of new taxes on their education, health, development and literacy work.

The Nicaragua Baptist Convention is involved in a wide-ranging ministry. However the work is being hampered by a severe financial crisis. Changes are taking place in the NBC leadership. A new General

Secretary, Elias Sanchez, has taken over from Tomas Tellez and a new executive committee appointed. The BMS partnership with the NBC has been strengthened by the arrival of Peter and Sheila Brewer who are now getting to grips with the Theological Education by Extension courses

El Salvador

Although the peace process has created a feeling of optimism and hope, the legacy of past fear and violent brutality will not quickly fade away.

In the capital, signs of new development abound. Supermarkets and fast-food restaurants are springing up - some believe to launder drug-money.

Twenty per cent of Salvadorans live in exile. Their gifts sent home

form the country's largest source of income. Around 85% of the population lives at or below the poverty-line. Land redistribution, and settlements between occupants and returning owners are difficult issues.

The corrupt judicial system continues. Drug trafficking has increased. As well as the economic crisis there are related issues, such as education, health care, lack of clean water, ecology, and post-war delinquency and violence.

The new era brings fresh opportunities and challenges to the El Salvador Baptist Association. After years of restrictions, fears and suspicions they now have a chance to reach out to each other and the local communities with a message of reconciliation and reconstruction. Our missionaries, David and Rachel Quinney Mee, and Susan and James Grote, have a meaningful role and example to give in the process.

Below left: Army generals watch as an army battallion in El Salvador is demobilised.

Below: Monument to massacred families at El Mozote, El Salvador.



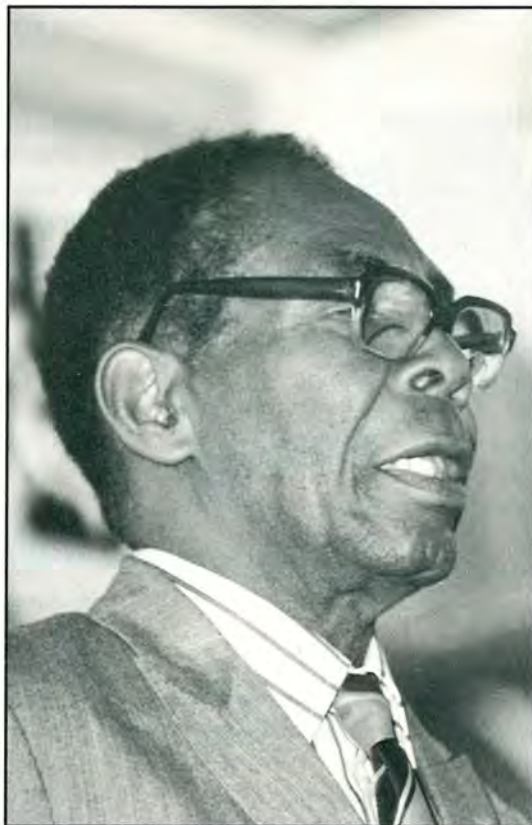
Africa

The wind of change, of which Harold Macmillan spoke in South Africa in 1960 has blown not only through that country but in the whole continent during the following 30 years.

The wind began to change in 1948 but from 1957-1968 it blew with gale force as the European Powers scrambled out of Africa with as much pace as they had generated for the Scramble into Africa between 1884 and 1912.

The new African nations, sometimes with little in the way of preparation, have struggled to find their identity. There have been power struggles within and self interested manoeuvres from without which have maintained Africa in a critical situation.

Driven to Persist



Right: Pastor Koli,
President of the Baptist
Community of the River



Zaire

In February 1992 a BMS delegation visited all six regions of CBFZ work in Zaire. The aim was to encourage the Church and also to discern what God was saying to the CBFZ and to us following the traumatic events of Autumn 1991 which resulted in the destruction of the infrastructure in Kinshasa and wanton damage in some other cities. It

also resulted in the evacuation of all but one BMS missionary then working in Zaire.

Was this just a tragic occurrence to be remedied by the return of missionaries as quickly as possible? Or was God speaking through the situation? The CBFZ felt it was not in a position to answer. They were still reeling from shock. However in May the Community President, the Revd Koli Mandole Molima, wrote to

all the CBFZ members asking them to reflect on the depth of the life and witness of the Community.

The Society decided in June that it would not be right for families to return nor for new missionaries to be sent and that a limited number of missionaries should represent us in Zaire for the time being. This would be a sign to the Church of our continuing partnership whilst allowing space for the Church to work through some of the questions.

Discussions continued during the BiCentenary visit of the CBFZ President and the Upper River Regional President, the Revd Mokili Bolemba Bolema, to Britain and also during the CBFZ Executive Committee in

November.

It was a year of discerning what the Spirit was saying but it was also a year in which partnership ties were reinforced through meetings and prayer.

Gwen Hunter remained at IME Kimpese throughout. She was joined in Zaire at various stages by Pat Woolhouse (CECO Kimpese), Margot Bafende (Mbanza Ngungu), Steve Green and Hugh Kennedy (visits, IME Kimpese), Steve Seymour (Relief Feeding Programme Kinshasa), Dannie and Margaret Calder (Missionary Affairs Kinshasa), Richard Smith (CBFZ Medical Co-ordinator), Tim Bulkeley (Protestant Faculty Kinshasa), Ruth Montacute (British School), and John and Rena Mellor (International Centre for Evangelism Kinshasa).

By the end of December there were six missionaries in Zaire and in January 1993 there was a further violent outbreak of shooting and pillaging in Kinshasa, another sign of the continuing political instability and economic crisis.

We stand with our brothers and sisters, agonising together with them in prayer at this critical time.



Angola

The same is true of Angola. A ceasefire was signed by MPLA and UNITA in May 1991 and this led to a peaceful situation in the country. As a result the General Secretary of the Evangelical Baptist Church of Angola (IEBA), the Revd Alvaro Rodrigues, as well as other leaders including the Revd Ida Sala Francisco, Secretary of Women's Work, were able to travel to the districts in the north which had been cut off by warfare.

The air of rejoicing and optimism was dashed shortly after the Presidential and Government Elections in September 1992 when the UNITA party refused to accept the results. The country then subsided into further fighting. Despite United Nations efforts to reconcile differences through a series of peace talks, the end of the year saw desperate fighting and incredible suffering in key areas of the country.

Christians have all along been fortified by the knowledge of our prayers for them. In turn they have sought to be a witness to the government and people. Churches have been filled to overflowing as people have sought God's word and IEBA held a large evangelistic rally in the Luanda football stadium on the theme of true peace. Church leaders have continued to represent the values of the Kingdom of God to political leaders.



Far Left: Gwen Hunter and Zaire health worker in IME

Left: Peaceful view of Luanda in war-torn Angola.

Europe

When we think of Europe today there are two main concerns which draw our attention. On the one hand there are the moves within Western Europe to come closer together - Maastrich and all that. On the other hand we have witnessed the break up of the Soviet Union and its influence within the former communist block countries. The repercussions of the end of the communist era are what we are seeing today in many of the republics and especially in what was formerly Yugoslavia. Winds of change right over the continent and new opportunities for the Church which could not have been predicted and hardly dreamed of.

Within this new situation there is a continuing relationship with Baptists in three countries where links have been long standing and partnership continues today.

Driven to persist

France

In France our work with the French Baptist Federation is a rebuilding of co-operation which dates back to the last century. No missionaries served in France for many years but when John and Sue Wilson crossed the channel in 1988 they were the first of six pastoral couples now appointed to work in church planting and encouragement.

The Federation in France has a vision to have a worshipping Protestant community in each of the district towns and with the help of BMS and other mission agencies is working towards achieving this goal. Materially not too different from Britain, France has a largely nominal Catholic population but with fewer than eight per cent actually attending church. The entire Protestant Church is only two per cent which is less than the Muslim community.

The Catholic church has identified France as a country for missionary activity and it is within that setting that BMS missionaries work.



Above: The choir of Glain Baptist Church, Liège, Belgium.

Right: Sam Verhaeghe, President of the Belgian Baptist Union talking to members of the Middelkerke Church near Ostend.



Belgium

Many British Baptists have had links with Belgium but most of these are not with Baptist churches or congregations linked to the Baptist Union of Belgium.

Conversations between representatives of the Belgian Union and British Baptists were held over a number of years. It is hard for us to understand just how weak and vulnerable the Belgians feel. A community of only around 1,000 members and 20 churches and preaching posts, they have resisted becoming part of the Belgium Protestant Church and to forego state financial support.





Italy

Like in France BMS had missionaries working in Italy in the past. The first Baptist church in Italy was founded by a British pastor, N H Shaw, in 1878 and subsequently BMS missionaries worked in Italy until 1923. It was only in 1991 that it was agreed to become involved through missionary personnel again. Although we have advertising for pastors to work in Italy for two years it is only recently that the first couple has been accepted. They will be going to start language training in Italy in 1994.

As the winds of change blow across Europe the Baptist churches in these countries are seeking the renewing and reviving breathe of God blowing through their churches and it is our privilege to be able to share with them in the continuing task of mission in Europe.

They jealously guard their independence and separation from the state. However, this brings its problems for they are regarded by some not as a church but rather as a sect like the Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses.

The Union unites both French and Flemish speaking Belgians and we now have the opportunity of having one couple working with each language group. The only full-time Belgian pastor is also supported by BMS and this working together has been described as a blowing of new life into the small struggling Union.



Top: Views of Hungary and Italy. Above: John Wilson with members of the Bron Baptist Church, Lyon, France.



We don't know where
God's Spirit will drive
us as we move into the
future of a new century

Driven Onward

Driven by the wind

and a new millenium.
All we know is that it
will be where he wants,
where he needs, somewhere
on the cutting edge of mis-
sion. So we need to be
prepared, in our structures,
in our committees, in
our attitudes, ready for
God's call.



The Object of the Society

“You should say what you mean the March Hare went on. ‘I do,’ Alice hastily replied, ‘at least - at least, I mean what I say - that’s the same thing, you know.’” Before the Mad Hatter responds with his own brand of logic, Lewis Carroll’s classic, *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*, sounds like preparation for a review of the “Object” of the Baptist Missionary Society!

How do you state, comprehensively but simply, in a way which is likely to be understood and to represent the view of the denomination as a whole, what the Baptist Missionary Society is about?

When a Working Group was set up to consider the question its

members found the task challenging and rewarding - serious, theological, strategic, and not without joyous stimulation.

The need for a review of the “Object” was thought to be two-fold.

(i) The language of the existing statement sounds dated.

(ii) More fundamentally, the perception of “mission” has shifted, in regard to two aspects in particular:

(a) we regard ourselves as partners in mission with partner-churches throughout the world;

(b) we recognise that God’s mission is ONE, in its different aspects, agencies and locations. At the same time we must on the one hand remain alert to God’s call to venturesome pioneering, and on the other remain aware that

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because the Society cannot do everything priorities have to be identified.

The existing "Object" is the result of numerous revisions. On this occasion it was agreed that we needed to make a fresh start.

The proposed new "Object" begins by defining the Society's "base": the Baptist churches of the British Isles. Not all Baptist churches support the Society; those which do belong to different Baptist Unions, and some to none; there are churches which support the Society but which would not claim the description "Baptist". But, the OBJECT of the Society is to enable Baptist churches to fulfil their mission.

Next, we confess that the initiative in mission belongs to God - it is ours to respond to his call.

Then we acknowledge that we are not alone in this - either as Baptists, or as inhabitants of the British Isles - we share with all God's people.

Fourthly, our aim is unchanged, to make known the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

The last item occasioned particular debate. Has the Society a role in the British Isles? If so, how does it relate to Baptist institutions here, and in particular to the four Baptist Unions in these islands? We have to distance ourselves from theological (let alone political!) imperialism, and recognise the Society's role in meeting the need of churches in the British Isles to receive, as well as to give.

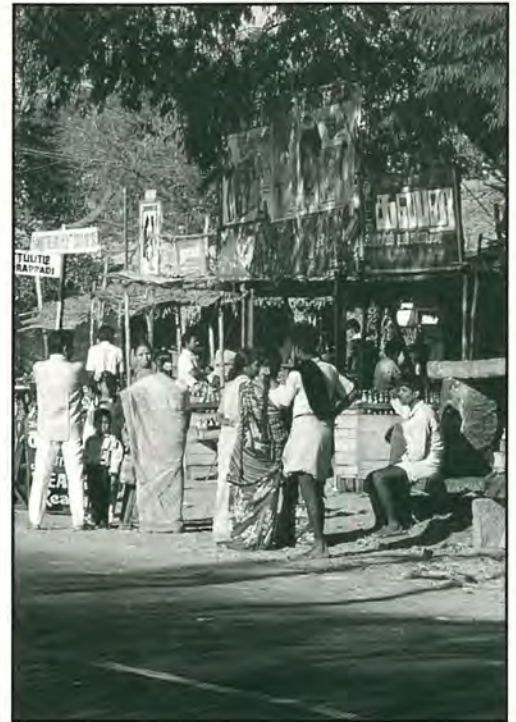
At the same time we want to maintain our role as an agency

which challenges churches to look outwards, to mission throughout the world.

In the end the General Committee endorsed the view that we cannot separate God's mission here from his mission elsewhere, but our priorities are principally beyond the British Isles.

We have before us an "Object". It does not claim the status of a creed, confession or doctrinal basis. While it is new, it re-affirms the original aim of the Society as an agency for making known the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Opinions have been sounded widely and a surprising amount of work has been done to arrive at this result. While the members of the Working Group - and probably General Committee as a whole - might not be eager to repeat the exercise soon, the present wording is not immutable and will call for revision in years to come. But for the present it is proposed as a commendable statement of the "Object" of this Society, through which we receive great things from God, and by which we are enabled to attempt great things for God, throughout the world.

BMS Priorities in mission remain principally beyond the British Isles



Associations Links

To prepare for the future, a special working group met during 1992 to look at the way BMS relates to Baptist Associations especially in regard to the election of members of General Committee. To quote from the introduction to its report:

Over the years, there have been differences of understanding of the nature of the Baptist Missionary Society in the minds of Baptist constituents. This has led to anomalies in organisation and, on occasion, genuine difficulties in understanding, communicating and conducting BMS affairs.

What began as a Society of individuals, quickly involved local churches and has moved to the current situation in which the assumption is made that the membership of the Society is essentially that of local Baptist churches. Nowhere is this spelt out constitutionally, although the largest group of participants in the Annual Members' Meeting are "Representative Members" - representative not of individuals but local churches.

The Society had its beginnings

within Association life. For some time, the elections to the General Committee have been carried out, according to the agreed schedule, along the lines of Association boundaries.

Despite this, the links between the Society and individual Associations have been generally weak, with no official access from the Association to the BMS except for nominations to General Committee. The "Associations" representatives are elected by local churches directly relating to the Society's administration. Whereas the Association can nominate, local churches, General Committee members and personal members are also free to nominate. In practice this has led to the election of individuals not always felt to be adequate representatives of the Association as a whole.

Within Associations there has been a variety of recognition of and use of General Committee members. In some places the affairs of the Society have been given a good degree of prominence but in others scant, if any, attention.

This has tended to create a division between Association and BMS life, which is disappointing at a time of greater co-operation between the Society and the Unions and the use of Associations to develop links with overseas unions with which the BMS is in partnership.

The Working Group is convinced that links with Associations should be greatly strengthened.

The Working Group argues that for the Society and Associations to develop stronger links, elections to the General Committee should be carried out quite clearly through the Associations rather than bypassing them. It has also considered the length of service and continuity of service of General Committee members, the nature and size of General Committee and its time-table of meetings.

General Committee members, representing churches and associations, have an opportunity to interview serving missionaries.



Fund for the Future

Wide open doors of mission opportunity in Central and South America. Calls for help from Eastern Europe and Asia! How can the BMS respond quickly and effectively?

The Fund for the Future is helping BMS to respond immediately to new opportunities in mission. It is about new faces and places, new challenges and outreach. It is about excitement and adventure as we join with God in what he is doing through his Church in other places.

At the beginning of the BiCentenary celebrations we set our sights on raising £2 million for this work. We are nowhere near there yet, although many churches have been working with determination and dedication.

Some say that although they have already sent their donation, they intend to give more. Others are beginning to see that the Fund gives us a unique opportunity to pioneer new mission activity beyond the year 2000. Another £5 from each person worshipping in Baptist churches in the UK will enable us to reach our target.



Fund for the Future

The Revd Yosia Tambunan from the Kerapatan Gereja Baptis Indonesia (KGBI - Convention of Indonesian Baptist Churches), pictured here, is being supported by the BMS Fund for the Future as a missionary to Medan in North Sumatra.

He was ordained for this new work in November 1991 and actually left that month for Medan.

The Revd Youtie Legoh, KGBI President, wrote to BMS in November: "We are so happy and praise the Lord for your 200th anniversary. May God let us work together, BMS and KGBI, to share the gospel and establish churches in Indonesia."

Listening to the Baptist radio station in Nicaragua which is supported by the BMS Fund for the Future.



Yosia Tambunan's ordination in Indonesia



Driven Onwards

A Change Of Plan

Robinson Rimun is one of four young people who have been awarded scholarships by the Convention of Indonesian Baptist Churches. The cost of these is being met by Fund for the Future.

When I was still a boy, it was very rare to hear about the Christian faith. My father was a policeman. Although he was a Muslim, he was always very busy with his work and never found time to talk about religion.

Growing up in such way, without any thought of God, we just lived in any way we wanted.

But there came a time when we had a difficult crisis. It was a family problem which affected my life, but I felt useless.

However it shook me. I started to look for something

different, for peace in my life. So, in 1985, I attended a Baptist youth camp. There I realised my emptiness. The Holy Spirit helped me to see my life as a sinner and my need of forgiveness. There I received Christ as my personal Saviour. He changed my life. I thank God for I know that he loves me even though I am a sinner.

As I grew in my faith, I saw the need for evangelisation and ministry both inside and outside of our church. I got involved in the ministry of the church including the Sunday school. There I became aware of a call to full-time ministry. I changed my plans. I was going to be an engineer but now I decided to prepare to become a pastor.

After finishing high school in 1987, I continued my studies at the Indonesian Theological Seminary in Manado. Economically it has been a struggle to meet both the cost of training and the expense of a family. I have a wife and one child.

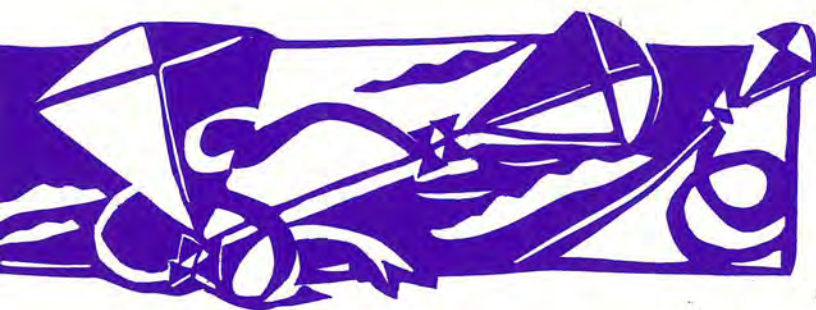
Management Review

Preparing for the future, the Society has been looking for sometime at the way it organises itself. Recommendations were put to the General Committee in June 1992 and whilst there was general support the Committee set up a larger group to consider the proposals further.

The Management Review Group presented its recommendations to the March 1993 General Committee. However, a report of the outcome will have to be left to a future Annual Report. It is sufficient to say that the Review Group confessed to a sense of "excitement at the potential of what was being recommended."

"If this were to be confirmed by the General Committee, here could be that new thing from God which would enable the Society to work for Christ and the Kingdom more effectively than ever."

To quote from one of its reports, "The purpose is to improve the Society's work for Christ and the Kingdom by means of better stewardship of resources of personnel, time and money through a more efficient structure."



Hindu family, Nepal.





Powered by the Wind

What image is appropriate for the Society as it looks to the future? No image is adequate by itself but if we stay with the consciousness that God's Spirit, like the wind, blows where God wills, surely we look to the Society resembling a mobile windmill. Any windmill is designed to turn so as to make best use of the available resources, the wind. Once positioned correctly then it is open fully to benefit from that surging energy which is used for the good of the community.

Surely the Society needs now to be open to the gusting of God's Spirit so as to be empowered and moved onwards, driven by the

wind, in the direction of God's purposes. This will mean certain things are asked of the BMS.

There can be no assumptions that life and the patterns of mission will be the same as in the past. We dare not dictate to God what is going to be that appropriate style of mission or structure of organisation that is going to serve the purposes of the Kingdom. Rather we need to be open to whatever is his driving, his guiding.

This calls for the Society to be sensitive to the changes of direction in mission. There is the call to be inextricably linked to a base of Biblical Theology which

yet liberates to share in the full dynamism of the Spirit-driven World Church. There is the challenge to be so aware of the guidance of God that even slight changes can be perceived in all their significance and so followed.

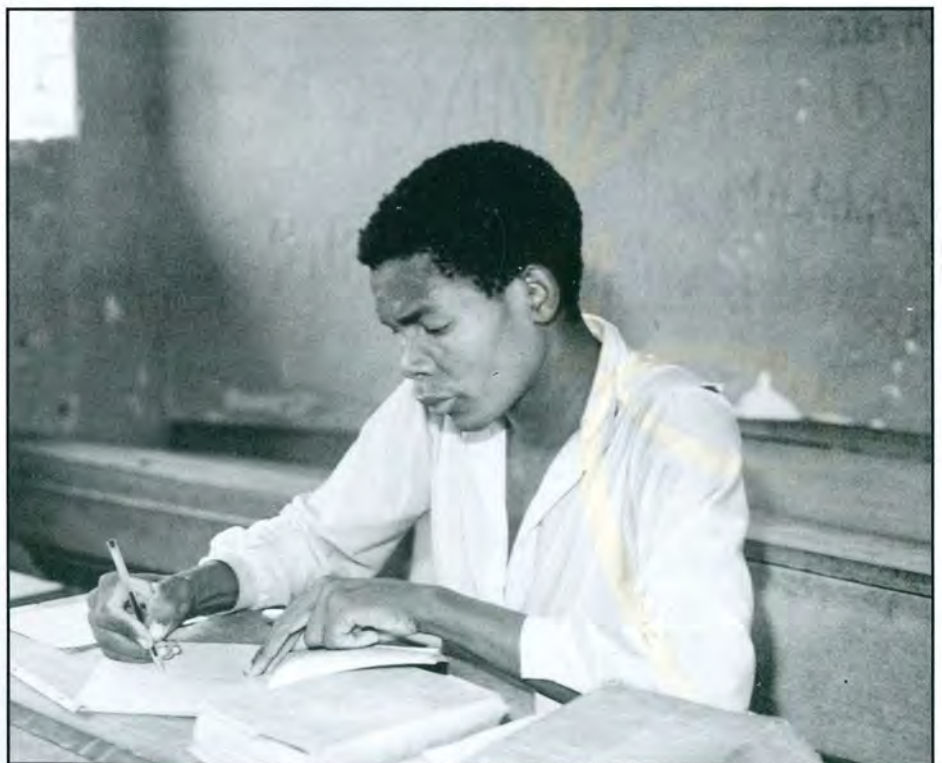
Above all there needs to be a readiness to be open to the new direction in which God may guide (mobile windmills?) eager to use to the full the energy of God's love which He is outpouring for the fulfilling of humankind and of all creation.

God grant us the humility and the open-ness to be driven by the wind of the Spirit for the sake of the Kingdom.

Below left: The General Committee approving the new management structure.

Below centre: A child at Vellore, South India.

Below right: Learning about the Christian faith, Upoto, Zaire.





Baptist Missionary Society
 PO Box 49 Baptist House
 129 Broadway Didcot Oxon
 OX11 8XA
 BMS is a registered charity

A Change Of Plan

Richard Knight, a member of the Reading Baptist congregation, has been invited to speak at the annual meeting of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. He will be speaking on the theme of 'A Change Of Plan'.

Why? Because, as a result of the changes in the way we live, we need to re-examine our plans for the future. This is what we will be doing at the annual meeting.

It is a time when we will be looking at the way we live and the way we work. We will be asking ourselves: 'What are our plans for the future?' and 'How can we make these plans a reality?' This is what we will be doing at the annual meeting.

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