





BMS Annual Report 1994



Travelling Together

Networking for Mission in the 90's

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INTRODUCTION

God's people are never expected to travel on a solitary pilgrimage. The picture given to us by scripture shows God's great servants striding the paths of service in a unique fellowship with him.

Companionship is a constant theme of the Bible. For Moses there was the gift of Aaron. Even when individuals felt alone and isolated, God assured them of his presence. Elijah fled to Horeb and complained to God, "I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." But God reasoned with Elijah and made it quite clear that Elijah was not alone: "I reserve seven thousand in Israel - all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal"

This companionship along the way is more than ever emphasised in the story of the church of Jesus Christ. The disciples were called into a band and sent out two by two. After his resurrection Jesus commissioned the disciples "to go to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples...." he also promised to "be with you always, to the end of the age."

After Pentecost, Christ the Spirit bound together the Apostles as part of an ever-growing fellowship of believers and, when they went their different missionary ways, they did so as part of a wider company. Even the individualist Saul of Tarsus, Paul the Apostle, was granted the companionship of Barnabas, Luke and others on occasion. God does not call His people to a solitary pilgrimage but to be travellers together with Him and with one another.

This has been the experience of the Society over recent years. We have known the joy of the companions with whom we travel together, those partners whom we have within the Church worldwide. This has not only been experienced as a two-way traffic, a relationship between British Baptists and one or another of the Overseas Partners. Increasingly there has been the sense of being within a huge team. More accurately, perhaps, of participating

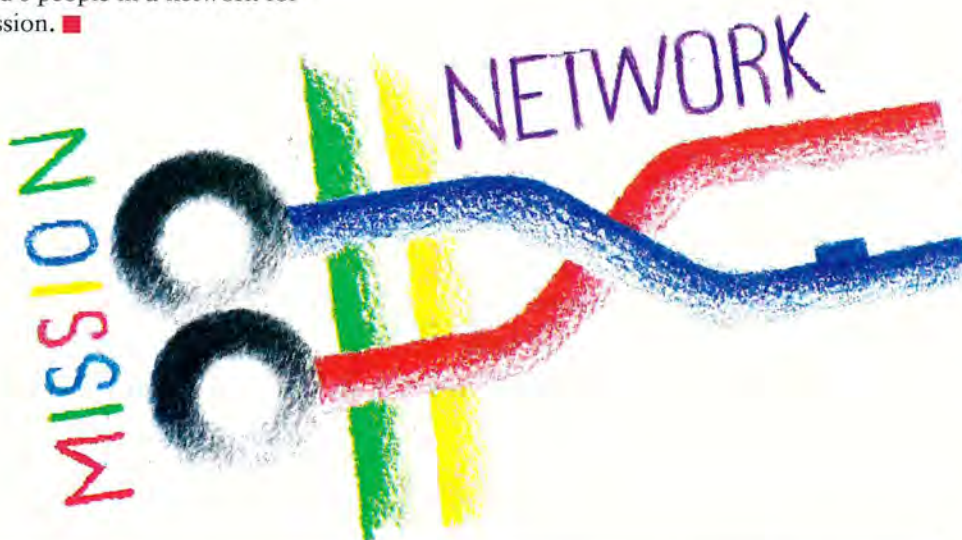


Above: Children's Day Parade, São Paulo, Brazil.

within a network with each knot or focal point as a place of strength and insights making its own significant input to the net as a whole.

Last year there were major changes in the life of the BMS. The Management Review and the new pattern of operation in home organisation and committees inevitably loomed large. But at the heart of this change was the longing for more effective mission in the service of Christ. At the same time as these internal rearrangements, BMS and its partners have been developing a networking for mission through the establishment of ABAM - Association for Baptist Action in Mission. Similarly multi-lateral links have been growing with significant development in the number of secondments of BMS missionaries to other mission agencies. With BMS help, missionaries from Mizoram have gone to Nepal and another couple from Brazil are starting work in Guyana.

More than ever the Baptist Missionary Society is seen as travelling together, surely with Our Lord and Master, but also with God's people in a network for mission. ■



With the Good News

"customer's charter"

Christian mission is about good news for all the world, the good news of God's love in Jesus, the good news about healing, about the breaking down of barriers, about human dignity, about people working together, about reconciliation and community, about resurrection life and forgiveness and salvation.

And it's not just BMS that's sharing the good news. It's a joint task. We are on an exciting journey together with many mission partners around the world.

.....



ALBANIA

In 1992, Chris and Mairi Burnett went to Albania to start something new - new for the BMS and new for European Baptists. The fall of communism left a void in the lives of most Albanians. Most traces of religion had been eradicated by years of atheistic indoctrination. So the European Baptist Federation (EBF) thought it right to start a work and Chris and Mairi were asked to open an office in the capital, Tirana. They have since been joined by more BMS missionaries, helped by a BMS 28:19 Summer Team, and workers have arrived from other countries.

"Baptist work in Albania is exciting," reported Karl Heinz Walter, General Secretary of EBF. "Saverio Guarna said, 'If you are looking for the happiest man in the world you just look at me.'"

Saverio is an Italian Baptist Minister doing evangelism and church planting work. He has started Bible study groups and the first baptisms have taken place.

"The scope of the work is widening fast," said Karl Heinz Walter. "The dimension of the requests and the involvement in agriculture, in teaching and in the hospital programme is more than we can really accomplish. We are discussing what is possible. I am grateful for BMS involvement because without BMS we would not be that far ahead.

"It is exciting because we are all working together - the Foreign Mission Board, Co-operative Baptist Fellowship, Canadian Baptists, European Baptists, BMS and Italy and so on. Those who know our backgrounds are full of admiration that we have stayed together. "The communist regime in Albania, compared with Russia, was successful in the sense that people don't have any basic religious feeling. The Orthodox attitude which you find in the former Soviet



Left: Last year there were queues for bread, now there are lots of bakeries.

Below: Last year there was no church, now the first converts have been baptised.



Union, is not there. People are out of religion. They weren't able to share their religious feelings so they don't understand religious terms. The communists intended Albania to be a country without God and they achieved something in this direction."

Chris and Mairi Burnett, looking at changes in Albania over the past few months said: "This time last year:

- we had water three times a day - now we have it all the time;
- we had three or four power cuts a day - now we have not had one since we came back;
- there were onions and leeks in the market and occasionally carrots and cabbage - now we have them all the time as well as broccoli and cauliflower;
- we had to queue for bread - now there are lots of bakeries;
- we were cold, even in our own house - now we sometimes don't need our diesel heater on;
- there was no decent meat and we had to make our own mince - now we buy it already made;
- there were few shops - now there are lots;
- there were three nice restaurants - now there are

- three Chinese restaurants as well as many others;
- there were a few cars and we sometimes drove - now there are at least 12,000 private cars in Tirana - Chris *never* drives;
- the roads were not in too bad a condition - now mud is everywhere because they dug them up to put in electricity cables;
- there were no traffic lights - now there are at least ten;
- we were attending the International church - now we have our own fellowship;
- the EBF office was in our house - now it's in its own building with the language school, Saverio's house and the worship area;
- there were no church planters - now there are three couples and

three groups meeting;

- we were on our own - now we are 15 adults and ten children.

Some things have not changed. We *still*:

- have good communication with most Christian groups;
- have meetings at the AEP (Albanian Encouragement Project Office) which is an excellent forum for sharing hopes, objectives and needs;
- have the opportunity to share our faith with the people here;
- know that God wants us here and that whatever He wants us to do He will give us the strength to do it." ■

"The communist regime in Albania, compared with Russia, was successful in the sense that people don't have any basic religious feeling."

ALL TRAVELLERS TOGETHER

What does a world renowned expert in tef, an instructor in outdoor pursuits and a Lloyds underwriter have in common? All have been accepted as BMS missionaries during the past year. And they have eighteen other colleagues who have also been challenged to go overseas to serve God in ways they can barely imagine!

SO WHO ARE THE TRAVELLERS, AND WHAT WILL THEY DO?

Philip and Rosemary Halliday of Croxley Green Baptist Church, Hertfordshire, are learning French at the Massy Language School in Paris in preparation for work as a pastoral couple.

Mark and Claire Ord of Clapham Baptist Church, London, will head towards Italy this Autumn after completing their studies at Spurgeon's College.

Glyn and Gill Jones of Camberley Baptist Church, Surrey, are already in Albania where Glyn is bringing his vast knowledge of agriculture to bear in teaching students at Tirana Agricultural University.

David and Ann MacFarlane of Falkirk Baptist Church, Scotland, are learning Italian and undergoing a year's orientation at Perugia in Italy.

Andrew and Linda Eaves of South Parade Baptist Church, Leeds, Yorkshire, are completing a year's training at St Andrew's Hall missionary training college, Birmingham. They will be leaving this year for Brazil and working in church-based community development.

Jenny Dorman of Woodford Wells Ecumenical Church, London, is an experienced teacher of English as a Foreign Language. She is in Nepal fulfilling her role as an English as a Foreign Language Consultant/Team Leader.

David and Catherine McLellan of the Bridge of Don Baptist Church, Aberdeen, are in Nepal where David is working on information systems and technology. Catherine is a primary school teacher.

Grace Penney of Acre Mill Baptist Church, Bacup, Lancashire has also gone to Nepal, to teach geography. She is now undergoing language training in Kathmandu.

John and Lesley Moody of Crofton Baptist Church, Orpington, Kent, will be hostel parents for the children of missionaries in São Paulo, Brazil.

Colin and Denise Clark of Dedridge Baptist Church, Livingston, Scotland will leave for Nepal where Colin will work as a Vehicle Technician/Instructor for the International Nepal Fellowship.

Ryder and Heather Rogers of Bramingham Park Church, Luton, Bedfordshire, are now in Albania where they will be involved in church planting and evangelism with the European Baptist Federation.

Margaret Gibbs of Chesterfield Baptist Church, Derbyshire, is a teacher with a strong interest in music, particularly ethnomusicology. She is now in Nepal as a teacher of missionaries' children.



All travellers together, taking the good news of God's love in Christ to both the nearer and further reaches of the world.

TRAVELLING TOGETHER IN GUYANA

Pastor Elierte Santos Perreira and his wife Maria are Brazilian missionaries to Guyana. Supported by BMS, they are part of a co-operative venture with the Brazilian Baptist World Mission Board and the Guyana Baptist Convention.

Elierte (29) and Maria (23) trained at the Baptist Theological



Left: Elierte and Maria Perreira.

Below: Students at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Indonesia.



Seminary in Rio de Janeiro where they both completed courses for bachelor of theology.

Waldemiro Tymchak, Executive Secretary of the World Mission Board, said they both have a clear calling to Guyana. "They have shown maturity and responsibility in their Christian service both in the local church and when participating in special projects. They spent three months as missionaries in Bolivia. Demonstrating their calling to Guyana, they have learned English and achieved a reasonable proficiency. We thank BMS again for co-operation in the mission task."

The Brazil missionaries previously supported by BMS help are being financed from elsewhere. BMS is also helping to support Mizo missionaries from north-east India, working in Nepal and local Indonesian missionaries. ■



Part of the international group which met at Charney Manor to discuss the details of the Association for Baptist Action in Mission programme.

JOINT MISSION ACTION

Mission is no longer from "us" (*in the West*) to "them" (*everywhere else*) but it is Christians combining their experiences, insights and resources to witness and work for Christ around the world.

BMS BiCentenary celebrations in October 1992 brought together representatives of all BMS partner churches and agencies. Many joined in a Partnership Consultation held over four days at St Edward's Conference Centre, Malvern, under the chairmanship of the Revd Luther Gibbs of Jamaica.

They considered the content of mission, identified concerns arising from today's world and outlined 19 possible areas of co-operation and mutual support.

Affirming the importance of regular multi-lateral as well as bi-lateral consultation and action they recognised that all were on a pilgrimage of discovery.

A small group was appointed to investigate further and report, with recommendations, to partner bodies. This group, drawn from Nicaragua, Jamaica, Brazil, Zaire, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, Belgium and Britain, met for three days at Charney Manor, Oxfordshire, in April 1993. They shared their observations about

the basis of co-operating together and agreed that they did not wish to set up an organisation which would duplicate the role of the Baptist World Alliance or any other existing group.

Each partner saw different possibilities but, given a common vision of mission, they were ready to pool some of their spiritual, human and material resources. It was felt essential to gain mutual awareness of what they had to give to each other and of their needs.

They recommended the establishment of a decision-making group to make plans on the basis of resources made available by member bodies. This was not intended to undermine the autonomy of any partner church, rather it was seen as an invitation to all BMS's partner churches to join with other autonomous churches in a fellowship of joint mission action.

The name proposed for this scheme for co-operation was "The Association for Baptist Action in Mission," (ABAM). It is envisaged that a representative gathering of partner bodies will meet every two years and a small executive group will meet annually. Plans were circulated to all partner bodies and received general approval and acceptance.

The first meetings of the full group are planned for November, 1994. Study documents are being prepared on: Training in Trans-Cultural mission, Strategy and Style of Mission, Media and Literature Communication, Exchange of Specialists and Training for Pastoral and Evangelistic Ministry. ■

BMS WORKERS AND NATIONAL CHURCHES

1

ALBANIA
The European Baptist
Federation
General Secretary:
Rud Heinz Walter

ANGOLA
Clyde and Maire Burnett,
Glyn and Gill Jones,
Ryder and Heather Rogers,
David and Yvonne Whalley

ANGOLA
The Evangelical Baptist
Church in Angola. General
Secretary: Avaro Rodrigues

BANGLADESH
Bangladesh Baptist Sangha
General Secretary: Martin
Ashkary

Valerie Hamilton,
Dore Hedder,
Christine Preston

BELGIUM
President: Samuel
Verhaeghe

Les and Jane Bonney,
Stuart and Joyce Filby

TRINIDAD



TRINIDAD

Junior Ross is Youth Co-ordinator for the Baptist Union of Trinidad and Tobago (BUTT) and he is developing programmes for youth groups in terms of discipleship, deepening Christian life and their outreach ministry to serve the community. BMS supports the work of BUTT although we have no personnel working in the island.

Part of my responsibility is to go around the churches to stimulate youth work. I share a vision of youth work and try to see how best to open their minds and their thinking towards getting involved in youth activities.

As a result of consultation and information sharing, two churches, which were not involved in youth work, have become involved. Although sometimes it can be difficult we are beginning to see some results.

A number of our churches are filled with senior leadership in terms of being there and in terms of their age. So there is a generation gap blocking the progress of youth work. I have been grateful to God for giving me the ability, the wisdom and a relationship with some of these senior people that has enabled me to throw out a challenge for youth ministry. We have started a programme that is



After morning service. Young people from Mount Bethel Baptist Church in Trinidad.

geared towards crossing that gap and getting churches involved in a totally new ministry. So it will not just be a group of young people meeting, the whole church will be involved in youth ministry and the young people will be involved in the total ministry of the church.

We are developing public relations and promotional materials so that the pastors and the senior elders of the church can begin to understand the need. We are selling a vision of the need for youth work and youth involvement. Emerging from that is sharing with young people the need to be totally involved in the ministry of the church. We are trying to bring the two arms together to be a functioning part of one body because sometimes - too often - the youth group is the youth group and the church is the church and that's it. Let's bring them together so that the youth group will be a reflection of the church as it is involved in ministry through the young people and to the young people and for the young people. One thing challenging young people is the serious unemployment. There are a number of unemployed young people and they can get caught up in doing anything to make a living, losing sight of what God wants for us. There is an increase in some cult activities around the country. The Rastafarian move-

ment, the Moslem movement, black Moslems - they have increased their activities and we need to be concerned for all young people. Not many of our Baptist young people are moving away but we are talking about young people in general in Trinidad and Tobago. If we are to reach them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ it means then that our young people must understand some of the cults around us.

Their main focus is music. We have got to reach them through that means. The rebellious nature lying in the hearts of young people is a major concern.

There is a lot to do and we are trying to get some resource materials to see how best we can tackle that situation.

The Baptist Union of Trinidad and Tobago is growing. We have started several new mission points and hope that they may soon be fully-fledged churches. At present we have 22 churches and eight mission points. We have about eight or nine full-time ministers and several part-time ministers and local preachers.

There is a need for the training of leaders. A number of our church leaders are elderly and we are looking at ways of encouraging young people to give themselves for ministry so that we can get on with the task of equipping the Church. ■

Through Difficulties

"we apologise for the delay"

Travellers expect delays and diversions and those who journey together in mission must learn to support and encourage each other when faced with situations which threaten to derail them. Economic and political crises, floods and droughts, cultural



misunderstanding, theological differences can all get in the way. But such delays can give time and space for

prayer and discussion, giving mission partners a clearer vision of their joint task and strengthening the bonds of understanding and trust.



CHANGES ARE RAPID, UNCOMFORTABLE, STRESSFUL

Ten months in Belgium, church planting and working with the small fellowship which began at Le Trou, Ferrières in the Ardennes, has given us a brief glimpse of the people, their lives and their culture.

Like the view from our train window, much can be seen yet not everything is absorbed or understood. As the scenery moves past at speed, only an impression may be grasped. One has to stop and stare, we apologise for the delay... Of course Belgium is rich. On a world scale, as in all European countries, even the poorest people are rich. They do not have the need to rely on God for their daily bread. Being in a Catholic country, 90 per cent are baptised as babies and are thought of by tradition as Christian. In this environment, Baptists are frequently considered as one of the cults.

As we take our seats on this journey we begin to observe our fellow passengers. Some, sadly, will be getting off along the line. There is precious little time to get to know them, or tell of our destination and the One who awaits us. There is time to read the papers... A glance at the small ads reveals something of the mentality of the people. Fear. There are mediums, clairvoyants and spiritualists, offering guidance and predictions for marriages, work, money and power. Consequently they sell charms>

•••••

> and spells, peddling protection. There is an advert giving instructions on how to perform a 'novena'. Nine days of lighting candles for vicarious prayer to a saint, and God *will* deliver whatever is asked - but only if the faithful pay for the next advert in the newspaper.

We are passing through changing scenery. Brilliant sunshine is breaking through the sombre clouds, light is dancing and sparkling everywhere. We turn to talk with our companions, delighting in the warmth

which glows through the window. Others in the carriage are putting on dark glasses and pulling

down the window shades. As we talk of the light and our journey's end, some agree to stay on with us... The tiny Baptist fellowship which had six members is increasing rapidly. There are now more than 20 worshipping regularly. A total of 40 come intermittently and commitment is growing. Eight candidates were considering baptism, and four were to be baptised on 13 February.

Together we look at the changing scenery, each seeing a different perspective. Our train is gathering speed, yet there is still so far to go... The changes are rapid, sometimes uncomfortable, even stressful. The church has moved to Remouchamps. It will have to move again soon.

We each have our different view from our windows, yet we have the same destination. We know who will be waiting on the platform to meet us and that he will take us to our Father's house which has many rooms. **Les Bromley**



HOW DO FOLK COPE?

In Zaire, ordinary people are hungry, moneyless, and very sad. They've had enough of the army, they don't believe the politicians - they've heard it all before.

Teachers, on strike because their salaries had not been paid, sought other ways to feed their families. Children have been without schooling, except where parents were willing to pay the teachers to enable children to finish exams.

Margot Bafende, writing from Mbanzu Ngungu in Lower Zaire, where she teaches in a teacher training college, spoke about "digging for victory."

"Many have allotments or gardens. Others have little commercial projects, anything to earn a bit in order to buy some food."

She spoke of the plight of the students. "Despite being hungry and the appalling conditions they are polite and co-operative. They want to learn, having missed one or two years of study, and are prepared for anything. They ask questions, which I answer without indicating that I'm shocked that

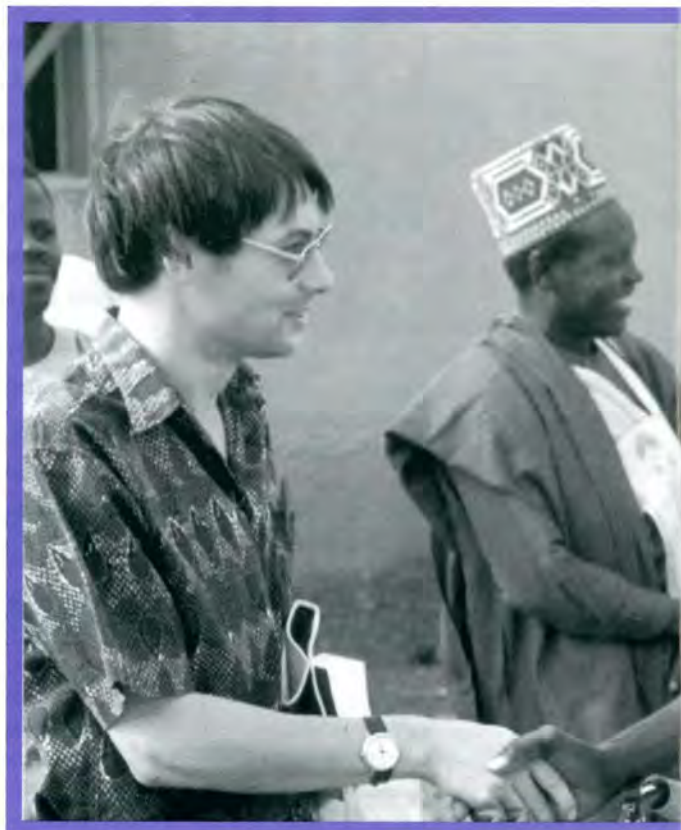
they don't know the answers."

Other reports speak of families affording only one main meal every other day, and how, in illness, they have to choose between medicines or food.

In the middle of this, the churches are very active. "Giving is right down, but every week there are collections to help members who are ill or bereaved and they really give. The cost of medicines is prohibitive. I don't know how folk cope."

Christians are conscious of the support of British Baptists. "It is a great encouragement to be assured of your prayers for Zaire, for the Church and for us. We have so many friends and can share so much. That, after all, is what Christian fellowship is. At our services we are often encouraged by the person leading who says that the situation in Zaire is well nigh impossible and all we can do is pray. It's the bigness of that 'all' that gives us our peace. It is no longer in our hands. So the church here is at work at prayer, very fervent ones too. Please don't forget your prayers of thanksgiving too when you remember us." ■

Alan Wood meets a church member at Galmi in Niger.





Children in the Bangu Hills in the Lower River Region of Zaire.

PRAYER

AN ANSWER TO PRAYER

BMS, unable to return to Zaire for the time being and some, designated for Zaire, had to find other areas of work. However, as one door closed so others opened. Some missionaries have been seconded to work with other societies in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Niger. Derek Rumbol explained how two of them came to work with the Society of International Ministries (SIM) in Niger.

SIM has a huge presence in this part of Africa and Galmi in Niger is no exception. The Mission Hospital is a big complex, started 40 years ago on an inhospitable site alongside the main Niamey-Maradi surfaced road where laden camels and donkey carts mingle with cars and lorries. This is where the French eventually allowed the Protestants to work. Now there are lots of trees and shade but it was a difficult beginning.

There are over 40 missionary staff from several countries with national support staff but no

national doctors.

One can only say that the hand of the Lord was on the secondment and timing of Alan and Ruth Wood to SIM at Galmi. Gillian Reynolds was at the point of retirement from her position as Laboratory Technician. No-one knew who would replace her. Then came the enquiry from Alan and Ruth who were prevented from an immediate return to Zaire and the secondment agreement with SIM allowing them to arrive in Galmi in June 1993 in time to do four months Hausa language study. Alan took over from Gillian just two weeks before her departure.

Not only had a qualified person been found but someone with experience of Africa and of a hospital very similar to Galmi and with a knowledge of French! All concerned looked on this as an answer to prayer and the BMS was thanked for its provision to meet this need. It is helpful that the BMS and a Society such as SIM can find oneness in faith and service despite the practical difficulties that had to be overcome because of the different ways our Societies are financed." ■



BMS WORKERS AND NATIONAL CHURCHES

2

BRAZIL
Brazilian Baptist Convention
General Secretary

- David and Sheila Brown
- Stuart and George Christie
- John and Norma Clark
- Chris and Marion Collicott
- Roger and Angela Collinson
- Peter and Susan Cousins
- Roy and Margaret Deiler
- Tim and Rosalind Dellar
- Kevin and Linda Donoghue
- John and Maria Dyer
- Mike and Jean Gardner
- Frank and Peggy Guthrie
- Mark Greenwood
- Marion and Kathy Hewitt
- Keith and Barbara Hodges
- David and Sue Jackson
- Vivien and Saele MacDougall
- David and Catherine Meikle
- Lee and Evelyn Messerer
- Gerry and John Myhill
- Mary Parsons
- Stan and Maureen Porter
- John and Luise Rahn
- Derek and Joanna Purchard
- Margaret Swires
- Michael and Dawn Wilson

BULGARIA
General Secretary: Bozidar Iyoff

EL SALVADOR
El Salvador Baptist Association
President: Luis Sandoval

David and Rachel Quinney Mae
James and Sue Orta

CREATIVITY AND COMMITMENT

"The El Cordero de Dios (Lamb of God) Baptist Church celebrated their 13th anniversary," wrote David Quinney Mee from El Salvador at the end of last year.

The service was rich with colour, symbols and almost 100 people packed into the little building. Prayers were said for Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Somalia, the pain of each place lost on no one. The first full day retreat was the previous Sunday when the congregation interpreted the paths along which they had been led. Between the retreat and the anniversary we met in a different home each night for a simple meal, songs, prayers and a lot of laughs. It proved helpful in lowering the tensions we are all experiencing.

Reports document an increase in politically motivated killings. They are believed to be an attempt to destabilise the peace process and goad the FMLN into a violent response. So far they have refused to be provoked. This is 'post-war'

When the damage is psychological and spiritual it hides in the shadows of the soul and becomes illusive, complicated to heal and damaging to others.

El Salvador. But, for all its horror, it does not come as a complete surprise.

At a deeper level we have been unprepared for the bitter reality of post-war complexities. A physical war can be identified. When the damage is psychological and spiritual it hides in the shadows of the soul and becomes illusive, complicated to heal and damaging to others. Many whose stamina through the years of madness was exemplary are showing the cracks. People who bore stress without complaint now admit to physical

pains and distress that cannot be healed with tablets. Burdens of secrecy, mistrust and suspicion demand relief but it is still unsafe to 'tell all'.

Highly charged dynamics within this fragile nation, let loose inside the small Baptist Association, are wreaking havoc. To interpret it with any accuracy demands understanding of Salvadoran politics and Salvadoran church politics, and probably a good grasp of psychology, not least the psychology of the effects of the war.

In the midst of this hardest of 'schooling', the Baptist

Theological Seminary had been reshaping itself to place greater emphasis on training 'in context' rather than 'in classroom', developing popular study materials, giving space to liturgy and spirituality studies, and opening to a wider ecumenical reach.

Some Baptist congregations are exploring with the Catholic Base Communities ways of forming a new ecumenical initiative which will protect each denomination's identity but enable greater co-operation through joint work and worship.

In 'El Cordero' the ground is being prepared for other developments, recognising the need of space for creativity and trust in the tensions of an impoverished inner city. The church is hosting a presentation in drama and mime, promoting construction with



adobe (mud) bricks. Cheaper and more culturally and environmentally sound, we are considering a new building of adobe rather than the present zinc shelter.

The liturgical life of the congregation has been improved by a small team including a most capable and sensitive twelve year old girl. A more varied diet of worship styles, including space for meditative worship, is being experienced. About a dozen people worked on painting a huge wall-hanging, an explosion of colour and image which served as a magnificent backdrop for the anniversary festival. The greater treasure lay in the creativity and commitment of its makers and their concern to offer a 'thing of beauty'. That spirit is to be tasted many times over in the midst of the shadows of this post-war tension ■



Left: Celebrating the peace in El Salvador.

Below: Worshipping, witnessing and surviving in Angola.

need knowing that our visits, presence, prayers and financial support are of tremendous encouragement to the church.

They were thrilled to hear that a doctor would be coming to the February Candidate Board with a desire to work in Angola. It will take two years before he can complete his preparations and join them but they are delighted.

There is plenty of community health work to do in Luanda. Conditions in the General Hospital are deplorable with a lack of beds, medicines, anaes-



HOLISTIC EVANGELISM IN ANGOLA

As Derek Rumbol passed through immigration on the way from Harare to Luanda, he met an MSF doctor (Médecins Sans Frontières) on his way to Malange in Angola.

He said, "The situation there is a little easier. There has been no fighting or shelling for the last week or two."

"Yes, but it must be a distressing situation."

"If it were not distressing we wouldn't be there," he said.

That set me thinking about why BMS is involved in various countries and situations. The reason we are involved in Angola is to stand with the people in their

thetics and equipment. But the church's medical centre at Petroangola continues its quiet, ministry of community health and preventive care despite the threats of armed robbers to steal equipment.

The Revd Mena in the Department of Evangelisation talked about evangelistic efforts within Luanda and of hopes to visit other places soon.

Aylward Shorter, in The Church in the African City, says that population growth in Africa is among the world's highest, but urban growth rates are twice as high. Seventy per cent of the population in African cities is poor and Shorter points to the need for holistic evangelism. I felt that the Evangelical Baptist Church in Angola was seeking to practise this. ■



Joyfully

"Train's on time"

It's great to arrive, if not always on time, at the place where God wants us to be.

Sometimes, on the journey, the directions and diversions we are forced to make

may not seem to have much purpose, but later, 40, 100, 200 years later sometimes, it all becomes clear and we can join together in joyful celebration and thanksgiving to God. What better thing can we do than to celebrate with our fellow Christians around the world the fact that God, in Jesus Christ, is meeting people in their need and transforming their lives.



NEW PASTORS, NEW LEADERS

One of the greatest privileges for a missionary is to have a part in training leaders for tomorrow's church. Long after the missionary is forgotten, his or her influence will live on. In times of civil strife, buildings may be destroyed, organisations destabilised, but the living church moves on.

Fortaleza, set in the poor NE of Brazil, has a population of around 1.5 million. The luxury apartment blocks and mansions clustered along the beautiful beaches contrast with the squalid favelas. The vast estates of basic housing mask the struggles of thousands of families to make ends meet when inflation is nearly two per cent a day. In January there were 7,943 cases of cholera in Fortaleza compared with 11,000 cases for the whole of 1993. Street children, child prostitution and labour exploitation make up the fabric of life.

This is the reality in which our churches are set. The Baptist Seminary of Ceará was created four years ago to train pastors and leaders. The first group of seven students will graduate at the end of 1994 after five years of study. The financial realities of the NE make full time study a first world luxury. Our students have secular jobs and have to study at night. This pattern is perpetuated in the pastoral ministry. Few churches can support their pastors in full time ministry. This creates added responsibilities for the lay leadership. Many of our students are lay leaders.

The course is a mixture of the old and the new. Traditional subjects like New and Old Testament are taught alongside studies appropriate for our situation. One is on the biblical basis for social action. This will include training in running a social action programme in the local church. There are courses on health and hygiene and the social realities of the NE.

This year we will be starting two new courses: a missions course with an emphasis on transcultural mission and church planting and another emphasising religious education and music.

One of our main problems is that the Seminary is beginning to outgrow the church where it functions at the moment. The library is particularly cramped. In spite of the restrictions our great joy is seeing the students growing in Christ and maturing as leaders.

John Clark

•••••

CAREY CELEBRATIONS

In November 1993, Christians in India and Bangladesh joyfully celebrated the anniversary of the arrival of Carey and Thomas in Bengal in 1793. Baptists and Christians from all over the world were present in Serampore, Calcutta and Dhaka. BMS sent representatives too. Here Angus MacNeill describes the celebrations in Bangladesh.

In mid-November, the late afternoon is quite pleasant in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Although it is not yet "shawls and jackets" weather - that will come in December - there is no burning heat to exhaust people. This made it a good time to have the William Carey BiCentenary Celebrations and the 300 to 500 people who gathered in Dhaka on the evenings of the 12,13 and 14 November 1993, must have felt glad that William and Dorothy Carey and family, along with Dr John Thomas, arrived in Bengal in 1793 at such

Below: Carey and family arriving in India in 1793.

Bottom: Welcoming Mr and Mrs Carey the descendents of William Carey to the Christian College of Theology in Bangladesh.



an acceptable time of the year.

It was an occasion for Christians to get together and take note of their common heritage, so apart from Baptists there were others present at these celebrations. However, it was Baptists who were much in the majority, coming from the various Baptist Church groupings that now make up the Bangladesh church scene along with their Australian, New Zealand, American and British mission partners. Also present were Bengali writers and scholars and even the Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament, all of whom were interested in Carey as a linguist, writer, researcher and reformer.

Each evening concentrated on a particular aspect of Carey's contribution to Bengal of the early 19th century. Papers were given on Carey as "the father of modern Bengali", on Carey as "a social reformer" and on Carey as "a missionary". From the observer standpoint, it sometimes seemed to be heavy going for the listeners, but when that was so they could always get up and stroll to the back of the half-open lecture hall, for a browse around stalls that represented of today's ongoing witness to the Gospel of Christ that Carey came to proclaim.

On reflection, three aspects of the special celebrations stand out:-

■ the participation of a family descendant of Carey - Mr William Carey - was a visible reminder to everybody of the links to the past that are so much cherished and prized as a special gift from God.

■ the presence of Dr Denton Lotz, General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, bore witness to the extent and size of the Christian family which stands alongside the small, minority Christian Church in Bangladesh.

■ the attendance of Bangladeshi Christians themselves, was an indication of the living church in Bangladesh to which has been given the same missionary vision that inspired the first William Carey. ■

BMS WORKERS
AND NATIONAL
CHURCHES

3

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

Nel and Ruth Abbott
Robert and Catherine Atkins
Philip and Rosemary
Hilliday
Chris and Christine Spencer
Ian and Pauline Thomas
John and Sue Wilson

HUNGARY
International Baptist Lay
Academy

INDONESIA
Convention of Indonesia
Baptist Churches
National Secretary: Romey
Welong

INBIA
Church of North India
General Secretary: Noel Sen
Baptist Union of North India
Secretary: J.H. Mash
Bengal Baptist Union
Secretary: S.K. Biswas
Baptist Church of Mizoram
General Secretary:
Ratawaga

Ann Botnamley
Betty Marsh
Sheila Samuels
Carola Whitmore

ITALY
President: Franco
Sgarbi-Mocca

David and Ann MacFarlane
Chris and Sarah Mastock

JAMAICA
Jamaica Baptist Union
General Secretary: Luther
Gibbs

MIZORAM GOSPEL
CENTENARY

There were 13 of us 'foreigners' in the party. Meeting up in Calcutta, we had flown to Silchar in Assam, and had come south by road to Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram. Now we were setting out by road for Lunglei to share with the Baptist churches in the Mizoram Gospel Centenary.

The Border Road is the one road that goes through the State from north to south. It is incredibly hilly, and the road winds up and down and around the hills, with a deep drop on one side and the hill overhanging on the other. As the crow flies it is 40 miles from Aizawl to Lunglei. By road it is 140 miles! That day it took us 14 hours, as we had to stop and be welcomed at the five or six villages we passed through in the Baptist area.

An arch of bamboo at each village held a banner proclaiming "Chibai. Welcome to the Foreign Delegates. Mizoram Gospel Centenary. 1894-1994." After a speech of welcome by the pastor we would be garlanded with flowers, and then introduced individually to the crowd. A choir would sing, and then everyone would crowd around to shake our hands and make us feel their welcome.

Mizoram has always been 'a restricted area' and it took us six months to get the special permits required by the Indian Government. The result is few visitors ever enter Mizoram, and we were told that we were the largest group of 'white people' the villagers outside the Capital had ever seen. So everyone turned out to welcome us and express their joy that we had made the journey across the world to be with them on this special occasion.

It was most humbling, for we were being welcomed not merely for ourselves, but more for the fact that to them we represented the Society that had sent the pioneer missionaries who had brought the Gospel to them 100 years before. A Gospel that had transformed their society, making Mizoram the



Right: Crowds at the celebrations.

Below: Vehicles of all sorts blocked the roads on the way to the celebrations.

Below Right: Basil Amey, Chairman of BMS Board of Management, conveys greetings on behalf of BMS.



MIZORAM

one Christian State in India with over 80 per cent of the adult population church members. There were a number of indications of the hold that the Gospel has on the life of Mizoram - including a three day public holiday declared to mark the Gospel Centenary. But nothing was more impressive than the speech made by Pu Lal Thanhawla, the Chief Minister of Mizoram.

He flew by helicopter to join us on one day of the celebrations in Lunglei. A crowd of some 20,000 shared in the occasion as they heard the largest drum in the world beat out the opening tones of the festival of praise. We sat spellbound as the Centenary

Choir of a thousand voices sang. And the Chief Minister spoke.

“On this glorious and most memorable event in the history of the Mizoram people, as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the day on which the Living God sought us out, I would first of all thank Almighty God... On this joyous occasion, it is my great pleasure to extend my heartiest greetings and best wishes to all of you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...

“As God said to Abraham, ‘I will bless you; I will make your name great

and you will be a blessing,’ likewise God blessed our churches abundantly and made our names known throughout the world, and indeed we have become blessings to many. God has brought us, the Mizos, who are Mongolians, to India in the midst of the Aryans and Dravidians for a specific purpose. He made us citizens of one of the two biggest countries in the world, with the largest number of non-believers, so that we can preach the Gospel and become a blessing to them... Those who were head-hunters under the power of the devil have now become soul hunters for God and fishers of men through the power of Christ.

“It is therefore important that we conduct ourselves to be worthy of emulation, and set examples on account of Him... As we receive spiritual blessings we must in turn be blessings for others... We should perform our respective tasks with sincerity, dedication, honesty and integrity. We Christians should be more diligent, more hard-working, more persevering, more modest, humble and more loving...

“Yet how pitiful it is for us believers to wilfully ignore the bad effects of many of our habits... This is unbecoming of believers. The Bible says ‘Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. You are not your own; you were bought at a price.

Therefore honour God with your body.’ We pray too for good health, but we are not worthy to receive the blessing, as we do not control ourselves in eating and drinking. We ourselves render our prayers unworthy of being answered by God. The Lord says ‘Be holy because I am holy’.

“On this day of salvation and the beginning of a new year, let us commit ourselves anew into the safe hands of God. If we give our lives to Him, He will safeguard them and use them for His service to do great things... As the Gospel has been a blessing to us, may it continue to spread all over the world, and may God be glorified now and for ever.”

Can you imagine the thrill of hearing a speech like that from the Chief Minister of a State? And to know that the majority of his cabinet are active Christians! And to be told that the Centenary is being taken as the opportunity to challenge the Mizos to a more vigorous commitment to sharing the Gospel with other peoples. Even though at present, from a population of two thirds of a million, they have over 1,000 missionaries working in various parts of India and some foreign countries.

If that can happen in 100 years, who knows what God can do in the next century?

Vivian Lewis



OUTREACH IN SRI LANKA

“Outreach House Groups connected with the churches are developing in the homes of Christians,” report George and Betsy Lee from Sri Lanka.

Denzil has six connected to Gonawela, one being near Lucien’s home on the Kandy Road, which he may help with. Freddy has one on that road, but nearer to Gampaha. Wijé is also starting house groups in areas connected to Makewita. These areas are beginning to link up into a network.

One three-generation family of witnessing Christians moved to a village between here and

Kadawatta two years ago. They have been asking the Lord why they had to move to this area, which they would not have chosen.

However, they have found

many needy hearts around them and are inviting neighbours to a weekly prayer meeting and a monthly service in their garden.

The Hendala group has taken off since Faith Marina’s conversion in January. She is inviting family and friends to her home for meetings, and waiting to be baptised until her husband, now very interested, returns from the Middle East. The family opposite are Christians, with the father also working in the Gulf. His sister Rachael, a keen Christian, a Hendala member, is staying in Gampaha with another brother while both spouses are working abroad. Rachael is rejoicing that her husband is in Holland in a town with many Christians, where

he is attending church and someone is teaching him the Bible in English. The family in Gampaha have a real spiritual hunger as also have several friends coming to a monthly house group there.

In Hendala, several Tamil homes are available for house groups, so Lucien may try using Ravi (church caretaker) to interpret for him. The Malaysian Tamil missionary is also arranging an occasional Tamil service, sometimes with Sinhala interpretation, of an evangelistic nature.

Some leading Buddhist priests and laymen are campaigning against mushrooming Christian groups, comparing them to ‘a form of terrorism’. They are now campaigning for a law against conversions. ■

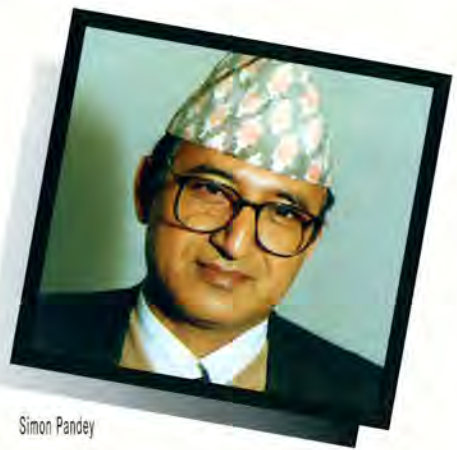
REMARKABLE GROWTH

Simon Pandey, General Secretary of the National Christian Fellowship of Nepal (NCF), talks about the growth of the church in Nepal.

The Story of the church in Nepal is remarkable. In 1958 there was a handful of Christians. Now there are over 100,000. Most of this growth happened when the church was not free to evangelise and the good news was communicated person to person. Those who could read and write read the Gospels. Many were healed by praying to Jesus and when one person was healed relatives and neighbours also came to Christ. The witness of what Christ was doing through the Christian community attracted people and they came to Christ from all parts of Nepal.

Often new Christians face opposition from family and neighbours. The opposition is more severe in remote villages than in the towns. Before the present multi-party system, many went to prison for their faith and people remarked on the life of Nepali Christians and accepted Christ because of their testimony.

When people become Christians they must face the con-



Simon Pandey

sequences and be prepared to be rejected by their families or even to go to prison. That is a personal decision and responsibility but as far as possible the churches encourage and take care of them.

We have a new government but the law is not much different. However, we have felt a greater freedom to evangelise and to plant new churches. Our goal is to reach the whole nation with the gospel by the end of 2080. We also plan to establish at least 8,000 churches. We are holding evangelistic campaigns in different parts of the country and church planters training programmes.

We work closely with the United Mission to Nepal, the International Nepal Fellowship and with the missionaries who work in them. They are our friends. Some missionaries are active in the churches. In fact INF is now a member of NCF.

The missionaries from Mizoram, supported by the BMS, are working directly with NCF. That is greatly appreciated. One of them will be involved in non formal education initially. This includes an adult literacy programme. Drinking water also comes under non formal education and health education. Those are essential in the villages. We expect that the Mizo missionary will help in starting a school in a village where there are many Christians and no school.

The other is an engineer. We have plans to construct suspension bridges in some of the more remote villages and he will be involved in that.

We hope that where they are working in the community they will be engaged in church activities. Both of them have a vision to spread the word of God. ■



Above: Church visitation programme.



Financial Report

BMS Financial Report in brief

GIVING IS ENCOURAGING

Direct giving to the Baptist Missionary Society last year from churches and individuals amounted to £3,416,464.

"This is certainly higher than the year before and I guess it is probably the highest figure we have ever received," said BMS Treasurer, Arthur Garman, as he reported to the BMS General Committee.

However, that figure was only arrived at by adding gifts to the BMS Fund for the Future and the Relief Fund.

"Contributions and donations from the churches to the General Fund, £3,029,210, were actually down on the year before and "considerably less than the appeal figure of £3,240,000."

The situation was helped by a doubling of investment income and a legacy income of £820,542 which was over £200,000 more than allowed for in the budget.

"This gave us a total income of £4,280,603 which was very close to the figure we put into our estimates," Mr Garman reported.

"One way or another, the income did actually achieve what we were hoping. Although contributions and donations were down, investment income and legacies were up. But if you add the £347,400 received during the year for the Fund for the Future and £39,854 for the Relief Fund then churches gave more than the year before and that is encouraging.

"Looking at the expenditure, we have a figure of £4,380,504 which is very close to the estimates. Direct overseas expenditure was close to the budget figures but there were savings on education and promotion and on administration expenditure." ■



INCOME

	31.10.92	31.10.93
	£	£
Direct giving by the churches	3,068,483	3,029,210
Legacies	1,082,496	820,542
Investment and other income	223,145	430,851
Total income	4,374,124	4,280,603

EXPENDITURE

	31.10.92	31.10.93
	£	£
Missionary support, grants to overseas churches and other expense	2,188,858	2,541,181
Training missionaries and overseas personnel	255,013	227,635
Missionary retirement costs	130,060	127,579
Education, promotion and recruitment	764,704	690,752
Administration	649,446	727,216
BiCentenary expenditure	195,922	66,141
Total expenditure	4,184,003	4,380,504
Surplus/Deficit	190,121	-99,901
Total	4,374,124	4,280,603

WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM

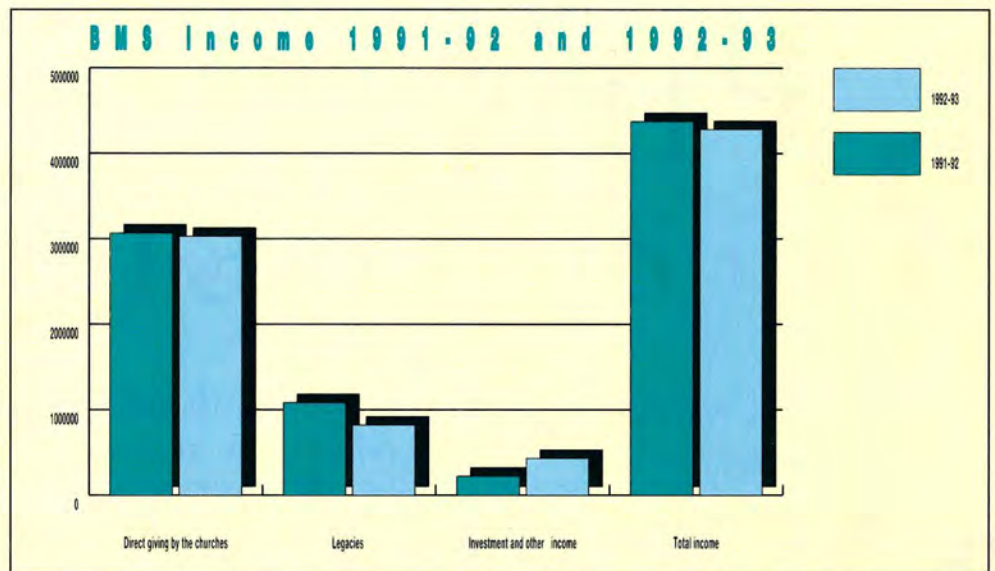
BMS Income 1992/93

Direct giving by the churches was slightly less than in the previous year. However, if the £347,400 given to the Fund for the Future and the £39,854 given to the Relief Fund is added then we probably have the highest amount ever contributed to the work of the BMS by the churches.

Investment income doubled in spite of the fact that interest rates were lower. That is because some of investments have been moved and the capital appreciation has been added to the income and expenditure account.

Legacies too were higher than allowed for in the estimates. This gave a total income of £4,280,603, which was very close to the figure in the estimates.

The year ended with a deficit of £99,901, very close to the figure we planned to draw from reserves. ■



HOW THE MONEY WAS SPENT

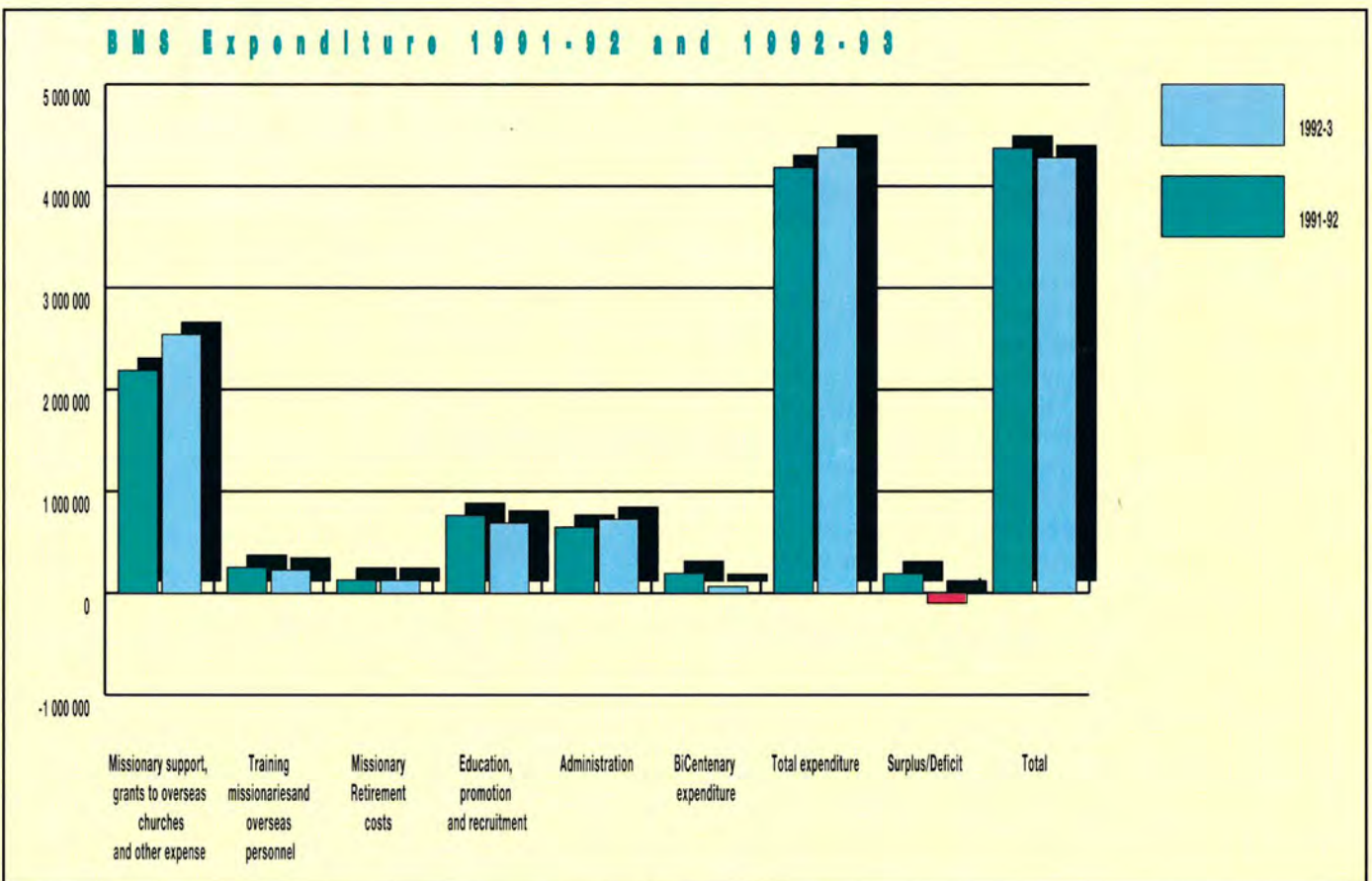
BMS Expenditure 1992/93

Over £2,896,000 was spent on overseas work including the training of missionaries and overseas personnel and caring for retired

missionaries - higher than last year.

Spending on the recruitment of missionaries, promotion and education in world mission went down, but administration costs rose slightly.

As the BiCentenary celebrations came to a close, spending in that area was appreciably lower. ■



Pips

Partners in Projects Scheme

HAVE YOU GOT THE PIP YET ?

When people give their hard earned cash away to a good cause, they want to know, understandably, where their money will be sent, how it will be used, and ideally have some feedback on what it helped to do.

Donating money to a big pot marked "General Funds", though essential to the ongoing work of any charity, does not do a lot to involve the giver.

The BMS wants to help you feel part of the worldwide work, which is why PIPS (or Partners in Projects Scheme) was started a year or two ago. Churches, church-affiliated groups and even individuals can now get involved in world mission, by financially supporting a special project.

Projects vary in size, emphasis, and location. From raising money for children's education in Albania (£300) to medicines for Angola (£4,240) or even supporting a Belgian pastor (£16,400) there will be something on our list to suit everyone's pocket.

From trials in two areas of the country these PIPS projects have really taken off in a big way, capturing people's imaginations, as they can now identify in a more meaningful way how their money is being used. Additional information about the project and the country where it is sited is also provided by BMS to help strengthen your church's world mission education programme.

So, all in all, if you haven't got the PIP yet, in the nicest possible way, we hope you get it soon. You can find out more by contacting your Area or National Rep.

London and Southeast

*Derek Mucklow, 51 Clandon Close, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 2NH
Tel 081 393 6017*

Scotland

*Derek Clark, 41 Newton Road, Lenzie, Glasgow, G66 5LS Tel
041 775 1201*

Central and Eastern

Jim Clarke, 82 Cannon Street, Little Downham, Ely, Cambs, CB6 2SS Tel 0353 698017

Wales

Sue Wilson, 15 Knapplands, Newbridge-on-Wye, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 6LF Tel 0597 89480

and

Gareth Hutchinson, 20 Southward Lane, Langland, Swansea, SA3 4QU Tel 0792 360909

South and West

Leslie Gregory, 20 Shelley Drive, Salisbury, SP1 3JZ Tel 0722 328076

Midlands

Theo Lambourne, 13 Briar Walk, Oadby, Leics, LE2 5UE Tel 0533 713633

North

Cath Mawson, 49 Allerton Road, Bradford, BD8 0AY Tel 0274 487341

P.S. A new list of projects will be available in the autumn.



Through Changes



“all change”

All change is stressful. “Will I miss my connection? How long shall I have to wait? Who will be travelling with me? Will I know where to get off?” And it’s all change on the mission journey too. New ideas, new methods, new partners: we are learning to work together with Christians from different countries, different cultural backgrounds and in doing so we have had to change BMS structures. Change can be painful, but it is also a sign of life and growth.



NEW ERA

In all of its 201 years, the BMS has tried to be true to God’s call to mission. It has a history of taking risks, living dangerously and trying to be a prophetic voice in Baptist church life. BMS has a strong tradition of proclaiming Christ in the world. But those 201 years carry some unhelpful historical baggage. Structures have come and gone. People have come and gone. Systems of working have evolved. Relationships with Christian groupings in the world have been maintained and deepened.

Three years ago, Reg Harvey, BMS General Secretary and Angus MacNeill, BMS Overseas Secretary, took a look at the way things were happening in BMS, both in the way the office worked, and in the way that BMS was discerning God’s voice in today’s world. They found an organisation (BMS) that was sometimes slow to respond to God’s voice because the structure was time >

Andrew Stockbridge,
New Director for
Constituency Support.



◀ consuming and unwieldy. This meant that God's window of opportunity often passed us by.

Things needed to change. But how? Bryan Long, a member of Union Baptist Church, High Wycombe and a company director, was called in to take a bird's eye view of the way things were done. He talked with committee members, staff members and others involved in BMS life and work. His analysis was accepted and agreed by General Committee.



The Committee discerned that:

BMS was an organisation reflecting outdated ways of working rather than finding means of responding to the challenges of today's world. BMS seemed more concerned about sending missionaries than about world mission.

BMS reflected traditional divisions of home and overseas work instead of an unbroken theme of mission throughout the wider church.

BMS lacked flexibility and resources to identify, sponsor and support a prophetic involvement in mission.

BMS was an organisation which threatened to confuse and frustrate through the overlapping of committee and executive roles.

BMS needed a stronger understanding and relationships with British Baptist Churches to enable us together to discern its changing strategic direction.

General Committee summarised that BMS was about:

God's mission to the whole world, not just sending missionaries.

Contributing to world mission through partnership, not dominance.

Working with the world church, not just the developing world.

Seeking shared insights into God with God's people in the world.

Regular contact with British Baptist Churches to inform, educate and involve.

Discussing the implications the famous phrase "structure follows strategy" was echoed a few times, and work went steaming ahead on a structure to support what BMS was about.

The BMS General Committee, elected by British Baptist churches, was affirmed as the key decision making body. Here policy and strategy are debated, prayed over and decided. This reflected that the churches, through their representatives, have the responsibility to shape the future of BMS life and work. It was agreed that this group should meet no less than twice a year.

A Board of Management would be set up consisting of nine Representative Directors from General Committee and five Departmental Directors. Meeting monthly, this group would make sure that the BMS ministry would be run effectively and efficiently within agreed policy in-between General Committee meetings. This has now been elected. The usual pattern of working groups and advisory groups made up of experts would continue. ■

A CRUCIAL YEAR

Our first missionaries in Nicaragua, Peter and Sheila Brewer, arrived to do theological extension work in what was a crucial year for the Baptist Convention.

Peter and Sheila reported the serious budget crisis, "one result of which is that there are pastors unable to be paid, or being paid too little. A whole reorganisation is being carried out, one element of which is a regionalisation of the Convention."

Many changes of leadership took place. Tomás Téllez, the Executive Secretary for twelve years, stood down, and was replaced by Elías Sánchez.

1993 was declared a year of transition, an attempt to set to rights a confused situation. Reporting to the Assembly of the



Top: P Brewer chatting after church. Above: Farm land in Nicaragua.

Baptist Convention, the outgoing secretary, Tomás Téllez, said that "last year was the hardest year he had ever known - worse than during the war, earthquake and blockade. Economically it was a disaster. We began with devaluation of the Cordoba, import taxes on foreign goods and enforcement of a tax similar to VAT."

Peter and Sheila confessed there was "a good deal which we don't quite understand behind the intensive business of the Assembly, but we enjoyed the fellowship of delegates from all over Nicaragua."

Peter soon found himself in unexpected situations. "I went to a church where they commissioned a couple to be joint pastors. Maybe this was why I had been invited - because suddenly and unexpectedly I was asked to lay hands on the said new pastors, along with the Superintendent, with no previous warning!" ■

JOINT DEVELOPMENT

Steve Seymour has been seconded to Baptist World Aid as Development Officer for four Baptist groups in Zimbabwe. For Pam, Steve, John-Mark and Anna it is all change - a different country, a new language, another job.

The goal is clear - joint development programmes between the different Baptist Unions, to keep the momentum of co-operation going brought about by the 1993 Baptist Youth Conference held here in Harare. But how do you actually bring this about? Some of the unions already receive a lot of support for development work, while others receive none.

I was encouraged by the first meeting with the joint Baptist Heads of Denomination (BHOD) Committee. Training seminars were requested which I am happy to organise.

Much of my work has centred on establishing contacts with colleagues, listening to their advice and so on.

I have been able to take part in a few field trips to look at existing 'church-run' agricultural projects and see the real Zimbabwe. It is a

Renamo armed gangs were crossing over from Mozambique causing havoc and death.

beautiful country particularly after the recent rains. The rural areas however do suffer from increasing poverty as indeed do most of the urban population. The drought combined with economic restructuring has affected the poor the most.

I visited an area in the North East near Mozambique to look at a cattle project. The people had to gather into villages to be protected by the Zimbabwean army. Renamo armed gangs were crossing over from Mozambique causing havoc and death. One pastor said that for many months they had to sleep in slit trenches. Now there is

peace in Mozambique it is hoped that the people will be able to return to their farms, but there is still great uncertainty. However the families which received cattle have benefitted, particularly during these difficult times.

I visited the National Baptist Church (NBC) leaders at Bulawayo. They are considering cutting back on church activities because of limited resources. Yet as a young church they are keen to increase their programmes.

New Christians, having given up rather dubious employment ask, "How do we earn a living?"

We are looking at the possibilities of establishing income-generating projects or self-help activities with Baptist churches. ■



Above: Agricultural project, Zimbabwe.

Inset and Left: Opening celebrations at Baptist World Alliance Youth Congress, Harare, Zimbabwe.



SCOPE FOR WORK IN BRITAIN

"The Object of the Society is to enable Baptist Churches in the British Isles to respond to the call of God by sharing with all God's people in making known the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world, principally beyond the British Isles."

Last year the new wording of the Object of the BMS was accepted by the Annual Members' Meeting. Whilst the major emphasis remains "beyond the British Isles" there is now scope for the BMS to work within Britain.

In working out the implications of this change, the Society said that it had "no plans or intentions to initiate mission activity within Britain." Because "the whole lifestyle of the BMS is one of partnership in God's mission, there would be no question of any activities within Britain being initiated or sustained except in full consultation with the Unions and local Associations of Baptist Churches."

However, "recognising mutual-ity in mission, there are evident needs for the British Churches, and the British people as a whole, to benefit from the spiritual riches and Gospel insights of our partners overseas. This implies a general contribution to our worship and witness, not simply to 'immigrant' areas. Any particular mission activity involving overseas national personnel (ministers perhaps), former missionaries, or financial resources would obviously only be deployed in full consultation with the Unions, the Superintendents, the local Associations and any others appropriately concerned."

As a result, a small working group prepared guidelines for the implementation of the new object.

The Unions and the Society will establish a small Representative Group, of two persons from each Body, and meet twice a year to agree support of projects involving the use of personnel offered through the BMS.

Any local Church, Association

or Union is free to request assistance for appropriate support for mission or ministry through the use of personnel offered by the BMS.

Each application must carry the support of the relevant Union. Each Union would specify what must be the route for such applications and the point/time of sharing with the BMS the initial interest in a particular project.

All applications would be considered by the Representative Group and support agreed on the basis of the merits of the application and the availability of funds and appropriate personnel.

The Society, through its own partnership relationships and search processes, will discern gifted individuals with insights in mission or ministry which would be valuable for use within the British Isles.

In the case of ministerial personnel, these would be fully accredited within their own Union



or Convention. In the case of other personnel including volunteers, they would need the full approval of the sending Union or Convention.

Individuals or couples would be offered for service through the Representative Group, both in response to specific requests and by way of general possibility. If necessary, a preliminary visit "with a view" would be planned and funded. Acceptance of such offers would need to be by the same pattern as in the application process.

Clear time limits for the project and task specifications for the individual would be necessary for

each project.

It would be expected that any overseas personnel would undertake appropriate preparatory training in their country of origin and an orientation course upon arrival in the British Isles.

If the stay of the overseas person(s) were to be two years or more in length, then there would be a funded visit home on the same basis as the Home Assignment arrangements for BMS missionaries.

No single pattern of support would be seen as normal, but a degree of variation accepted. The component costs of the total project, involving travel, accommodation and a variety of ongoing aspects of support, would be identified and allocated to local Church, Association, Union or Society as appropriate. In each case there would be the expectation of the local British Church or wider Body making some contribution to the overall cost.

For each supported project, it would be assumed that a local committee would be appointed but in addition the Representative Group would be responsible for appointing and receiving reports from a monitoring group. ■

Right: BMS bring Representatives of Mission Partners together.

ITALY

In looking at the countries where BMS works in partnership with National Unions and Conventions there have been many changes over the past few years. Some have been the result of political unrest, some forced on us by visa restrictions and others forged after a long process of dialogue, consultation and agreement.

Missionary links with the Union of Evangelical Baptist Christians of Italy (UCEBI) have been renewed after a break of 45 years. Following discussions and a visit to Italy by a group from BMS and BUGB it was agreed that BMS should begin the search for pastors to work in Italy. An agreement reached between the three British Unions, BMS and UCEBI is a model of partnership in mission.

In 1991 we advertised for personnel but there were no firm applications. It was two years before a couple from Scotland applied and were accepted by BMS. Within a few months two further couples were on line to work in Italy.

It will be a change for the UCEBI as it prepares to have British missionaries working with

it. It is also a time of change as a new leadership team looks at ways and models of working and also considers the offer from the Government of a portion of the controversial Church Tax.

When the 'eight in a thousand tax' was first levied the Protestant Churches objected only to the Catholic Church receiving money from the Government. As recognised Churches they too are now being offered their share of this money which is apportioned according to membership and for the Baptists could amount to many millions of Lira each year.

At a special Assembly held last year, the issue was debated at length. The delegates voted by one vote against accepting the money levied in a State Tax although many argued for acceptance and

outlined the changes which could be made to many areas of their work by using this money well.

With two couples already well into their language study in Italy and a third joining them later in the year, there is a growing sense of excitement about our partnership and the strengthening links between Italy and UK Baptists. ■

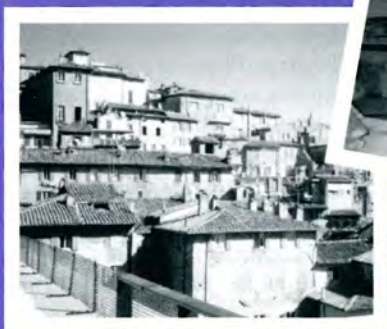


Above: Bridge over Grande Canal Venice.

Below Far Left: Traditional housing in Perugia, Italy.

Below Left: Ceramic workshop in Deruta, Italy.

An agreement reached between the three British Unions, BMS and UCEBI is a model of partnership in mission.



ITALY

on a Voyage of Discovery

"A w a y d a y"

It's good to go travelling, to get away for a time to discover new places and new people. "Travel broadens the mind," forces you



to try out new languages, taste different food, dance new steps and sing new songs. And

travelling together in mission is one long journey of discovery. We have so much to learn from each other, in worship, in mission methods, in bible study and in Christian life-style...



ENCOURAGING THE CHURCHES

The BMS team of National and Area Representatives have pioneered the setting up of World Mission Link-Up Groups.

"There are advantages in neighbouring churches joining to focus upon a missionary or family," reported Jim Clarke. "But one disadvantage is that churches may develop a limited vision. One solution is to bring Groups together to benefit from a wider spectrum of missionary activity."

He pointed to the "Havering and Dagenham Baptist Missionary Fellowship which unites four Link-Up groups. It meets regularly to share information about their missionaries, carefully chosen to represent the various continents, to plan their home assignment visits and organise activities throughout the year which will stimulate missionary support."

From Wales, Gareth Hutchinson, reported on a visit to Harlech and Dolgellau to be with Graham and Debbie Atkinson on their first visit to their Link-Up Group, Glannau Meirion.

"We met in Harlech. About 25 members or so had gathered from the two or three churches nearby. This was probably the first time for many years or even in living memory that any missionary had visited the church. They were very well received.

"Then on to Dolgellau for an evening service. About 30 people had turned up and the church had hired a video and TV in order to show Graham and Debbie's video of their work in Nepal. In the vestibule there was a display of photographs of Graham, Debbie and Josh."

Gareth said that all this might seem "dull in print but it was a real plus for the group of churches."

Jim Clarke talks about the growth in partnerships with churches in Europe now that the BMS is more involved there. The Area Representative is involved in all these activities acting as a catalyst for the change.

"This is true in regard to PIPS (Partners in Projects Scheme) with almost 25 per cent of the churches in the area in the scheme.

"The work within the larger groupings is also vital, if we are going to stimulate missionary support." ■

very

SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS

Research and study opens up many new understandings of God's way and word.

Scholarship holders were able to continue their preparation for further service as they followed courses relevant to their particular ministries.

Latika Dip was a women's worker in Orissa who came at the request of her Diocese of the Churches of North India to take a Diploma in Religious Education at Westhill College, Selly Oak. A class-mate was Esther Martins from Brazil, who concentrated on the Church's role in education among abused children. Her husband, Jaziel Martins, successfully completed a University of Birmingham MA in which his main dissertation was an investigation of women's roles in the church of the New Testament and early centuries of the Christian era.

Róger and Flor Zavala of Nicaragua continued their studies in the United States, based at the Baptist Seminary in Lombard. They are due to return to a leadership and teaching role in the Baptist Seminary in Managua in 1994.

Trevor and Eleanor Edwards crossed to this side of the Atlantic from Jamaica so that Trevor could take a Master's degree at Edinburgh University to further equip him for his work in the Jamaica Baptist Union. The BMS grant, added to the World Council of Churches scholarship, enabled the whole family to take up this opportunity.



Hom Nath Dhakal is an engineer from Nepal who does much to train and encourage other Christians in his homeland. He is taking a BSc at Bolton and BMS is one among a number of contributors to his support.

André bo-Likabe Bokundoa from the Protestant Faculty of Theology in Kinshasa, Zaire, continues his doctoral research into Ugaritic influences in the Old Testament. He was delighted to be joined by his wife and children who will remain with him in Sheffield for the rest of his study period.

Two other Brazilian couples also studied here under BMS auspices last year.

Eliseu and Arlene dos Santos, from Dourados, Mato Grosso do Sul, completed courses in English at Selly Oak Colleges and then

went to Cardiff Baptist College to begin one academic year of theological study.

Fernando and Ieda Bochio, from Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul, brought to a successful conclusion their period within Britain. Ieda was able to further her piano studies and Fernando was awarded an MPhil by Birmingham University. His dissertation was about the "Brazilianisation" of the Gospel taken to his homeland by foreign missionaries.

All of these scholarship holders return to their homelands with deeper insights and new perspectives from their studies. They also forged strong links of fellowship and both gave and gained much from their contacts with the churches. ■

Top Left: Lotika Dip, India

Top Right: Sunny Danpongpe, Thailand.

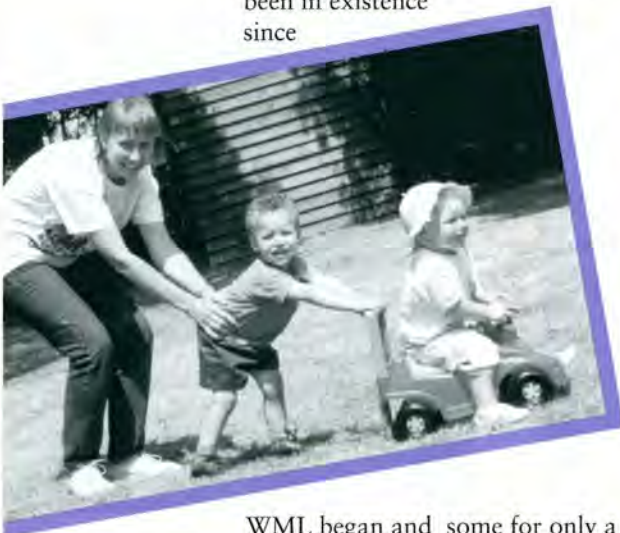
Bottom Left: Andre Bakundoa, Zaire.

Bottom Right: Eliseu & Arlene Dos Santos, Brazil.

WORLD MISSION LINK

The "travelling together" involves Baptist churches in Britain as well as Baptist communities overseas. The world Church dimension has been strengthened through the World Mission Link (WML) programme which has travelled a long way since its birth three years ago. Then we struggled with new terms. Now "Home Assignment, Link-Up visits, Staff Team events," trip off the tongue. Some ask, "What was deputation?"

Are the changes more than words? There are now around 500 Link-Up groups. Some have been in existence since



Above: Isobel Strang (Nepal Missionary) on home assignment.

WML began and some for only a few months. All are learning what Link-Up could mean for them.

Almost all the groups write letters. But Link-Up can be more than exchanging letters. Some groups using Bible study material from the churches where their Link-Up missionary is working, are seeing the scriptures through new eyes. More adventurous groups have organised a telephone link and some, linked to Europe, have visited and got involved with the work. Some churches have produced videos and a few missionaries have used video to take their Link-Up groups through the town, or the hospital, or the villages where they work.

One Link-Up group became involved in the local schools for the first time through their Link-Up visit. Another group came together for the first time when planning their Link-Up visit. Other groups have found their

level of financial support challenged, some turning to PIPS as a way of increasing their giving. And, for the musical, there are those who now sing French songs!

Staff Teams travelled to Scotland and Wales, to south and east coasts, to large cities and country towns - 22 venues in the year. Building on the previous year's experience a new programme, "Room for Change," shared the challenge of world mission and the need to make "room for change." The refugee camp experience left one General Committee member aware of how selfish one became under pressure, another spoke of beginning to understand what it must feel like. The holiday slides in the evening drama led one person to contribute money she would have spent on a holiday to BMS. During the prayer time a person, who had never prayed in public before, said they wanted to say thank you that their eyes had been opened to what was being done to help those in need. Again and again people spoke of seeing anew the call to world mission.

And what of Mission Education? Are the churches really involved? Are the Mission Education resources being used? Yes and no! The good news is that more churches have used the Speakers List. The less good news is that this group of people willing to serve the churches is still underused.

You don't have to have an outside speaker to have a world mission event and churches up and down the country have done their own thing very successfully. The large church which got organisations involved by getting each to do a display on an aspect of world mission; the small church which produces a new display every month; the groups who organised evenings with food, music and up-to-date information; the women's groups who took their congregations touring round Brazil.

Churches and Link-Up groups are resourceful but there have been requests for more ideas that can be used at world mission events. The answer was Power

Link-Up

-492 Link-Up groups involving over 2,000 churches
-184 Link-Up groups had a Link-Up visit in 1993

Staff Teams

-in 1993 Staff Teams involved over 2000 people on Saturdays
690 children in the Children's programme
300 churches on Sundays

Mission Education

-90 speakers are available to speak in churches
-200 people/churches have ordered Power Pack

In 1993 through Link-Up visits, Staff Teams and Mission Education engagements over 100 churches were visited each month.

Pack. Launched in September it is added to every quarter. It is already being well used.

World Mission Link seeks to travel with all involved in world mission. It is not a static programme. Through experience and the comments of churches it responds to the world mission needs of Baptist churches so that together we will enable people to hear the needs and challenges of today's mission. ■

Below: Staff Teams, refugee role play game, building a shelter.



NEPAL

AWARENESS VISIT

The bus was a good bus - so I was told! It needed a coat of paint and a good scrub but it did have padded reclining seats. Unfortunately the seat in front of me reclined all the time which meant that I had to do a limbo type dance to get out. I smiled to myself, as we bumped along up the zig-zag, only two vehicles wide road, as I was on a voyage of discovery.

I was going from Kathmandu into the foothills of the Himalayas to Ghorka to visit the Smiths.



Right: Sally Smith teaching Anandi & Jiwan at home in Nepal.

The journey up progressed well and I had a good chat (in English) to a Mountaineer from Ghorka who was coming to Britain to

climb the Mountains! We laughed and talked about the beauties of Nepal and the places in Britain he should visit and all the time we bounced along. At the mid point of the journey when we stopped for a drink, the young man insisted on changing places with

me. When I said "but you will be squashed" - he laughed, shrugged his shoulders and said 'I'm used to it'. In Ghorka he made sure I knew where I was going and smiled 'Namaste' and left. I hope that his visit to Britain was as good as my visit to Nepal and that he was treated with the same sort of courtesy and respect that I received.

The journey down from Ghorka to Kathmandu was different. Sally and the children, who had looked after me so well and educated me into many Nepali ways, and I travelled down on the front seat of another 'good' bus. But this time as we went, Sally pointed out the places where the journey was a nightmare - where the buses had gone over the cliff - where the Avalanche had taken the bus over the edge - where many people died.

This was the only way that Sally, Ian, the children and all their supplies could get between Kathmandu and Ghorka. My adventure was their anxiety.

We returned to Kathmandu for a treat. The Biennial Asia Retreat. I experienced the joy of meeting the Asia Missionaries and sharing in some of their hopes and fears, joys and sadnesses. We shivered in the coldest spell that Kathmandu had experienced for ages and wore the clothes of the Kathmandu based Missionaries.

We shared in the sessions led so openly and caringly by Tom Bowman and I began to be really 'aware' of Missionaries - their lives and the conditions they experienced as they work to show and tell of God's love. The growing Nepali church is a living example of the dedication and love which our Missionaries, through UMN and INF, have shown - are still showing.

This my 'awareness' visit has certainly been a most wonderful and unsettling Voyage of Discovery and I now have so much more to pass on to you all.

Cath Mawson

Below: Public transport, Nepal.



BMS WORKERS AND NATIONAL CHURCHES

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NEPAL
United Mission to Nepal
Executive Director:
Ed Metzler
Interaction Nepal Fellowship
Director: John Bradley

Jana Andrews
Graham and Debie
Mkinson
Ruth Barry
Jony and Echi Clewett
Robert and Ruth Elliot
Ian and Karen Gordon
Peter and Valera Horwood
Tim Lennox and Alison
MacLellan

Shelia Loader
Andrew and Linda Mason
Robin Morris
David and Catherine
McLellan

Jenny Bowman
Graud Penney
David Payne
Joy Ransom
Isaac and Sally Smith
Isabel Strong
Paul and Jackie Wicks
Conna Woods
Sue Frame
Chris and Alison Rudal

NIJARAGUA
Najaragua Baptist
Convention
Executive Secretary:
Elias Sanchez

Peter and Sheila Brewer

PORTUGAL
The Portuguese Baptist
Convention
General Secretary:
Jose da Sousa



COMMUNICAT

LITERATURE, TAPES AND VIDEOS

Whilst all the changes regarding the management structure were going on, behind the scenes the old Promotion Department was still hard at work producing literature, audio-visual aids, project packs, missionary prayer letters and other items.

The *Missionary Herald* took on a thematic approach, looking at issues such as co-operation in mission, the media, justice and peace, women and young people. In January 1993 a new pull-out feature, Doubletake, was started. It encourages the reader to apply the thoughts and theme of the magazine to everyday life by using related Bible study, discussion, action and worship.

The children's magazine, *LOOK!*, continued with its lively cartoons, stories, activities and competitions.

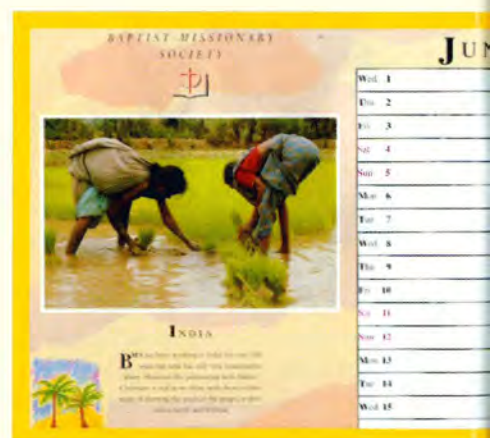
The regular publications continued: 1994 Calendar, Prayer Guide and Praying with Missionaries wallchart. Alongside these the annual projects reached new heights in creativity and impact. The Women's Project, "Off the Beaten Track" featuring Brazil has

increased in take-up over previous projects and so far has raised £14,000. The Joint Harvest Appeal pack, "Streams in the Desert", for the first time had full colour acetates which have been very favourably received. The two year Youth Project is nearing its end and so far £29,000 has been received. The Birthday Scheme, always popular, now has a new look and has raised over £190,000 for BMS related health and medical work.

A special leaflet was prepared to publicise the BMS Relief Fund which helped to increase giving to the Fund thus giving the Society the ability to respond quickly to disaster and emergency situations. The Promotion Department also quickly prepared material to call the churches to prayer for Angola where "the worst war in the world" is still raging.

Area representatives, staff teams, missionaries and churches, General Committees, the Baptist Assembly, were resourced with a variety of audio-visual material. A prayer tape, *Worldwide*, was sent out to the churches every month.

All this, and more, to help Baptist churches in the UK to embark on a voyage of mission discovery. ■



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HERALD
LOOK.

MISSION NETWORK



BMS WORKERS
AND NATIONAL
CHURCHES
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SRI LANKA
Sri Lanka Baptist
Sangamaya
General Secretary:
Kingsley Perera

George and Betsy Lee
Joy Krapman

THAILAND
Thailand Baptist Missionary
Fellowship
General Secretary:
Marshall Peters
The Church of Christ in
Thailand
General Secretary:
Sint Kimhachandra
Karen Baptist Convention
General Secretary:
Tongkham Songsaeng
Lahu Baptist Churches
Suwit Damrongpong

Geoff and Chris Bland
Jacqui Wells

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
General Secretary:
Adrian Thompson

ZAIRE
Baptist Community of the
River Zaire
President:
Kofi Mandole Molima

Stephen and Elizabeth
Allford
Margot Belende
Owen and Deanna Clark
Janet Claxton
Brenda Earl
Gwen Hunter
John and Rena Mellor
Ruth Montacute
Pat Woolhouse

ZIMBABWE
The National Baptist
Convention of Zimbabwe
President:
Patrick Face Moyo

Steve and Pam Seymour

Introducing the
BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY

We Believe
in Jesus
in the world

We Believe in the Church where God's people throughout the world are worshipping and working together.

Witnessing to the good news of God's love, in the waters of baptism and in their lives, God's people share their resources, breaking bread together, strengthening and encouraging each other in their faith.

Some of our vital needs in the UK, spiritual needs, community needs, can be met when we receive as well as give.

Because we are one body, Christians overseas can use their experiences and insights to help enlighten and rejuvenate British churches.

We believe in God's people, wherever we meet them...

Into the Future

"Mission Express"

As we travel into the future, so much is unknown. How long will the journey take? How many



stops and diversions will there be. Who will be travelling with us? Will we have to change direction? But the purpose of

the journey is certain - to help build God's Kingdom. And at least one of our travelling companions we can trust to stay with us, true to his promise: "I will be with you always, even to the end of time."

BRITISH BAPTISTS TOGETHER

Since the collapse of the Iron Curtain in 1989 British Baptists have been increasingly co-operating in mission within Europe.

Prior to this the three mainland Unions (Wales, Scotland and Great Britain) and the BMS have kept in touch through a Joint Consultative Committee which met once a year to share news and co-ordinate activities where appropriate. As from 1989, however, the situation changed.

Active co-operation became the order of the day. Plans were made for joint visits by British representatives to countries like France, Belgium and the Soviet Union and reciprocal visits were arranged from overseas visitors, eg from Czechoslovakia, Russia and South Africa. Associations were invited to become an agency-link with one particular European Union with a view to collating information and channelling resources more effectively. For example, the Devon and Cornwall Association is the link with Czechoslovakia and the Yorkshire Baptist Association with Latvia. The result is a significant network of living links with Baptist Unions across Europe through which British Baptists can really keep in touch and offer appropriate help.

All this co-operation will take a significant step forward in the proposed formation of what will be called the Fellowship of British Baptists. As the Fellowship gets fully underway, as from the beginning of 1995, the aim will be not only to co-operate in overseas mission (especially in Europe) but also in mission within the United Kingdom as is now possible under the new BMS constitution. Increased co-operation is also to be explored in areas such as publications, youth work and promotion.

The theme of the 1994 EBF Congress in Lillehammer is to be, "Together we will serve the Lord". It could be that here within the United Kingdom British Baptists are helping to show what can be done.

Peter H Barber *Chairman - Joint Consultative Committee*



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ from the Baptist Churches Union of Moldova.

Thank you very much for your kindness, love and care to our nation. Our believers have been praying for many years for God to send our home missionaries to all corners of Moldova, where there is not one church or believer. Now we have the freedom, God has answered our prayers. We give thanks to the churches and every believer who gave special offerings for the support of missionaries in Moldova. We rejoice in your concern and faithfulness to our nation.

Please pray for the missionaries. Thank you very much for your love and concern. God bless you and reward you according to his promise.

Sincerely,

Victor Loginov Victor Popovich



That's just one of the responses the BMS has received following a gift from the BMS BiCentenary Fund for the Future. In this case it was \$4,000 to the Baptist Churches Union in Moldova, in Eastern Europe, in order to pay for two local Evangelists, Victor Daskaliuk and Victor Kulibaba, for a period of two years.

By the end of January 1994, giving to the BiCentenary Fund for the Future had risen to £638,566, not the £2 million we had appealed for, but nevertheless a substantial investment for the furthering of God's mission of love in many places throughout the world.

In recent months, the Church of Christ in Thailand has received £14,250 to enable the leaders to set up a three-year programme to take the Gospel to Gumpawapi, 50km from Udon Thani.

£20,000 has been granted to the Baptist Union of Bulgaria for the construction of a building to serve 30 students in the Theological School.

In Nicaragua the Baptist Convention's Youth Ministry has been given £12,000 to provide recreational facilities and Bible teaching for teenagers living in Managua City where drug addiction and prostitution are rife.

In Sao Paulo £12,000 is being used in the Convention's Urban

Impact Programme to establish a Training Centre focusing on the special demands of ministry amongst the urban poor.

The Portuguese Baptist Convention is being helped by a grant of £8,000 to provide Scholarships for two Angolan refugees so that they can undertake a four-year degree course at

By the end of January 1994, giving to the BiCentenary Fund for the Future had risen to £638,566

the Theological Seminary.

And in Indonesia help is being given for the training of new missionaries.

Last year, the United Theological College of the West Indies celebrated its beginnings, 150 years ago, in the old Calabar College started by money from the BMS Jubilee Fund. What will others be remembering and celebrating 150 years from now because of our preparedness to invest in the future work of the gospel? ■



10/40 VISION

Looking through the window to the future.

BMS is conscious that it is working in a world that is ever growing with new needs and much God-given perception and imagination is needed to obey the final command of Jesus. But BMS cannot stand back and just react to world situations; it must be proactive too, and plan its future strategy.

One of the items for consideration in this strategy is looking at what has been called the 10/40 Window. This area on a map, first identified by Luis Bush, International Director of AD 2000 and Beyond Movement, lies between the latitudes 10°N - 40°N of the equator, from West and North Africa to the Middle East and Asia.

The 61 countries included (or countries where a significant majority of their area lies within this Window) represent one-third of the earth's total area, but nearly two-thirds of the world's people (nearly four billion).

The statistics continue to overwhelm us. This area is home to the majority of the world's unevangelised people. Ninety-seven per cent of people who live in the least evangelised countries live in the 10/40 Window, as do 80 per cent of the world's poor.

Of the top 50 of the world's

least evangelised megacities, all 50 are in the 10/40 Window. It is in this area too that 84 per cent of people with the lowest quality of life in the world, that is, as relating to life expectancy, infant mortality and literacy, live.

As we move across this Window we can see three major religious blocks to which the majority of the population belong. First, in the west, and across North Africa and into the Middle East there are 706 million Moslems; then the subcontinent of India which gives the Hindu block with 717 million people, and thirdly, taking in the whole of China, the Buddhist block with 153 million people. Although China is officially atheistic, it is nevertheless deeply influenced by its Buddhist roots.

This area at present has 44 per cent of the world's population, but only has 6 per cent of the world's missionary force working there. ■



Right: Group of Magar women in Nepal.

Below: Hindu Holy Man in Kathmandu, Nepal.



Photograph by Heather Payne



**BMS WORKERS
AND NATIONAL
CHURCHES**

6

SECONDMENTS

Cameroon:
Andrew and Jenny
Wilson with EBM

Central African
Republic:
Adrian and Sylvia
Hopkins with the CBM

Guinea Conakry:
Mark and Andrea
Hotchkin with TLM

Mozambique:
Suzanne Roberts
with ACRIS

Niger:
Alan and Ruth Wood
with SIM

Sierra Leone:
Helen Johnston with
EBM

Tanzania:
David (and Lorraine)
Champion with MAF

**MISSIONARIES
SERVING IN THE UK**
Sue Evans
David and Elidia
Grainger
John and Nan
Passmore
Suzanne Linnell

CANDIDATES
Colin and Denise Clark
Simon Collins
Andy and Linda Eaves
Margaret Gibbs
John and Lesley Moody
Mark and Claire Ord
Prema Tennekoon

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



STRATEGY

On a warm August day some of the Overseas Secretaries took time out to consider present and future strategy for the Society. Reg Harvey gave an overview highlighting the background factors against which we need to discern God's guidance for our future direction. He pointed to the growth of cities, the high proportion of young people in the world population, the struggle for equality in which women and other marginalised groups are engaged, the crying needs for justice and peace, questions of ecology, the rapidly shifting political scene, the numerical strength in the vigour of other faiths; the steep rise in those who reject any religious beliefs and the growing closeness between Christian denominations.

Study papers were presented on all the regions of the world in which we currently have partnerships in the Gospel.

In Asia, we saw the need for new, creative impetus in our relationships that stretch back to the beginnings of BMS work in the 1790s. We also welcomed new initiatives and partnerships in which, at the moment, it is not appropriate to send and support British missionaries.

Within Africa, we recognise the disruptions that internal turmoil and violence have brought about in our traditional partnerships where BMS was the Gospel pioneer amongst Protestant mission agencies. Those disruptions have called for an evaluation of the way

we work with the church bodies in Angola and Zaire. The evacuation of personnel from Zaire has resulted in the dispersion of our missionaries - a number being seconded to other mission agencies and now working in other African countries. All this has widened our horizons and opened up first hand contact with eight more countries within the continent.

Europe is opening up and new opportunities present themselves to us at a pace that is scarcely credible. Ten years ago we had no partnerships within the continent but we now have seven - and more possibilities are presenting themselves.

New partnerships in the Caribbean and Latin America are unlikely-but that is not through lack of invitations.

As we pondered the way forward it was recognised that we are only at the beginning of the assessment and strategic thinking that is called for. We wanted to involve all of the supporting churches in Britain in this process of waiting upon God in prayer, of careful consideration and study and then of shaping new plans.

A number of guiding principles are clear and we would wish to enter this process in affirmation of our faith in Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, our belief that humanity's broken relationships with our creator God are at the heart of our failings, and the conviction that we are called, with all God's people, to work for that wholeness which is the Lord's plan for His creatures. ■

QUESTIONS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

As the BMS considers prayerfully its strategy for today and tomorrow it faces certain very interesting questions. At the end of this Report, we leave them with you, to think about, to pray about, to discuss in churches, associations, ministers' groups, missionary auxiliaries, BMS General Committee...

Questions about general issues:

- 1** Is Partnership the only right model for Mission?
- 2** What are the criteria for accepting/rejecting invitations to cooperate in Mission?
- 3** Is BMS going to go for secondment in a big way?
- 4** Should BMS become more particular and specialised in its Mission?
- 5** Is the right balance being kept between expansion and consolidation?
- 6** What is the UK involvement of BMS going to be?
- 7** Is there a special emphasis going to be given to Urban Mission?
- 8** Can BMS go ahead and identify its own projects?



Questions about mission methods.

1 How do we get the right balance between financial self-sufficiency and appropriate financial help?

2 How much should we go on planning for bi-lateral Consultation with Partner Bodies?

3 How can Cooperation in Mission be expanded?

4 What development of the Scholarship's Scheme may be needed to promote adequate training?

5 What emphasis should go into Ecumenical, non-Baptist cooperation?

6 What better, more direct use can be made of the short-term missionary?

7 What should we do about Third Age Action Teams?

8 What can be done to encourage a wider use of volunteers?

9 What role is there for Church Twinning on a scale wider than Europe?

10 Should we be getting more involved with encouraging Partner Missions?

11 Would there be advantage in having a Baptist Missionary Trading Company?

12 Is involvement in 'education' still a useful role for the BMS?

13 What can be done to encourage sabbatical studies of leaders from Partner Churches?

OVER TO YOU ...





Baptist Missionary Society

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