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The Magazine of the Baptist Missionary Society
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M I S S I O N A R Y

HERALD

O C T O B E R 9 4

BMS ACTION
TEAMS.....
PUTTING BELIEF INTO
ACTION-EVANGELISING-
TEACHING-CHURCH
PLANTING.....
ON FOUR CONTINENTS

News...

STILL QUIET

Plus Double Take
**Action
Pull Out**

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ACTION TEAMS

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mission

Tear

"WE SHALL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN"

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Cover illustration by Anthony Viney

H E R A L D

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Zimbabwe				

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BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY



Ready for off! The BMS 1993-94 Action Teams at the end of the preparation and training.

We never thought we'd learn so much...

Each year, on four continents, BMS 28:19 Action face the challenge of Christian service and witness. They find it tough, they meet opposition, they shed tears, they laugh, they are depressed, they cry and they sing. But they stay with it and are loved and accepted by people from such different backgrounds.

And they see the fruits of their work. How many young people in Britain can say they have helped to plant a new church? The Zimbabwe team can.

Most of all, they learn so much. "We went feeling we would be giving a lot and helping people in need. We never thought we'd learn so much and come home so rich."

Are we surprised that our young people have so much to offer? Are we surprised at their Christian maturity? And are we ashamed at the way we push them on to the sidelines of our church life?

Young people are people, not a different species of human being but full members of the human race.

Christian young people are Christians, not relegated to an inferior part of the church but an integral part of the whole, the Body of Christ. They have a valuable, responsible and refreshing role to play in the work, worship and witness of the Church both locally and worldwide.

We need only look at the reports in this magazine from BMS 28:19 Action Teams for 1993-1994 to see how true this is. Many of our British Baptist churches now have first hand experience of the teams: "We were most impressed," said one church after a visit from one of the teams on tour in the UK after working overseas for six months.

There is no substitute for first-hand experience. No amount of talk, description, missionary visits or audio-visual aids can take the place of actually visiting another country to "do" mission.

For 75 years BMS Summer Schools introduced successive generations of young people to mission. There many heard the call to go overseas and others went back to their churches as enthusiastic supporters and ambassadors of world mission through the BMS.

Times change. Young people are not content just to hear about mission, they want to get involved. They long to show Christ's love in action. They are no longer prepared to wait for tomorrow to be accepted as responsible enough to play a full part in the life of the church. They are tired of being described as the "church of tomorrow", seeing themselves as part of Christ's living, active body today.

So for five years the BMS, through its 28:19 Action Team programme, has been making it possible for groups of young people to work in overseas situations alongside national Christians. They've done evangelism, church-planting, teaching and social work. They've worked with street kids, old people and the down-and-outs. And through it all they have surprised themselves as they have realised how much they have to offer. They have developed skills they never knew they possessed. They have grown in confidence and deepened their faith.

They've surprised us too by their maturity and their understanding of the situations in which they have been working. It remains to be seen whether any of them will return overseas as long-term missionaries. Certainly they are already making a difference at home as they offer refreshing new aspects of mission to the churches.

continued from page 3

"I am writing to express the appreciation of so many people for the way the group has worked here. The young people were well briefed and had prepared their material thoroughly.

"They excelled themselves with sketches, slides, prayers and songs. It was a much-needed spiritual shot in the arm for many of us who, at times, feel jaded with the 'normal' round of support for BMS. The members of the team are a credit to the BMS and to their Lord. I would recommend a visit from such a team to any church or school."



Colombo's C

Although we came from such different backgrounds, there was so much to gain from our friendship."

"It was impossible not to fall in love with these grubby children with smiling faces and bright eyes," said the BMS 28:19 Sri Lanka team.

One of the hardest things about leaving Sri Lanka was leaving behind the street kids of Colombo. There are thousands of street children in Sri Lanka, and although the situation is hardly like that of Brazil, it is a great problem.

Cinammon Gardens Baptist Church is in the heart of Colombo. It is in one of the wealthiest areas of the capital city, and at the same time in an area of great poverty.

Amongst the sprawling houses and grand offices live some of Sri Lanka's poorest people, whose home is the streets. Whole families sit out on the streets with nothing to do all day but beg. The luckier ones have the resources to set up small stalls selling peanuts or mending shoes, while others earn money for drugs, arrack and daily food

through prostitution. We worked with some of the 2,000 children in Sri Lanka who are involved in child prostitution, some as young as three, and sold by their parents to tourists for as little as £4 a night.

It was impossible not to fall in love with these grubby children with smiling faces and bright eyes. They were all so warm and friendly and eager to get to know us and look after us in this often strange and scary island.

Initially communication seemed to be a problem, because the children didn't speak English and when they talked to us in Tamil and Sinhalese, we would smile and feel slightly

left out of the joke they all seemed to be having at our expense. It wasn't long before we could ask in Tamil and Sinhala what their names were, but this wasn't much good - no one has the same name and the names were all very long and complicated. It seemed hopeless



but eventually we did learn their names and they learnt ours.

As our Sinhala improved we were able to talk more but we really learnt the importance of non-verbal communication. We would play clapping games and swing the little ones around, climb trees with them and just sit on the streets with their families, cuddling the babies, and playing with the little children while their mothers would share their food with us. The generosity of many Sri Lankans never ceased to amaze us.

In Colombo our main role

children

was to help at the pre-school (for under 5s) run by the church for street kids. Up to 25 children would turn up every weekday in their best clothes. With the teacher we would try to discipline them so they could then fit into a normal school - not easy when you are not an expert at Sinhala or Tamil. The children were extremely lively and it was very hard to get them into the same room unless you had a camera in your hand. (They loved having their photo taken).

It was amazing how contented they all were - when you think of how demanding Western children are for the latest fashion or toy. All the street children had was each other and bits of rubbish to play with. Their games were quite ingenious. It is amazing what you can do with a dirty plastic bag and a few stones! Life was never dull. We had to have eyes in the back of our heads to stop the children from injuring one another with the iron bars they used for hitting, or the dirty pieces of wire they

scratched each other with. The first time they had a doll to play with they didn't know what to do but found great delight in pulling off its arms and legs and dangling it from a piece of rope hanging from the ceiling.

At the pre-school, one of our jobs was to show them how to clean their teeth. It became the highlight of the day. Many had completely rotten teeth and had never used a tooth brush before. Every morning when we arrived at the school they would make signs with their fingers wanting reassurance that they would be able to clean their teeth that day. It took two of us to supervise this task as children would eat the toothpaste and want to come back for another go.

After morning school our contact with street kids was far from over. After a short sleep to recover from the morning activities we'd be off to one of the satellite churches of Cinammon Gardens to work at a day-care centre for two to five year olds from slum areas. As we got off the bus back at home (Becky and Alison lived at the manse in Cinnamon Gardens) we'd be almost knocked to the ground by the street kids - it was hard luck if we were tired as we were expected to play with them and help the older ones with their English homework.

Although we came from such different backgrounds there was so much to gain from our friendship. Living at the Baptist manse could sometimes be quite lonely as the pastor and his wife are extremely busy, but the street kids would always be at our bedroom window demanding attention and being delighted at anything we could show them (personal stereos were particularly popular).

On a few occasions we had a fright from the men and older boys who lived on the streets. They could be rather threatening, especially after we'd made



Far left:
Coconuts provide a refreshing drink for Becky and Sara.

Left: The team in saris - crossing cultures.

a visit to the bank, but the street kids would provide a protective circle around us and escort us to our home. It was also very useful when we had bags of heavy shopping or shoes that needed mending, because they would always help and we felt protected and safe with them.

Our time with the street kids will always remain with us. We went to Sri Lanka feeling we would be giving a lot and helping people in need. We never thought we'd learn so much and come home so rich. How much Westerners could learn from people living in the third world if only they could overcome their sense of superiority and see beyond illiteracy, prostitution and homelessness.

Another group of people we found it very difficult to leave was the old ladies of Matale - but that's another story!

Alison, Becky, Janet and Sara.

"How much Westerners could learn from people living in the third world if only they could overcome their sense of superiority and see beyond illiteracy, prostitution and homelessness."

Imagine

being thrown together with five other Christians and having to live, work and socialise with them for the next ten months!

Imagine

finding that your faith is just about the only thing you have in common!

Sounds far-fetched?

This was the experience of the Brazil 28:19 Action Team and one that affected, changed and challenged them all.

Debbie, Matt, Karen, Mitch, Katie and Richard.

AN EYE-OPENER



faith - and made a commitment to pray daily as a team. Through ups and downs in our relationships, we discovered some of our own strengths and weaknesses. We realised that we could learn from our differences and turn them into positive ways of using our gifts. For example, Mitch, from Germany, picked up Portuguese very quickly and this was useful when he was willing and able to preach in Portuguese from early on.

After our month's language training in Brazil, we did some practical work extending and painting a small church in Joinville, Santa Catarina.

We were surprised when the church was so grateful and one member commented, "You didn't only paint our church, you also brightened up a bit of our hearts."

This made us realise that all contributions to church life, whether practical or spiritual, are important and it encouraged us to offer more of ourselves.

As our Portuguese improved, we were able to do other work including children's holiday bible clubs, door to door work, street evangelism and church services. We enjoyed it, finding the Brazilian people open and fun to be with.

As we gave more, we gained confidence and were challenged to continue and to play a more active role in our churches back home. Through the commitment of the Brazilians we worked with, we learned not to be ashamed of our faith especially with our non-Christian friends.

We were constantly looked up to in the Brazilian churches

We had mixed expectations about our time in Brazil but no one anticipated the difficulties we would face in our teamwork. We had the unusual predicament of bringing together two different cultures - one team member was German - on top of adjusting to each other's diverse characters. From these difficulties, acceptance of each other would be something we would all learn throughout the year.

We latched on to the only common feature in us all - our

NING EXPERI-

as Christian role models. Although a little intimidating at first, it made us check that our lives did reflect what we believed, individually and as a team.

Despite the pedestal we were put on, we learnt a lot from the Brazilian churches. Young people took on positions of responsibility within their churches like evangelism, music, youth groups and publicity. We began to rethink our involvement in our own churches and the responsibility that we should take on as members.

We had a good insight into the world church, both by working in 15 Brazilian churches and more recently, 31 in England, Scotland and Wales as part of our tour to share our Brazilian experiences back home. For some of us, this was an eye-opener in seeing how other churches, apart from our own, operate. It made us think about how the practice of our home churches isn't the only or best way, but it also helped us

to appreciate the strong points in them.

We saw physical deprivation in Brazil, but because we were working in the more affluent south of the country, the needs were predominantly spiritual. We were able to see the needs of well-off people in Brazil and we feel that returning to Europe, we are realising the equally important needs here too. This was re-emphasised when we met some Brazilians who have come to Britain as missionaries with a desire to meet the huge spiritual need here.

The 28:19 scheme has been a beneficial experience for each of us. We have learnt from the team relationships, the work we did and the churches we visited. As we go our separate ways, we will begin to see more how these ten months have affected us as individuals. However, we each feel that our faith has been challenged and has become more real in our everyday lives. ■

We began to rethink our involvement in our own churches and the responsibility that we should take on as members.



Below: "We were able to do children's holiday bible clubs"

Bottom: Mitch and Debbie performing their famous banana sketch





Steve Woolcock

When I decided to take a year out with the BMS and to go on a 28:19 Action

Team I had no idea of where the whole experience would lead me. I must admit that I never thought it would be straight back to Baptist House.

On graduating from Warwick University I had no real idea of what I should do with my future. I needed time to decide and I felt that I wanted to do something for someone other than myself, and for God. I was accepted by the BMS to go to Lille in Northern

France. I lived and worked in Lille with a Christian community dedicated to helping people who were homeless, and people with drug and alcohol problems.



Action Team Co-ordinator

Spending nine months on an Action Team really changes your outlook on life. Speaking from personal experience I can say that it has made me more open to God's will and his plan for my life. I looked for the way in which he wanted me to go, and I didn't have long to wait. Becoming Action Team Co-ordinator has given me the opportunity of being involved in a scheme I really believe in, but from the other side.

I have had first hand experience of how God can use these teams and how, through them, he spreads his word and love overseas. The teams also have a huge impact on churches in Britain. They increase awareness of world mission and the social

problems in other countries. The experience also radically changes the individual in terms of confidence, faith and outlook on life.

It is a real privilege to be in the situation to advance and extend the scheme so that more young people like myself can go and serve God.

28:19 Challenge UK

One of the ways we are already furthering the scheme is by introducing the 28:19 Challenge UK team. This gives young Christians from overseas and the UK the opportunity to work together in Britain motivating young Christians about mission.

Challenge UK is a very exciting project and I feel very fortunate to be able to work alongside it, as well as with this year's overseas teams which are going to Albania, Zimbabwe, Belgium and Jamaica this month. ■

28:19 ACTION TEAMS - A YEAR OUT!

Are you looking for a challenge, an opportunity to live out your faith in another part of the world? Are you between 18 and 25 years of age and able to take a year out? If so, BMS 28:19 Action Teams could be the answer.

Now entering its fifth year, the BMS 28:19 Action Team programme has helped many young Christians put belief into action in places as far apart as El Salvador and Nepal, Brazil and Thailand, France and Jamaica, Albania and Zimbabwe.

They've been involved in social work and youth work, in teaching and evangelism and in a variety of other kinds of church work. And what's more, they've been appreciated. "Send us another team next year," has been a common reaction from national Church leaders after having an Action Team working with them.

So these young Christians have an opportunity to share



something of their knowledge and experience. But each readily admits that they receive more and learn more than they ever able to give.

Living in another country is a learning experience in itself. Those going to work in the two-thirds world confront poverty face-to-face. There they meet real people, not just the victims the western media loves to portray. They meet happy, generous people who, although poor, will share their



last crust of bread with their guests. They meet Christians working out their faith within a culture

and environment so different from that of the UK. But their worship is nevertheless lively and their witness relevant.

So not only is the overseas experience exciting, enriching and challenging, it is a time of personal spiritual growth and of growing Christian maturity.

Time and again Action Team members say they intend to become more



involved in their home churches, putting into action some of the lessons they have

learned overseas.

The 28:19 Action Teams for 1994-95 have completed their training and are leaving for their assignments overseas. In addition, there is the new venture of a 28:19 challenge UK team made up of young people from overseas churches and from the UK. Their challenge is to interest at least 10,000 British young people in world mission.

So what about next year? Are you able to take a year out? Are you prepared to be challenged and changed by working with Christians in another country? Are you ready to spend one month in training, six months overseas and another two months touring the UK sharing your experiences? And if not you, do you know of any young people who might be interested? If so, give them this magazine when you've finished with it? ■



Ruth Robinson and Mark Binney were members of the 28:19 Action Team - the "Salt Shakers" - which went to India and Bangladesh in 1991-92.

Shortly after they returned they got engaged and were married on 23 July this year at London Road Baptist Church, Lowestoft. At the wedding they decided to make a collection for the work of the BMS in India and Bangladesh.

At the moment they are both university finalists. Ruth is studying sociology and psychology at Hull University and Mark is reading theology in Durham.

"We are hoping to spend a year working in a church in Newcastle after graduation and then probably on to teaching and ministerial training," they said.

"We both learnt a lot through the time we were with the BMS and it certainly challenged us into future full-time service." ■

28:19

Life and Language



It's certainly been an experience! The nine month scheme has taught us all a lot and the six months spent in Carcassonne gave us an insight into life on the mission field.

Despite reports of how hard mission work is in



France, we were not prepared for the difficulty which faced us and long-term missionaries working there.

We knew that France was a hard and spiritually needy country but not quite to the degree that our six months out there has shown us. ➔



Many misconceptions about the state of Christianity in France are based on the belief that it is a strong Roman Catholic country. Indeed the statistics (about 80 per cent of the population are baptised into the Catholic church) would appear to support this view.

However, we discovered that a very small percentage, maybe seven or eight per cent, are actually 'practising' in any way.

This 'nominal Christianity,' along with an attitude of self-sufficiency common to affluent Western society, makes mission work in France very difficult.

Through the evangelistic events that we were able to organise, which were almost invariably met with apathy and a lack of response, we began to realise how hard life is for long-term missionaries, who have to learn to trust God and to persevere, in the face of great discouragement.

They are often working in small churches where the commitment of church pastors is sometimes poor. This problem is accentuated by low attendance figures.

French Baptist churches suffer too from a lack of support from nearby churches, because most of them are also struggling and often too distanced geographically to be able to provide any mutual encouragement.

Through these problems our understanding of the role of mission work has deepened as

has our respect for both missionaries and national Christians alike. They make such great sacrifices in their commitment to spreading the gospel.

We also feel better equipped, after our experience, to know how to support missionaries abroad (letter writing, prayer etc) and are inspired to encourage our churches in Britain to do likewise.

We not only feel strongly about mission abroad, our time both in France and during our tour has made us aware of the need for mission work in Britain.

We've been challenged to take an active part in evangelism and outreach at home and have realised the importance of the church's role in this.

As individuals we learnt a great deal such as coping with life in a foreign country with a different language whilst also living away from family and friends. We now appreciate home life and no longer take it for granted.

We've all been Christians for a number of years but our faith has developed and deepened.

For some it's been an opportunity to experience God's working in a very real and personal way and also that Christianity is a 100 per cent commitment with God constantly at the centre of everything.

It's been a valuable time to learn to trust in God for everything and through everything. God has a plan for our lives and wants the best for us so we can leave our worries in his hands. ■

Discussion Starter

Double Take Double Take



1 The Zimbabwe Team testified "We each, without exception, grew in our personal relationships with God." Why was that? Would this still happen if their lives were one long Action Team? And what do you think would cause you to grow in your relationship with God? (See p16).

2 Similarly, the Sri Lanka Team said "We never thought we'd learn so much and come home so rich." (See p5). What riches could we all covet from Third World countries?

3 What are the similarities and differences between the community of Christians in Lille and a sect? (See Total Commitment in France, p17) How does living like this influence one's lifestyle and priorities?

4 The Brazil team said "We began to rethink our involvement in our own churches and the responsibility that we should take on as members." (p7). What have young people to offer in our churches? Do you encourage young people to use their gifts in your church? If your answer is 'no', why not? What are your objections?

5 Do you think the situation of the church in Britain is different from that in France? (See Carcassonne Team, p10). How typical are they both of being mission fields?

6 The Brazilian Team also said how, on their return to the UK, they visited 31 different churches to talk about their overseas experiences, and how "it made us think about how the practice of our home churches isn't the only or best way." (p7). Even if you don't have the opportunity to share in overseas work, how could you participate more in the life of other churches in this country? What do you think you would learn from this? Is it something you would want to do?

7 Do you agree with the Lille Action Team that, "This lack of letting God affect our lives is why many churches here (ie in Britain) are bringing few, if any, new people to faith in Jesus."? (See Total Commitment in France, p17) Do we know the main factors involved in bringing people to faith? ■

DOUBLE TAKE?

Double Take is a way of using the Herald to consider, more deeply, the theme which is highlighted each month. Whether used privately, within a missionary or house group, or as part of Sunday worship, the hope is that a better understanding of the issues will lead to a change in attitudes, to a commitment to prayer, to involvement in mission and to action.



Bible Study

Double Take Double Take

Jesus as a youth and a young man

Luke 2: 40-52

These verses are the only clue we have to Jesus' life between being a baby and a full grown man, although a lot of stories were written and published in the apocryphal Gospels, which did not make their way into Scripture.

The feast of the Passover was one of the great festivals which Jewish men were required to keep in Jerusalem. Whole families would travel there so that the town swelled from its usual population of 25,000 to around 60,000 to 100,000 people. Huge caravans of people travelled together, both for companionship and security, and so it is not surprising that Mary and Joseph did not notice that Jesus was missing until they were on their journey home.

What does this passage show us about Jesus' early relationship with his Father?

What does it say about Jesus' growing up and reaching adolescence? See verse 50 especially. Name some of the questions and problems he would have had to face? Would these have been the same as every other youth?

If children aged about twelve in your church were to display this same attitude, what would your reaction be?

How does this passage reflect young peoples' experiences of

older people today?

Verse 51 - Jesus' independence was not rebellion. Name as many things as you can you perceive to be expressions of young people and youth culture today. How many of these are out and out rebellion, and how many merely a statement of independence?

Mark 3: 13-19, Matt 17: 24-27

Have you ever thought about the age of the disciples? Jesus, himself, at this stage would have been in his mid to late twenties, and given that he was the Master or Rabbi, he would have been older than most, if not all of his apprentices. The miracle of the four drachma coin's appearance to pay the temple tax for Jesus and Peter throws more light on this question. This temple tax stemming from Exodus 30 : 11 - 16 had to be paid by those who were 20 years old or more, and given that all of Jesus' disciples were present on this occasion, the implication is clear that all of them apart from Jesus and Peter were less than 20 years old.

What responsibilities did Jesus give his disciples? How are some of these things reflected in what the Action Teams did?

Are there any similarities between the disciples being thrown together in a group, and the members of the Action Teams coming together? What problems would they both have to deal with?

At what age do you give people these responsibilities in your church? Take a look at your diaconate. How young is your youngest deacon? And what about other church appointments - Sunday School leaders, Housegroup Leaders, Leaders of mid-week meetings. How many of the people currently doing these jobs are what could be termed

'young'? Are your young people encouraged to hold such appointments in your church? Do they want to? And if not, why not? What objections are raised to young people being given positions of leadership, and how valid are they? ■



Action Points



1 SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE. Enclosed with this Herald magazine is a leaflet on BMS Action Teams. If this is not applicable for you, please pass it on to an eligible young person.

2 The Brazil team said of the church in Brazil: "Young people took on positions of responsibility within their churches like evangelism, music, youth groups and publicity." (p7). How could you encourage your young people to take on responsibility in your church? Find ways of opening up avenues of service.

3 How do you view young people in your church? Do you tolerate them until they grow up and become responsible adults, or are you looking for their potential, and seeking to use their gifts? Actively encourage your young people to get involved in the areas of service where they have gifts.

4 How often do you write or pray for your Link missionaries and workers in other countries? Is this something you could improve on - and perhaps involve your young people? (See Carcassonne Team, p10).

5 Who organises the Youth activities in your church? Are events organised for young people, rather than by them? Talk to your young people; ask them what they want, and what they enjoy doing. You might be pleasantly surprised!

6 Finally, don't forget BMS's own Youth Project, Sawadee! which is raising money for various aspects of work in Thailand - working with AIDS sufferers, helping tribal communities and our own Thailand Action Team. The project book is available now from BMS Didcot. Don't delay further.



TIME TO TAKE ACTION *The World Mission Notice Board*

Is it full of notices, pictures, letters? Are some things out of date? Do some notices look a bit dog-eared?

Clear the board. Plan what you are going to display. How about a different theme each month. Make new eye-catching notices. Different groups within the church could do them, involving more people in mission.

Get someone new to the church to look at the board. Ask them if they understand what it's all about. Remember, not everyone knows what Link-Up or even BMS are.

Your missionary Link-Up

What are you doing? Writing letters, sending birthday cards, remembering other special events? What about the church your Link-Up missionary is working with?

What are its needs and strengths?

Is the letter writing rota working or do people forget? How about a letter from the Sunday School, or youth group, or women's meeting?

Collect information on the church and country where they work. Display it. Find out more.

World Mission Meetings

What is your church doing between now and the end of the year? Are different groups in the church doing things? What about the Link-Up group, or even the association?

Find out what is planned. If nothing is happening raise the issue of world-mission at meetings - church, deacons, planning group.

What about: five minutes in the Sunday service, an evening Bible study, an after church video, an event for the whole Link-Up group...?

Resources for Mission

How is your church kept up-to-date? What happens in the Sunday school or junior church or youth group? where do you go for information?

Give out copies of the *Missionary Herald* and *LOOK*. Free sample copies can be obtained from Didcot. Start a church BMS magazine order.

Explore the BMS Resources Catalogue - maps, information sheets, slides, ideas for meetings, videos...

Contact your BMS Representative. Use the Mission Education part of *World Mission Link* and book a speaker for mid-week or Sunday meetings.

Worship

Have you heard about National Youth Sunday, 20 November? It is a special day when young people can be given the opportunity to demonstrate the energy, enthusiasm, insights and special gifts which they possess and which can enrich the local church community.

Picture the scene. You've been on holiday with your parents to Menorca.

Mum Jim, have you seen Rosie?

Dad No, I thought she was with you.

Mum I haven't seen her since this afternoon, when we left the hotel.

Dad Oh no, where has she gone to?

Mum Anything could have happened; she might be any where, beaten, murdered, battered, oh, my, oh no (becomes hysterical).

Dad Calm down love, she can't be far away, calm down. Now let's think, what's the most likely place she'd be? The disco, the beach, in the swimming pool?

Mum Yes, that's right, let's think rationally. Well, she may be at the hotel. She took quite a shine to that waiter. I'll start there, you search the beach.

TWO HOURS LATER

Dad Well love, I don't want to alarm you, but I think it's time we called the police.

Mum Oh no, do you really think something's happened to her?

Dad Well, we've checked all the likely places and still not got anywhere; there's nowhere else left.

Mum Well there is one place. The church we went to the other day; she liked the mosaic in it and said she wanted to get a decent photo.

Dad Do you seriously think she'd go voluntarily into a church? We've been trying to get her to do that for ages.

Mum Well, it's worth a try; you've been everywhere else.

OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

Dad Is that our Rosie singing?

Mum Yes, she's got a lovely voice, I never realised before.

Dad She should really be in the church choir, she sounds great.

INSIDE THE CHURCH

Rosie Hi Mum.

Mum Don't you 'Hi Mum' me. What on earth do you think you're up to? Your father and me have been driven mad with worry. How dare you wander off like that, with no thought for how we'd feel.

Dad For goodness sake, Rosie, didn't you know

we'd be worried about you. Well you can forget that party on Friday; you're not going. To think we spent all this money on a decent holiday and you ruined it.

Mum And what on earth are you doing in here love?

Rosie I'm sorry, really I am. I wanted to get a photo of the mosaic; I didn't realise you'd be worried. I thought the plane wasn't going until later.

I came in to get the photo and these people were singing. I joined in and they let me, they actually let me. Then I started to teach them some songs I know, and the time just flew. Mum, they listened to me and let me join in and I do love singing; it felt really good, like I was doing something in church.

Dad There'll be plenty of time for singing on Friday when you're grounded, now come on home.

Hannah Piddeck, 1994.

Taken from National Youth Sunday Resources Pack. It is available from Baptist Publications, PO Box 44, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 8RT, price £1.50.

There is also going to be a National Youth Work Week 21 - 27 November organised by the National Youth Agency. More info from them - 17 - 23 Albion Street, Leicester, LE1 6GD. Tel 0533 471200.

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
5 - 8 May 1995 ABY Assembly at Plymouth. All young people aged 16 - 25 are eligible and welcome to attend.

6 - 8 June 1995 - a Conference for full-time Youth workers at Hothorpe Hall, Leicestershire. More details from the Baptist Union of Great Britain Youth Office, PO Box 44, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 8RT nearer the time.

Clowning in Carcassonne

An Action Team Experience

Sarah, Becky, Sian and Adrian

On a sunny morning in March, the traffic in Rue Lespinasse came to a standstill as a juggling Coco the Clown entertained passers-by. No, not from a travelling circus but one of the Carcassonne Action Team which had planned a children's holiday club beginning that morning. The Baptist Church had been transformed into a Big Top, the venue for the week's activities.

This church was where we, a 28:19 Action Team, were based for six months. We were working in Carcassonne in the South of France alongside Ian and Pauline Thomas, a Baptist Missionary couple. Children's work was an area which Ian specifically wanted us to develop. This began with the creation of a Sunday school.

Around ten children aged between 18 months and twelve years were at a loose end during Sunday morning services, while their parents tried to concentrate on the address. Many came from Christian families but a few didn't.

Sunday school is important for all children, but for those from non-Christian backgrounds it is their only opportunity to learn about Jesus. French Church and State are legally separated and religious education is prohibited in the French school system. We were concerned that a lack of structured activity would result in boredom and lead to negative attitudes towards the church.

No Sunday school materials are available. So we had to produce our own programme. This was a challenge, considering the

language difficulties.

Another challenge we set ourselves was the Children's Club. This took place during the holiday set aside for skiing. We planned a variety of events around a circus and animal theme, including the Stories of Creation, Noah and Daniel. We organised memory verses, craft, games and quizzes. We widely publicised the week's events in and around the town in an attempt to attract as many children as possible.

Despite this publicity only half of our Sunday school class turned up. We enjoyed carrying out our planned activities but we also found the week frustrating due to the lack of response. We envisaged the week as an ideal opportunity, of reaching many children from non-Christian backgrounds and we were measuring the success of the club in the light of the expectations.

We learnt that often the outcomes we expect differ from those of God. This became evident on the Sunday when the children took the morning service. They eagerly presented all they'd learnt in a simple but powerful way.

The time spent with these children was an important part of our six months in France. This work at a younger age is a good foundation which can be developed as they grow older. Their simple acceptance of the importance of Jesus in their lives is a lesson we can all learn from.

Jesus has instructed us all to have a similar childlike attitude when it comes to our Christian faith if we want to enter His Kingdom. ■

Below: "Children were at a loose end during services..."

Bottom: The Carcassonne Team



...and a church was born in ESPHEZINI

You can't spend six months in Zimbabwe without it having a profound impact upon your life. That's what the BMS 28:19 Action Team discovered when they started to preach, teach and evangelise.



We experienced many different things in Zimbabwe and found ourselves in situations we never dreamed of being in, but the power of God saw us through each one. We took part in evangelism, preaching, teaching and were involved in completely new aspects of Christian ministry.

We each, without exception, grew in our personal relationships with God and have benefited greatly from the opportunity to try our hand at different skills.

What stands out most was the last working week of our stay in Zimbabwe. We were involved in a church planting crusade in Esphezini, a rural area on the outskirts of Bulawayo.

As part of a team of 17 people we found ourselves taking the life-giving word of God to the people of Esphezini. By day we would visit the local community in their homes, sharing the gospel and praying for the sick, inviting the people to the evening meetings which we held in a tent. The task was made easier and the outreach more effective by PA equipment donated to the National Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe by the BMS.

The evening meetings were a time of excitement and a strain on the vocal chords as from 7.00pm to around 10.00pm each night we would praise God through choruses and testi-

monies and then share the gospel through a simple message, which was met with a tremendous response.

During the course of each week we saw the wonderful way in which God touches people's lives. We witnessed miraculous healings and saw people, freed from the spiritual bondage of ancestral worship.

A church was born in Esphezini that week and 160 people gave their lives to Jesus. We continue to pray for the power of God to be seen in that place.

It was a wonderful and exciting way to end our work in Zimbabwe and an experience which we are ever thankful to God for giving us.

Returning home to the UK has highlighted the way God has changed us both as a team and as individuals. We have all grown more confident in God and have greater expectations of what he will do in and through us. We have become more aware of the need to take prayer seriously, and to be unconditionally obedient to God. Seeing him work so dramatically in Zimbabwe has brought us to a heightened realisation of the need for revival in our own country and we are more committed to serving him wherever he puts us.

We thank God for the way he allowed us to be used in the expansion of his Kingdom and pray that we may continue to allow ourselves to be used as willing servants in his work. ■



28:19

**Peter, Graham, Edward, Keeley,
Tom and Rachel**

Total commitment in France AND IN THE UK?



Can you imagine eating every meal, every day with another 15 or so people?

Can you imagine living in the same house as all these people, some of whom had no home at all before they were invited to live here, others who are heroin addicts?

Can you imagine nobody being rich, nobody being poor, but everybody having enough? This was life in Lille, Northern France where one of the 1993/4 28:19 Action Teams spent six months of last year.

Steve, Ruth and Rob

This lifestyle left more of a mark on our lives than any of the work we were involved in. At first it was a shock living in a way so different from what we were used to. We soon realised that these people have invented nothing in the way they live. They simply have a lifestyle rooted in the community way of life of the first Christians.

"All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need."

What we saw in these people, living in a country with very few active Christians, was total commitment. A growing number of people (presently 14) are on the 'community team' and committed to the community way of life, saying a complete, not partial "yes" to God's call, until the day they die. They are not single people, but families - a big commitment where children are involved. They have given up the chance of being rich, some to share what they have with those who arrive with very little, others to trust totally in God's provision.

It didn't take long to realise that they have not been influenced by some weird sect, but simply have a great love for God. If we have this true love for God, then action inevitable follows. As somebody recently commented: "You can try to serve God without loving him, but you cannot love him with-

out serving." We found this to be so true in Lille.

Seeing this lifestyle made us realise how little, here in Britain (where the French consider a revival to be already underway and soon to overflow into Northern France) we let God affect the way we live. We like to keep time for ourselves and particularly our money. Many give the recommended tithe, then consider the rest to be our own, well-earned money that God has no right to.

Having seen this alternative way of total commitment, we would suggest that this lack of letting God affect our lives is why many churches are bringing few, if any, new people to faith in Jesus. In Acts, where there was a great commitment and love for God, people came to faith in great numbers. "And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47b). Similarly in Lille, hundreds have come to faith during the 20 years that have passed since a local pastor first said a complete "yes" to God's call.

We have a lot to learn in Britain from these totally committed people - they put the majority of us to shame. Total commitment makes us feel uneasy because we have areas of our lives that we want to keep for ourselves and not allow God to affect. But the time has passed when it was enough to feel uneasy about this. It is time to do something about it. ■

After a short time in Kathmandu, where they painted a mural on the wall of a children's ward in a United Mission to Nepal hospital, the 28:19 Action Team moved to Pokhara to work in the Gandaki Boarding School for the first part of their assignment.

After the initial shock of confronting a class of 40 students standing up to greet you the moment you enter the room and waiting in silence for a reply, we settled down to the teaching with relative ease.

Our time-tables kept us busy and, in the case of Claire and Alex, very fit too. Claire ended up teaching 20 periods of PE a week and Alex taught aerobics and dance to classes 7,8,9 and 12. Rachel managed to add "spice" to her science class by sending ten year olds on a wild goose chase having prepared an orienteering lesson with a compass that pointed south. And Sylvia entertained everyone with her attempts to learn students' names. She ended up describing them as: The short one with black hair and brown eyes..."

Sports day was one of the highlights. The emphasis was not about winning but doing your best. The day was completed only when the "adults" entertained the students with games like wheel-barrow and camel races, which were all the more interesting because the female teachers were wearing saris.

Teaching in two cultures



Saying farewell. "Goodbye" in Nepal is different. We were invited to a farewell ceremony just before the end of term and ended up being presented with so many flowers and garlands we could hardly see over the top of them all. Almost every child presented us with a flower. It was all we could do to stop the tears from falling although Alex managed to add a little entertainment by addressing the students as "guys", which in Nepali means "cow."

The second part of the team's assignment was in Thailand where the religion, the culture, the weather and the countryside are different.

Sylvia and Rachel taught English at the Lahu Baptist Convention and the New Life Centre in Chiang Mai.

The New Life Centre consists of three hostels for girls from the hill-tribe villages. It provides education and security for girls who have escaped from brothels in Bangkok and for others who were in danger of being sold into them. We taught them English right from basics. Since we didn't speak any of their languages we used the tried and tested method of making a fool

of ourselves. We developed a successful comedy act where Sylvia was the straight man and Rachel the idiot.

Sylvia still described people as "the one with long straight hair and brown eyes..."

As well as English, we taught aerobics and dance. In return, they helped us to make a traditional farmer's shirt. Sylvia got annoyed at the temperamental machines operated by foot pedals. The house mother didn't help by saying, "You won't get a boyfriend if you can't sew!" But we loved it there. The girls were so caring and helpful.

Claire and Alex went up to the mountains for a month.

We stayed in a Karen Christian village with an American missionary called Edy who has been in Thailand for over 30 years. We taught at Sahamit School, a local village school for children from the different hill tribes. The school takes children from kindergarten up until 10 years of age. We mostly helped teach English through singing simple English songs and playing games which the children enjoyed.

Then we moved to Chiang Rai to teach at a school for the hill tribe children. We taught the older children English, which was great fun, especially the lesson where we borrowed a plastic shopping trolley and plastic food in order to practise a shopping role play. The sight of some of the older boys pushing a trolley around the classroom was one to remember.

Claire, Alex, Rachel and Sylvia

CALL TO PRAYER

For a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.
Luke 12:15

Lord, we know this is true, but it is hard for us, so used to the abundance of things in our part of the world, and the feeling of security they give, to understand that others can live full and satisfying lives and own little.

Lord, shake us out of complacency show us where real life is rooted and helps us to use what you have given that our life in Christ may be shared with others.

WEEK

43

October 23-29

HOME

Most of the new BMS management structures are now in place. However, the new patterns in the department concerned with constituency support are only now being finalised. At Didcot there are those charged with a variety of tasks to encourage the churches in their programmes of mission education. They provide written and audio-visual material for all ages and regularly visit associations and churches on staff-team visits and other speaking engagements.

Within the UK there is a network of area and national representatives whose task is to stimulate interest and involvement in their area.

WEEK

44

October 30 - November 5

BRAZIL; RONDONIA, ACRE, BRAZILIA AND GOIAS

Goias is the most recent State which has asked for help. The State capital, Goiania, is growing fast and the Convention aims to plant churches in many towns in the interior. They are asking for church planters, association workers, seminary teachers and help with the Baptist hospital which is still being built. Tim and Rosimar Deller have now moved to Goiania where they are involved in church planting and theological education.

Brasília is the federal capital of Brazil. The establishment of this capital on the central highlands of Brazil, has played a large part in the development of the interior of Brazil. Baptist churches in the capital are alive and vigorous with many church planting projects and a growing awareness of social needs. David and Sue Jackson are teaching in the Baptist Theological Seminary.

WEEK

45

November 6-12

NEPAL: UMN - HEALTH

Patan Hospital is looked upon as UMN's key hospital in the Kathmandu area and attracts many patients from near and far. It continues to be developed, and there is hope that it will generate funds from its private sector which may enhance medical care in rural areas. There are smaller but very significant hospitals in Tansen, and Okhaldunga which

barely cope with the demand for patient care. These hospitals serve communities where even the lowest charges are beyond the ability of some patients to pay. However, none is turned away.

UMN is seeking to survey its medical services this year to work out a more satisfactory strategy that will provide health care appropriate to all needs. Community health programmes are a vital part of UMN medical services.

Isobel Strang is extremely busy and involved in health services as a physiotherapist. She is training Nepali medical staff in basic physiotherapy skills and travels between the UMN Hospitals for this purpose. Ian and Sally Smith, Ruth Berry, and Katie Norris have all been in the UK following various courses of study in preparation for a return to Nepal.

WEEK

46

November 13-19

WORLD CHURCH

We quite glibly talk about one world and one church, but the sad fact is that so many of those barriers between nations are seen within the Church, the body of Christ. We need a fresh vision of the Christ who came to reconcile, to build bridges, to make whole and Christians around the world need to work together in our Lord's name to help create one world.

Let us pray for new ways of work and service as the servant church in the world. Let's pray for Christians living in situations of danger because they profess Christ as Lord and Saviour; for sis-

ter missionary societies as we strive together to share with God in his mission of love; for the mission departments of BMS partner churches who themselves commission missionaries to serve in the world and for local Baptist churches that they may see mission not as home or overseas but truly world mission.

WEEK

47

November 20-26

SOUTHERN AFRICA

This area, stretching from Southern Angola in the west, across Zambia and Zimbabwe to Mozambique in the east, is not a traditional area of BMS work, but we have been establishing links in several ways.

Dr Suzanne Roberts, formerly of Bangladesh, is working in Mozambique to work in a community health project.

Steve and Pam Seymour are in Zimbabwe setting up a Baptist World Aid project.

We have also entered into partnership with National Baptist Convention in Zimbabwe and are looking for people to work with them.

We are hoping that a young person from Zimbabwe will be joining the 28:19 UK Challenge Team.

CALL TO PRAYER

**1994
Prayer
Guide
Update**

(Week numbers correspond with those in Prayer Guide)

Another quiet working

WEEK

STILL QUIET CBFZ compound, Kinshasa

It's been another quiet working week on the CBFZ compound. I slipped in the "working" bit deliberately. A friend asked whether, apart from prying on neighbours, making notes on wildlife and holding fruitless discussions with the odd-job man, I did any work. So I hasten to correct any impression given that productivity hereabouts is a bit on the low side.

The CBFZ compound has a working bit and a residential bit. The working bit is the Community's central offices and the residential bit consists of flats over the offices, a block of apartments, and houses, old, new or not-so-new. Old means turn-of-the-century, wooden, prefabricated in Britain. New means local cement-block circa 1980s, and not-so-new means somewhere in-between.

So, some people, like the Community President, Pastor Koli, the Medical Co-ordinator Dr Motingea live and work here. Joint Missionary Affairs Secretaries, Steve and Elizabeth Allford likewise. They make it easier for other people to get around, receive supplies, be informed and generally get on with their job. They rate a high score for output.

The office staff, outside and domestic workers, come in daily, weather and transport permitting. If it's raining at five in the morning the bus and taxi-bus drivers don't go to

work and that delays everyone else. The day gets away to a slow start and you're lucky to have them in by midday. Same effect when fuel is in short supply and vehicles are queueing at petrol-pumps. Taxi-bus drivers go on strike if the gendarmes are taking too much off them. On a normal day folk like to leave by three to join the thousands trying to get home. It'll often take two hours. So output can be dodgy, depending on the way the wind is blowing.

Some families live on the compound but work elsewhere. Pastor Enguta superintends our Kinsasa Region, based at Lisala church. Dr Mengi works for the ECZ, teaches at the Faculty of Theology and pastors the French speaking part of the International Church. Thomas Nlandu is General Secretary of the Bible Society of Zaire.

Jean (as in French), the odd-job man, does casual work paid by the day - very biblical. It keeps him off the streets a bit. He's capable of putting in a good day's work cutting grass.

He's also capable of goofing off if you don't give him a specific job and check that he does it. He sometimes behaves a bit strangely. "Is your chap all right?" or, "Isn't your bloke a bit ..?" they ask, voice trailing away. He looks scruffy, which is hardly surprising because he's living rough. But he has redeeming features.

He pointed to his shoes one

day, held together with bits of string. I gave him a pair of sandals. They'd been given by friends and were too small. Though slightly large he wore them for several weeks. One day he turned up barefooted.

"What's happened to your shoes?" I asked.

"I gave them to a woman who asked for them."

"But you need them for work," I said.

He asked for the money he had been putting by. "I'll buy some more shoes on the market."

"But Jean, you were saving that in the hope of renting a room."

I expostulated further, to no effect, so I gave him his money and sent him away.

I reflect that it had cost me nothing to give him the sandals. I still had a choice of footwear. He had not only given away his only shoes, he had also said goodbye to his hopes of renting a room. Was he even crazier than people thought, or had he performed a genuinely noble action? Either way it was sobering to recognise that I hang on to my possessions like grim death.

I have digressed. What do I do myself? Well, you wouldn't be reading this if you didn't think I was earning my keep, now would you?

*From our special correspondent,
Owen Clark, in Kinshasa.*

LETTER TO THE PM

The Baptist Union of Great Britain and the BMS have both written letters to the Prime Minister sharing a concern for Nicaragua. In the BMS letter, written by David Martin, Director of Operations, he said:

"You will be aware that Nicaragua's international debt amounts to over \$2,500 per person and is six times their 1993 GDP. Interest payments are equivalent to more than 120 per cent of their national yearly exports.

"In view of the statistics, we would urge you to appeal vigorously to the treasury ministers of the Paris Club to cancel all of Nicaragua's debts contracted before November 1988.

"We would thank you for the role you have taken in encouraging other nations to cancel debts owed by the world's poorest countries. We hope this advocacy will continue on behalf of nations unable, by themselves, to break the cycle of international debt and poverty.

"I have made frequent visits to Nicaragua and have first-hand awareness of the grim economic outlook there. The per capita GDP is \$425 (much lower than the World Bank definition of a per capita GDP of a severely indebted low-income country) and, of course, many families have to survive on an uncertain income that is well below the average. For many ordinary Nicaraguans conditions get steadily worse. They have felt no benefit from the aid given to their country in recent years since so much of it has been swallowed up in debt repayment.

"Unemployment is about 75 per cent. Severe drought in the last few months will badly affect harvests and our Society has made a grant from our own Relief fund. However, we know that such "band-aid" relief does not tackle fundamental issues. "For meaningful change, investment is vital in infrastructure and income-generating projects. If production and exports can be increased, and perhaps tourism developed, then desperately needed improvements in the national economy could begin.

We understand that about a third of Nicaragua's debt is with Russia. Obviously, that country has its own severe difficulties and would be reluctant to cancel its debts. Would it be possible for Britain to propose that in return for Russia's cancellation of Nicaraguan debt that Western creditors would cancel an equivalent amount of Russian debt? Both of those nations would then see some benefit.

"As you and the Chancellor, together with your advisers and colleagues in the G7, exert influence in world-wide economics, we urge you to seek radical solutions to the debt burden so that the South may trade on fair terms with the North.

"Our Society takes a keen interest in these issues and we will be circulating news of any developments to the 3,000 Baptist churches in England, Scotland and Wales, which support our work."

Copies of the letter have been sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and to the local Didcot MP, Robert Jackson.

BMS and the



Nicaragua Baptist Convention signed a partnership agreement in 1990. Peter and Sheila Brewer are our workers there, involved in theological education and based in Managua.

For more information on Nicaragua's debt problems write to: Debt Crisis Network, c/o Christian Aid, PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT; Tel: 071 620 4444.



QUESTIONNAIRE

A big thank you to all who filled in and sent back the Herald questionnaire. So far we've had about 1,000 replies.

All sorts of people not only made the effort to answer the questions but also took the opportunity to make comments.

"I've read the Herald for more than 40 years," was typical of some of our older readers.

There was also the new young reader who finds "it a good read and helpful."

We are now processing the information which is going to be invaluable as we continue to develop the magazine. Some time soon, in the Herald, we shall offer a summary of our findings.

CHECK OUT

OCTOBER 1994

ARRIVALS

Joy Knapman
from Sri Lanka

DEPARTURES

Ian and Sally Smith
to Nepal
Action Teams
to Belgium, Jamaica, Zimbabwe and Albania.

VISITS

John Passmore
to Italy
Sian Williams
to Italy
Reg Harvey
to Trinidad
David Martin
to Jamaica

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

(for gifts and legacies received between 1 and 31 July)

LEGACIES

Bayes, Mrs Ethel C	250.00
Carwright, Miss M A	2,099.52
Doughty Mrs Violet	1,000.00
Evans Miss M M	250.00
Evans Miss Elsie M	1,000.00
Greenwood, Miss E	500.00
Griffiths, Mrs Glenys	1,000.00
Guyan, C	30.00
Johnston, Miss B	2,501.74
Martin, Miss Margaret	6,014.71
Mason, Revd Walter H	100.00
Pugh, Miss E M	500.00
Robinson, Leslie V	1,000.00
Smith, Miss Nellie	74.80
Stimpson, Miss Annie	50.00
Stokes, Revd Leslie	825.00
Taylor, Mrs Olive	23.65

ANONYMOUS GIFTS

GYE	141.17
London W6	15.00
Worthing	5.00

NEW PM

The BMS has written to the new prime minister of Sri Lanka, Mrs Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumuratunga "to express good wishes as you and your colleagues take up the responsibilities of government.

"Please be assured of our prayers as you work for peace. May you be able to introduce measures to draw all peoples of the island into a process of reconciliation and reconstruction..."

RELIEF AID

The Baptist Missionary Society has sent a further £10,000 to Baptist World Aid for relief work in Rwanda. This is as result of gifts being received from churches and individuals.

The Society earlier contributed £15,000 directly from its emergency Relief Fund.

BMS General Director, Reg Harvey, writing to Baptist ministers, said: "We are grateful for more gifts coming in from the churches and designated for Rwanda. These latest gifts will be sent through for Rwanda relief rather than replenishing the Society's own fund. There are huge needs in the area, so do not feel that it is too late and be assured that money will be despatched for aid work in Rwanda or with the refugees across the borders in Zaire and Tanzania."

The BMS has also sent £10,000 from the Relief Fund to the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua (CBN) to help those suffering from a long-term drought. This is making worse a situation of poverty in Nicaragua where the CBN is having great difficulty in paying its pastors.

"The rainy season, which normally starts in May, has not behaved as expected," reported the Revd Elias Sanchez Garcia, CBN General Secretary.

"We are facing a grave drought which has affected approximately 20 per cent of the crops of the northern, south-western and western parts of the country."

In fact, in some parts of the west, drought damage has reached 100 per cent. "This situation is affecting the work of our pastors and churches," said Elias Sanchez.

"There is an ever increasing demand for help from our churches, especially those in rural areas." The CBN has asked for emergency aid for 31 churches and pastors and for its food for work programme.

THE MADGES ON SAFARI

Members and friends of Budleigh Salterton Baptist Church took to the road for a Safari Supper at the end of August. It was no mere social event. They were celebrating the 60th anniversary of the departure of Edna Madge (Edna Down as she then was), one of their members, for China as a BMS missionary. Edna qualified as a State Registered Nurse at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital and as a Midwife at the Salvation Army Mothers' Hospital, Clapton, London. She left for Taiyuanfu, Shansi, on 17 August 1934. She was joined there the following year by her fiancé, the Revd Ernest Madge, who had remained behind to study for his BD. They were married in Taiwan in 1935 during a lull in the air raids which were already a feature of the Sino-Japanese war.



Edna Madge (Down) 1934

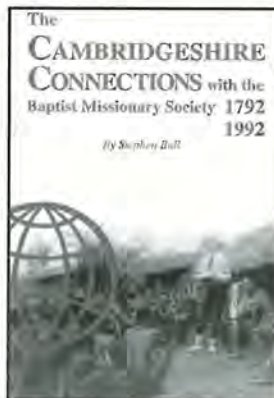
After many years, including more exciting and anxious times in China and India, they returned to the UK in 1959 when Mrs Madge became Secretary for



BMS women missionary candidates until 1966.

Ernest Madge served as General Overseas Secretary of the BMS until 1976 when they both moved to Budleigh Salterton where Ernest was pastor for the next six years. They are both now "retired" but remain active members of Budleigh Salterton Baptist Church.

The members of the church thought the Safari Supper was a good way to mark the life's work and Christian witness of a much travelled lady.



CAMBRIDGE CONNECTIONS

Cambridgeshires connections with the BMS from the Society's foundation in 1792 up to 1992 has been celebrated in a book written by former BMS missionary, Stephen Bull.

Starting with the first secretary of the Society, Andrew Fuller, "Cambridgeshire Connections" describes the "excitement, challenge and dedication, not to mention dangers and sacrifice of those Cambridgeshire men and women who have played an important role in the Society's 200 year history - and the support given by those who 'held the ropes' at

home."

Copies, price £4.50 (£5.00 by post) - this includes a donation to BMS - can be obtained from: Stephen Bull, 1 Gibraltar Lane, Swavesey, Cambridge, or Revd Jim Clarke, 82 Cannon Street, Lt Downham, Ely.

AIR MILES

Thank you, to all those who sent in "air miles" following our request in these columns. As a result, BMS was able to book two flights at a saving of £450 to the Society.

So keep sending them in. BMS spends a lot of money each year on air flights so each air mile you send us will help to keep costs down.

LUDHIANA

Since its inception the Christian Medical College and Hospital Ludhiana has always been in the forefront in perceiving the health needs of India. New initiatives have been born out of these perceptions.

The Christian Dental College founded in 1992 is no exception to this. Statistics of one dentist to 85,000 population speak of the need for qualified dentists in India.

Two years on the College is now fully recognised by the Punjab University and results for the first BDS examination have revealed a 100 per cent pass rate.

Two students had distinctions in Anatomy and Dental Materials and all achieved more than 60 per cent.

As the Medical College celebrates its centenary we thank God for such a promising start for this new college.

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BETHEL BRIDGE

H Lactlankima is a Mizo Christian working in Nepal. He is helped by the BMS, in part through the "Moving Mountains" project, in a joint venture with the Mizoram Baptist Church in north-east India. The bridge he is helping to construct is funded by Tear Fund.

The survey of the proposed three bridges were completed in September 1993 while I was doing my Nepali language study. The HDCS (Human Development Communication), a branch of NCF where I am working, employs one Civil Engineer (Nepali). He, along with the BPC (Butwal Power Company) surveyors did the survey.

After the survey he started the design of the suspension bridge. I joined him February 1994. We called our new bridge "Bethel Bridge." The Engineers of Butwal Power Company are our consultants for each step. All the paper work was done by us in their office.

On 16 May 1994 with my friend Ringa, nine pastors and elders from Jhanlang left Kathmandu by bus with the tools and plant for the construction of the bridge. From the last motor road they carried the equipment. It took three days to reach Jhanlang.

The Bethel Bridge we have to construct is between Jhanlang and Lapa Village over the Ankhu River. The existing means of crossing the river are very poor, rough and dangerous. During the dry season the local people make a temporary wooden bridge every year but it is not strong enough. Many have already been lost whilst crossing this wooden bridge. This year, in April a twelve year old boy fell off the bridge and drowned. When the river is high they have to dismantle it.

They stretch a wire rope of

26mm diameter across the river, about 60m. With various attachments they pull themselves across in a horizontal position. When they need to take a heavy load across, or women and children, they are pulled across by a long rope. While I was on the site, I had to supervise both banks, because I was unable to cross by myself. They had to pull me across. This means of crossing the river is their last resource, even for a expert local person crossing the river it is extremely tiresome.

After crossing the river from Jhanlang, at about 200 metres, there is a very old wooden bridge stretching over one stream which joins the Ankhu river. The bridge has no proper handrail, and no proper maintenance. It hangs at about 40 metres high and spans 25 metres. At the beginning of this year one woman

fell from this wooden bridge and was killed. More than four people have fallen from this wooden bridge and have been killed. Even when we finish Bethel Bridge they will have to cross this wooden bridge to go to Lapa village.

On 23rd May 1994, people from Jhanlang and Lapa were on both banks of the Ankhu river with tools in their hands. They were overjoyed to turn dreams into reality. Also they can earn money in their own village. There is no income generating project in this area so this bridge construction is a real blessing. When they have to sell their agricultural products they have to travel at least 4-5 days, after which it has very low value. When they work in our project they can earn Rs70/- per day (£0.95). Since the project is small we cannot employ all the villagers, but the village leaders help us to employ them turn by turn. Due to problems in the Khinti project the Himal Hydro Company are going to help us in erecting Bethel Bridge.



Sarah Prentice



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