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# Travellin' Man: Steve Chalke moving out of the comfort zone

**Holiday  
Issue**

The Missionary Herald is the magazine of the Baptist Missionary Society



In September's Issue:  
Free pull out World Map poster with details of Operation Agri and BMS Agricultural and development projects



**4** Out of the comfort zone: television presenter Steve Chalke, a Baptist minister, challenges the notion that we can't do much as foreign tourists to make an impact on the poverty we see.

*The hidden face of tourism: Missionary Jacqui Wells tells of a spark of hope for the victims of tourism's lust for pleasure.*



**11** Rough guide to Jamaica: Six BMS Action Team members find another side to the holiday dream isle

*Challenge UK: Three nations united, in the form of three young people, challenge Britain's youth to Think Mission.*

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# *mh.* editorial

## *mh.* Missionary Herald

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It's holiday time: time to get away, time to forget work, to get away from it all, to relax. But do we leave everything behind? Can Christians leave everything behind? What about our faith? Surely we can't shed that like a winter coat left in the wardrobe throughout the summer months. So what does it mean to be a Christian on holiday?

For over 200 years Baptists in Britain, through the BMS, have committed themselves to world mission. Now many of the places we've learned about, prayed for, sent missionaries to are within the reach of tourists. Members of our churches are taking holidays in places like India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Should they merely be looking at the sights? Or is it possible to encourage the small Christian communities in these countries by sharing worship, even if we don't understand the language, deepening our understanding of their situation and committing ourselves to prayer which is more focused? It means so much to small Christian groups to see Christians from other countries. It reminds them, surrounded so often by majorities who profess another faith, that they are part of a large world-wide Church.

There are other questions which we need to ask. Some of them are explored this month. What is the demand for more and more overseas holidays going to the areas we visit? Catering for the tourist so easily destroys local communities and makes people dependent upon the hotel trade and entertainment industries. In some situations gambling, drug dealing, prostitution and child pornography are on the increase, catering for the tastes of some western visitors. Here Christians have a responsibility, by their life style, to show the love and concern of Christ to everyone. Like Christ let's go out to meet and respect the local people, not just see them as photo opportunities. ●

**COVER PHOTO:**  
Steve Chalke on  
his visit to India  
(Mike Moore,  
courtesy Daily Mirror)



Countries once visited only by missionaries now attract tourists in search of the sun. Christians among them face challenges for which they are not prepared. **Mark Rudall** talks to Steve Chalke about stepping...

out of the

comfort



**S**teve Chalke is an ideas man. So full of new ideas is he that even the world outside the Baptist ministry has noticed his string of colourful initiatives and thrust him into the role of media clergyman. But although innovation may be a watchword for Steve, his roots lie firmly in the attitudes of Jesus and he is always ready to discuss ethical questions arising in our changing world.

As the Two Thirds world chases the Dollar so tourism has become an economic lifesaver to the extent that a country like Thailand, once mysterious as 'Siam', is mysterious no longer, its rural poverty and urban prostitution on view to all. Now boasting one of the world's finest tourist airlines, its airport in Bangkok is so like Gatwick that it can almost make

missionaries feel homesick.

The same is true of other formerly inaccessible places in the Third World and the result is that lands where there is still grinding poverty, rampant AIDS or other horrors are now open to the 'been there, seen that, done that' mentality of the package holiday maker. Holiday makers are often attracted to sun and sea resorts in places like Bulgaria, the Gambia and even as far away as South East Asia by the cheap packages on offer.

But whether we are kiss-me-quick tourists or of the more serious, sometimes slightly disdainful, ruck-sacked traveller class, what we might see in India, Africa or Latin America is exactly the same. We will see the poverty of the street child or the young mother driven to prostitution by hunger and we may or may not

allow such visions to change us.

Steve has an explanation for why Christians can find this sort of sight so difficult:

"When, in the New Testament letter of James we're told to take care of the poor man who turns up at the door we can meet that need," he says. "But the problem with the package holiday - jetting into India to the wonderful golden beaches of Goa, is that the tourist is likely to arrive first of all in a sprawling city like Bombay where there are six million homeless people. There is nothing one person on their own can do to meet that need.

"Jet travel lands global poverty on our doorsteps in a way we can't possibly take in. It has a numbing effect and eventually one of two things happens. You either ignore it and become



Travellin' man: Steve Chalke



blasé about it or you become guilt-ridden about the whole thing.

“We often ask ourselves, when we see someone in need, ‘What do I do about it?’. That’s a typical response for we live in an individualistic society which is all about ME and what I do about anything,” says Steve.

“However, what the single ‘I’ can do is always very limited. What ‘we’ can do together as members of society is a lot more and I believe that the individualism dominating our society is one of the greatest barriers to our meeting need in others.

“It’s important that we broaden our response to the needs we become aware of, and we can do that by contributing to organisations whose systems of care may ultimately prevent others from getting into the same kind of position. So while it may be

true that individually I can’t respond to the human need I’m seeing, corporately we can begin to make a difference”.

Tourism can be a force for good. Steve says he has known people return from abroad and start to support charities that can make a difference for those they saw living in poverty.

“It can also open Christian eyes to people of other religious traditions. To meet Muslims and Hindus who seem to display incredible passion and love for humanity can break down the prejudices that many Christian people hardly know they have.

“That’s wholesome but can create a problem for the Christian. When we think simply that all Muslims or Hindus are outside the fold and

*continues on page 6*

To meet Muslims and Hindus who seem to display incredible passion and love for humanity can break down the prejudices that many Christian people hardly know they have.



## World Mission Link

With a number of missionaries taking leave of absence or coming to the end of their service with BMS the post bag has had many enquiries from churches -

Our Link-Up missionary is not returning overseas in the foreseeable future and I've been asked by the Church Meeting to find out how we get a new Link-Up missionary.

- Or As our Link-Up missionary has come to the end of their service with the BMS I am writing to ask if the Caring family can be new Link-Up missionary.
- Or I'm very concerned that you have still not arranged for our Link-Up group to have a new Link-Up missionary. It's many weeks now since our missionary went on leave of absence.

If your Link-Up group is changing its Link-Up missionary here's how it works.

- 1 The World Mission Link Organiser will write to the Contact person of the Link-Up group, explain what is happening and also start the process for choosing a new Link-Up.
- 2 So missionaries are not overloaded and a Link-Up can be arranged with all those groups who ask for one we limit the number of Link-Up per missionary. This means we sometimes have to say a missionary is not able to accept any further Link-Ups.
- 3 Arranging a new Link-Up takes time. The churches in the group need to meet and agree; the missionary requested has to be contacted and agree.

If your church is in a Link-Up group without a Link-Up missionary get in touch with the Contact person for the group, and ask them what is happening.

If the delay seems to be with the churches offer your Contact person some help to move things along.

If the delay appears to be at Didcot BMS Headquarters, we don't mind if you write in to ask why everything has gone quiet. We'll do our best to provide you with answers.

There are Link-Up groups needing missionaries and missionaries able to accept more Link-Ups. While it is process involving many people it should still be possible for it to be completed in a matter of weeks, not months. ●

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therefore going to hell that's - well, sort of comfortable. When we meet one who is honestly struggling to find God, we want to hang on to our exclusive belief that Jesus is the way and the truth, but then it becomes harder to deal with the Muslim and the Hindu. But these experiences help us learn to respect people, to listen to them and to think out our own position based on points of realism rather than second-hand, passed-on theories about what they believe and what they're like".

Recently returned from making a new 'Christmas Cracker' video in Bangkok, where he saw victims of Thailand's sex-tourism industry, Steve Chalke is aware, too, of the evils of the tourism revolution. He draws attention, though to exploitation of another kind:

"Walking through one of the big Indian markets my wife and I once saw dresses on sale for around 40 rupees (about 80p). We knew that in

Britain we would see the same garments - not just similar, but the same - on sale for £40. So who's making the money? This kind of thing raises questions about exploitation, sweat shops and so on, but the same questions are faced every day not just by tourists but by shoppers who go no further than Croydon High Street. TV too, as well as the jet aeroplane, has shrunk the world and we all know that these things are issues to be faced honestly.

Two Chalke initiatives, Oasis Trust and Christmas Cracker, are both heavily involved in overseas ministry borne partly of Steve's desire to give purpose and vision to young Christians, and also because he is a visionary himself. Something of a prophet in the global village, his personal response to what he saw when visiting India for the first time has, with the help of other Christians, made a dramatic difference to the lives of many poor people around the world. ●

## Global poverty: You either ignore it and become blasé about it or you become guilt-ridden about the whole thing.





# the hidden face of tourism

Thailand boasts the largest sex industry in the world. **Jacqui Wells** holds a banner of hope over the tragic story about the victims of tourism's lust for pleasure

**T**he holiday programmes on British television paint a very good picture and are brilliant in their description of the country of Thailand. Thailand has everything to offer the tourist and the spectacular natural beauty is there for all to see and admire.

Like...

- Spectacular mountain ranges which just seem to go on for ever.
- Waterfalls with white water rushing and cascading over rocks.
- White sandy beaches lined with coconut palms.
- Clear blue sea where the water is so warm.
- The splendour of the ancient cities like Ayutthaya and Sukhothi.
- Temples, where the hands of very skilled artisans have produced so much beauty to behold.

And there is plenty for the tourist to do, like...

- Walking in the mountains.
- Riding the back of elephants.
- White water rafting.
- Bamboo rafting.
- Snorkelling and scuba diving.



- Wind surfing and water skiing.
  - Playing golf on beautifully landscaped courses.
  - Visiting botanical gardens, orchid and butterfly farms.
  - A chance to acquire the best sun tan you've ever had.
  - Opportunities to see Thai dancing and the chance to appreciate the beauty of Thai classical music.
- However, behind all of this breathtaking natural beauty there is a tragic story.

Thailand boasts the largest sex industry in the world. Whatever your sexual persuasion might be, your sexual need or appetite could be satisfied. That's reality.

In Bangkok, in the red-light area, nothing is hidden. On both sides of the street where tourists are invited to buy Thai handicrafts you will find the bars, night clubs and massage parlours. Men wait outside the bars to invite you in. Once you are in you can see live sex shows, erotic dancing and striptease, homosexual and lesbian acts. It's embarrassing to walk through this area because the men at

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the bars are insistent and they find it hard to understand that you are not interested. After all you look just the same as so many of the 'tourists' who come to Thailand just for this. Moreover, the people you see disappearing into the bars look to be very respectable Western people... just like you!

Some of the men and women in the bars, massage parlours and brothels work as prostitutes. Tourists come especially to visit the brothels and they pay the agreed price to sleep with a prostitute. But, of course, there is another price to be paid. Thailand is now facing an AIDS epidemic. The incidence of HIV infection is high and more and more cases are being reported.

In the hospitals, the temples and in hospices people are dying of AIDS every day. Men and women working in the sex industry are at high risk and, obviously, the people who frequent the brothels are playing with fire!

A wonderful holiday in Thailand could end up in disaster because the person becomes infected with the HIV virus. And all of this goes on in Bangkok but the sad thing is that all of this is mirrored all over Thailand,



**Above and opposite: Sex industry is no respecter of persons - even innocents children and victims**  
**opposite below: Bangkok centre for a sex industry**

especially in towns and cities.

Paedophiles are also attracted to Thailand. In Bangkok there are places where the tourist or foreigner living in Thailand can pick up a boy or girl, sometimes as young as five, and sexually abuse them or take pornographic photographs... or both.

In the north west of Thailand, my work takes me to the mountains because I teach among the women of the Karen Tribe. I meet men and women from nearly all the tribal groups in the NW of Thailand. The Hill Tribe women are particularly beautiful and are, therefore, at great risk.

Unscrupulous men from the towns and cities come to the mountains with the intention of luring some of these girls away. They are very clever! They deceive the parents of the young girls by offering employment in the city.

Their offers are attractive and they promise that their daughters will receive a good salary working as maids, restaurant workers or shop assistants. Some parents, taken in by these plausible stories, allow their children to go away with these men, receiving four thousand baht as an advance payment. But what they do

## Dying for someone to care

Malee and her older sister are two Alahs girls from Burma who were kidnapped. A friend invited them to work in Thailand near the border town of Mesai but it was all a trick.

They were both sold and forced to work as prostitutes in a brothel near Bangkok. No one really knows what they had to endure but both were desperate to escape. But how?

Malee thought of a way; she simply jumped from the fifth floor of the building where she was living. People saw her jump and heard her cries of pain as she hit the ground. She broke her leg and was badly bruised and shaken - but she had escaped.

People came to help, the authorities became involved and other girls, including Malee's sister, were rescued from the brothel.

After hospital treatment they were helped by a Thai lady, who has given her life to help girls like Malee and her sister. These two stayed together in the emergency home in Bangkok. They were transferred to the New Life Centre in Chiang Mai and Malee began a new life with her sister. But Malee's sister became ill and died.

It wasn't AIDS but she died quite suddenly.

Malee, naturally very sad, felt she needed to get away and got a job in a Bangkok restaurant. All was going well until she became ill. Now Malee is dying. She found she is HIV positive and is showing symptoms of AIDS.

Malee is now back in Chiang Mai living in the NLC's fourth home which is a hospice. She is safe now and she knows that she will be loved and cared for there. ●





not know is that they may never see their daughters again.

Others, however, who are addicted to opium or heroin know exactly what they are doing because the girls end up working in brothels all over the country. They are forced to work as prostitutes and if they refuse, they are raped until they comply.

These brothels are not usually frequented by foreign tourists but by Thai men. The girls have no freedom, they have to stay until their debt is paid but in the few years working as prostitutes their lives are destroyed and the traumas they face are

unspeakable.

Often they end up dead - another victim of AIDS.

The Prime Minister of Thailand and his government ministers have promised to stamp out child prostitution and the abuse of children. The Thai authorities carry out raids on brothels, girls are rescued and brothel owners are sometimes arrested.

The Thai government and other aid agencies are active in AIDS education programmes to warn people about the dangers of casual sex and drug abuse but while this is good, the problem is enormous.

The Christian church is involved and very concerned. A group working in Bangkok in the red light area aims to help girls working in the bars.

The Thailand Baptist Missionary Fellowship, of which BMS is a part, works hard to help. In Chiang Mai four houses make up the New Life Centre which was opened in 1987 in response to the moral danger faced by so many Hill Tribe girls.

Now over 120 girls study at the centre; the majority had no opportunity to study as children. They work in the evening and during the day they have handicrafts training.

Some who have graduated from the NLC have gone on to commercial college or vocational college to study dressmaking or typing. Others have gone on to Bible college or have found employment in the city. Some have returned home and are now married with families.

Although the NLC work is just like a drop falling into a bucket, girls have been given the opportunity to enjoy a new life, having been rescued from a life of forced prostitution.

However, not all the stories have happy endings. NLC is now caring for six girls who are HIV positive and showing signs of AIDS in a hospice home which opened in January. ●

### How can I help?

This year's BMS Young People's Project, Sawadee, is raising money to help girls in the NLC and the BMS has already given a grant to help the health project for Hill Tribe people. These projects specialise in AIDS education in the languages of all the six major Hill Tribe groups.

If you want to become involved in Jacqui's work, please pray and write to her to encourage her. If you would like to pray regularly, and would like to receive Jacqui's prayer letter, telephone Beverly Wilson at BMS Didcot (01235 512077). ●





# what the brochures didn't say

**Margaret Swires, working in Natal, Brazil reflects on the Tourist Industry there.**



**Above:**  
Margaret Swires  
**Below:**  
Beach paradise at Natal



Brazil has its glossy holiday brochures, just like anywhere else, seeking to promote an idyllic dream of golden beaches, palm trees, and rides on 100 foot sand dunes set against the background of the azure blue Atlantic. Christian and non-Christian alike open the pages and are lured by its beguiling charm. For the Brazilian Christian a holiday can be a chance to taste what is normally denied: a night at a show, drinking at the bar, going dancing. After all, away from home, what other eyes don't see, their hearts can't condemn.

The tourist industry, here, as elsewhere, does provide a lot of work for people. Those employed in the hotel industry might be underpaid, but at least they have a job for which they are grateful. Whilst sunbathing on the beach, just in ten minutes, it is not unusual to count as many as 20 people approach selling their wares. One does not have to venture out to the shopping centres. Here food, jewellery, hats, T-shirts, tablecloths, ice-cream and hammocks are all brought to you.

But that is an acceptable face. Lurking beneath is something more sinister. The tourist industry offers you anything you desire including male, female, teenager and child prostitution. Hiding behind the hotels and rows of good houses, hidden in the sand dunes, down the back street are beggars, and people for whom poverty in all grades down to the worst you can imagine, live. They are society's outcasts, the maimed, and mentally

retarded, or those for whom living this way has caused undernourishment and exposure to disease so that their bodies are covered with open sores.

The tourist who frequents the bar or the betting office can also see poverty not just in those who are unemployed, but in those who have a job. A high percentage of working men, once their pay packet is in their pocket, will leave their place of work and go straight to the betting office. Here a large part of their earnings will be placed on the 'dead cert' that wasn't. The disappointment from this will cause these men to stagger into the nearest bar, only to return home some hours later with a negligible amount in their pockets. This in turn forces women, who would otherwise wish to stay at home, out to work to compensate.

The astute tourist might even be aware of the children, usually boys aged around four to eleven who do the rounds of the streets knocking on doors, begging for money. They may be aware of those same children crying because they have not got anything to take home; or of others sleeping on the streets, which is better than returning home to be beaten because the takings were poor that day.

Beggars. Street children. Drunks. Pimps. Con men. Probably not what you want to be seeing or having anything to do with when you go on holiday.

But then again some of these people never have the chance even to have a holiday. ●



# rough guide to Jamaica



The 28:19 Action Team comprising Jo Bunn, Hazel Prigent, Andrea Roberts, Robert Beamish, Brian Leitch and Rhodri Walters spent six months on the Caribbean dream island which could easily have been a nightmare

Jamaica, the jewel of the Caribbean, sugary white sands, blue waters, cool green mountains and shimmering waterfalls. Christopher Columbus described the emerald isle as “the fairest land mine eyes have ever seen”. It’s the third largest island in the Caribbean and the most famous; thousands of sun seeking holiday makers descent on the beaches each year making the most of luxurious facilities and exquisite surroundings. It doesn’t matter if it is a romantic holiday for two or a fun packed activity holiday for the family, Jamaica has it all!

Jamaica has a long and vibrant history that has resulted in a rich cultural heritage. Over the centuries people have come from all over the Globe and stayed producing a people that fits the country’s motto of “Out of

many, one people”. As you travel around this mountainous country you see the influence of the settlers from Africa, Spain and Britain in the art and craft, architecture and cuisine.

Sadly for many this so-called dream isle doesn’t exist. Scratch below the surface and many hidden problems quickly blur the almost heavenly image that the western world has thrust upon this island. Leave the hotel or the rigorously protected tourist spot and a whole new Jamaica comes to light a Jamaica which is as much a third world country as many in Africa or South America where many of the people are in a constant battle for survival, with poor living conditions and ever increasing levels of violence.

Walk through the streets of the main urban areas and you will observe a totally different way of life where it is a survival of the fittest mentality or on some occasions the survival of the most treacherous.

Since independence, politics have played a huge role in Jamaican society. Political parties sometimes use unscrupulous methods to gain voters. Areas of Downtown Kingston are strongholds for the two main political parties, The Jamaican Labour Party (JLP) and The People’s National Party (PNP) which is currently in

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power, making political allegiance a potential life or death situation.

During election time voters who are thought to be wavering in their choice are controlled by threats of violence which are ruthlessly carried out; there were 800 murders during the 1982 election.

There is now tension between the different areas as some are seen to get preferential treatment in terms of housing and general infrastructure.

People in the “garrison communities” of Downtown Kingston live in fear for their lives; some have been killed as they walked from their house to their outside toilet or slain in the streets.

Many are senseless revenge killings as the desire for political power gets out of hand, or drug-related as rival gangs try to control an area, with young people used as assassins in return for cheap drugs or for the sense of power.

The Action Team’s hosts protected them from the worst of these areas but not from the uncensored and graphic news coverage of the violence, deprivation and unsanitary conditions. Rob and Rhod worked in the midst of this for two months at a church in the area. Gangs idly hung around street corners, the bored youngsters trying to prove their self-worth by carrying knives and other weapons.

**Previous page: One of the children helped by the team. Action team evangelism on the road. Right: Happy face after an Action Team activity opposite: Street scenes from downtown Kingston**



While working at the church with a nursery school in progress one day, a gun battle erupted outside in the street. Many Jamaicans feel uncomfortable venturing off the main street in this area with an ineffective police force suffering from low morale, who seemed to have little desire to get involved and prevent the gang “wars”.

Despite this the team found, even in the roughest areas, people were pleasant with a desire to talk, even though at times they only wanted to beg.

It would have been strange for Jamaicans in these areas to see white people for any length of time and the novelty and curiosity gave a good opportunity for the team to talk and witness.

By contrast, the small rural community of Robin’s River in Westmoreland lacked even the low level of services in city areas, with a sporadic electricity supply, rain or river water as the only drinking supply and the almost total lack of trans-

port. The 30 dwellings were inhabited by farmers, trying to grow enough food for the family and fighting a daily struggle to find the money to send the children to school.

Although education is free, transport and food are not provided.

It was into this situation that Jo and Brian were put to work in a newly opened nursery school and to relieve a woman who had taken it upon herself with no official support to build a church in the village.

They found it encouraging to see how God worked through the woman and two other Christians and also to see the interest that the community had in hearing the gospel as the people looked for a better life for themselves and their children and an escape from poverty.

The lush green hills that surrounded the areas provided excellent cover to grow “ganja” (marijuana) to the point of neglecting other work but the villagers were often duped by profit seeking middlemen and so received very little or no money from their “crop”.

The team were offered more drugs in one day at a tourist area than at any other time in their stay.

The expressive and lively Jamaican people are demonstrative in worship and churches are ablaze with colour. Jamaican Christians look smart whatever the occasion with hats for women and ties for men, a contrast to the

**Many murders are senseless revenge killings as the desire for political power gets out of hand, or drug-related as rival gangs try to control an area, with young people used as assassins in return for cheap drugs.**



team's more relaxed style. Children are expected to be seen and not heard during the three-hour services. Lively choruses are repeated time and time again on loud sound systems so you often hear a church before you see it.

The team found the congregation involvement encouraging with their shouts of "Praise the Lord" and "Amen", but this could sometimes appear mechanical.

The Church is trying to move with the times, stemming the use of the King James Bible, which is still used a lot in youth work although isn't well understood.

While Jamaica is an island of beautiful scenery from the stunning sunsets of the west coast to the rolling hills of the Blue Mountains, people don't live on beaches drinking coconut rum and they do struggle to survive. Although the team might only have made a glancing impression on the Jamaican people, the real effect was on the lives of the team members. They returned to Britain realising how much God has given them in material possessions and in family life.

All the memories are good, even of the hard times, and they know how much more prepared they are for serious Christian service. ●

**Brian Leitch** collated the thoughts of his Action Team colleagues for this report.



# rough guide to jamaica



# challenge

Fresh from the paradise holiday island of Jamaica and the sun-drenched land of Zimbabwe Karen Francis and Martin Samangaya journeyed to Britain to join Nick Humphries on a Challenge UK, ten-month pilot mission Action Team pioneered by the BMS.

They were unprepared for the surprise that this nation was in desperate need of a mission of spiritual mercy from abroad...

**Richard Wells** interrupted their national tour.

**T**he greatest shock for visitors Karen Francis and Martin

Samangaya as they stepped out of their planes on to British soil should have been the thermal climatic contrast

It is cold in January.  
Very cold.

That and a creeping awareness of the thousands of miles separating them from home for the next ten months might well have propelled them speedily towards the Heathrow departures lounge.

But if they suffered from cold extremities or homesickness the two travellers seemed to credit this with as much importance as a penguin would a brochure for a package tour to the Sahara.

The real shock for them, as they prepared for the task ahead, was that there appeared among Britain's youth an arrogance about God that was foreign to them. Questions about God's existence and their doubts about the relevance of the Bible in the 1990s became the focus of attention for these two visitors in mission.

Back home, says Martin, a 22-year-old field school



worker with Scripture Union in Zimbabwe, the young people he knew lived with the acceptance of God's existence. People in his country grow up believing in a powerful spiritual force; the evangelistic challenge is to convince them to accept Jesus as the only prayer mediator and not their ancestral spirits.

Karen (21), whose home country of Jamaica was built on a strong missionary tradition, had risen through the ranks in a strong, secure Christian youth culture,

becoming secretary and then vice-president of her church youth group.

This graduate in business administration, born again at the age of 14, had understandably carried an image of Britain as a Christian country, a role-model for the world.

Both were unprepared for the cynicism and ignorance among youngsters they met.

But spiritual scepticism was no stranger to Nick Humphries, the British member of the three-member team. The 21-year-old



## uk



computer science diploma graduate from Burgess Hill had lived with it through his school days and into college life at Brighton.

Thrown into a BMS mission experiment, these three different characters were expected to communicate with young people at schools, youth groups and churches through drama, song and straight talk about the meaning of life, the universe and... world mission.

Experimental Challenge UK was making its initial, tentative steps into "mission

in reverse", the result of a conviction that young people in Britain needed motivating in world mission.

John Passmore, one of the project's architects, said: "We realised that if we wanted to inspire youth in world mission, a great way was to bring young people to Britain from abroad. Linking

it was in its gestation.

"Young people's roots are not so deep here," says Karen. "It's hard to talk to people who don't want to know. It's because of young people's concentration span. They don't want someone to sit and talk to them for an hour and a half.

"You can play games then



them with someone from this country gave a balance to the team, making it a truly multi-national action team."

Between the excitement of drawing board creativity a couple of years ago and reality in the cold light of a wintry January 1995, a full-time co-ordinator had been selected, the multi-national team recruited and a target set: Tour Britain, aim to meet 10,000 young people and give them a taste for world mission.

But it was to prove a bigger challenge at its birth than

have a group discussion but you can't teach the Bible; they don't like to be told 'this is from the Bible'. But you can take a story out of the Bible, be creative with it, make it fun and dramatise it. That's OK."

A typical week might embrace leading an informal meeting of a small group of young Christians, presentations during a church service, evangelism on the streets, visiting schools to lead discussions during religious education lessons, taking a school assembly and

even taking part in a youth conference.

Their red Montego, has taken them more than 6,000 miles from Scotland to the north of England, Buckinghamshire, Wales, the south west, East Anglia, London, Oxford and back up north.

Living together in anything from a caravan to smart suburban homes, the trio have had to learn to co-exist peaceably, "although we don't always see eye-to-eye," admits Nick. Change in their outlook on life was inevitable.

"I've become more flexible and open-minded," admits Martin, qualities he intends to take with him into a nursing course on which he has been accepted in Leeds.

Karen, who challenged her natural shyness by preaching her first sermon - a 15-minute talk on stewardship - discovered that talking to youngsters was not as difficult as she feared.

"I've never done anything like this before," says Karen. "I've certainly been brought out of myself."

Nick grew accustomed to taking a step back from his partners, more popular with youngsters because of their backgrounds, and has added patience and consideration to his attributes.

There is a first time for everything, and whatever they learned travelling as the first Challenge UK team, one new experience will stay with them - it was the first time Karen and Martin had ever seen snow. ●



Believers' Baptism pushes us all the time to face the world with the challenge of a missionary God, says John Wilson in the sixth in his series about the 'going' of the Gospel

# plunged into the trinity!

**T**he midday sun bore into our heads as we left the shade of the trees to gather by the river for the Easter Sunday baptisms. As the pastor asked a long list of detailed and personal questions, some buffaloes swam into the area where those who were going to be baptised were standing.

Fortunately the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit was pronounced before their curiosity disrupted the long awaited plunge!

This scene in central India might reflect our idea of early Christian practice better than the well tiled, nicely heated pools that are found in many British Baptist churches. I suppose a few believers might have had the use of a Roman bath, which could in turn justify installing a jacuzzi in the church! But it did make me stop and think when I came to plunge the first new Christian that I knew in France. The tried and tested method was the largest inflatable paddling pool sold by the hyper-market. Again it was Easter Sunday and the person went down into the water, only this time it was ducks instead of buffaloes that swam around us. Being only painted ones I suppose I could have asked a lot more questions that I did!

Baptism! Yes that's the Greek word we use! It somehow makes it all much

**Opposite:**  
**The joy of a public expression of faith in believers baptism**

more respectable. But when Jesus told his disciples to "Go", he told them to make disciples by plunging people into God's name. Of course discipleship means more than getting wet but according to Jesus it does begin there. Discipleship involves going in over your head. Our commitment to God isn't signified by some aesthetic ritual act. Conversion to God in Christ is first and foremost headlong. When we've taken the plunge then we can set about putting into practice everything else he has commanded.

Believers' Baptism is the mark of a missionary church. Such a church is looking outward. Whilst recognising the grace of God to all those who are born into Christian families, it does not favour its children over those born to non-Christian parents. God's grace is for all, but it can only be fully entered into and explored by those who, through an awakened and repentant heart, give themselves fully into the Christ covenant. The cutting edge of mission is kept alive when each individual is asked to decide for him or herself whether she wants to be a disciple of Jesus.

In Britain such 'evangelical' thinking is so commonplace, that the baptismal sign is in danger of being masked. It never really troubled me that in all the Baptist churches to

which I belonged in Britain, baptism was not a major issue. Baptism had become an elastic concept where some amount of water and some sort of confession had been made sometime in the life of the believer. This is regarded on the whole as sufficient for church membership.

Open membership came into Baptist life about 180 years ago when the Union of General and Particular Baptists took place. With the passing of time the pungency of the issues involved have faded. It was something of an awakening for me to find that this debate is very much alive and real for French Baptists. A similar union is forming between the open membership churches of the Eglise Libre and the closed membership of the Baptists. Most of my fellow French pastors cannot begin to contemplate open membership as being true to Baptist convictions.

Mission is the issue in question. When the sharp cutting edge of discipleship is moulded into a rite by which one enters 'the church' we have moved from the dynamic of the baptismal act to a christendom which determines its own parameters. Baptism is our point of meeting with the mission of God to an unsaved world and it is also our point of commission to join in His work just the



way Jesus did. I'm not divorcing baptism from church membership; on the contrary I'm wanting to define the church by the baptismal sign of discipleship.

Believers' Baptism guards us from seeing the church as our sphere of service, it pushes us all the time to face the world with the challenge of a missionary God. We baptise in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and not in the name of the one or the other, because it is precisely this revelation of a triune God that makes us aware of His mission to man. This Creating, Accompanying and Enabling God gives us Life.

Baptism is much less a take it or leave it option for me now that I'm working somewhere where it's not the expected or even an acceptable thing. Perhaps the free and easy attitude of many British Baptist churches is because they are looking to share the already available sheep in a very large evangelical pen. Perhaps we could do better service to the whole church by showing them how to go fishing in the world. The Catholic church in France has seen a significant turn-around in the last ten years with four times as many adult 'baptisms'. Baptists don't always need to follow, sometimes they can show the way. Discipleship begins for us when someone is ready for being plunged into the trinity...! ●

### Questions

- 1 What is the baptismal practice in your church?
- 2 In your fellowship would you say that baptism is seen foremost as a mark of "discipleship" or as a mark of "belonging"?
- 3 Does it matter whether church membership is 'open' or 'closed'? What importance would you give to the question and why?





# Calendar 1996

New for 1996! The BMS 1996 Calendar has many new features including larger colour photos (one per month), new easy to follow diary format, space to act as a prayer reminder, and central wire binding for extra stay-flat qualities. Now in a new size it will fit neatly on your kitchen or office wall or church notice board. As ever it features people and places around the world where BMS is working and witnessing alongside national Christians.

Buy one for yourself and one for a friend. Better still, buy ten or more and get 10 percent discount.



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This month's picture of a tribal woman from India reminds us that all over the world, tribal peoples are struggling to retain their identity and even to survive.

In Burma (Myanmar), the Karen tribe has been fighting for an independent state since independence from Britain in 1948. For 40 years there has been a steady trickle of refugees crossing into Thailand to join the Thai Karen. In recent months a Karen Buddhist faction has broken away from the majority Christian group to align itself with the military government. Increased fighting has encouraged a flood of refugees into Thailand where there are now over 84,000 living in camps stretching many kilometres southwards along the border from Mae Hong Song in the north. But they are not safe. Gangs of Karen Buddhists from Burma, on the orders of the government, are crossing into the camps to kidnap or behead Karen leaders. Back in Burma they face torture and death.

At the end of March, a convoy of five lorries carrying food to camps in the Mae Sariang area of Thailand was ambushed. One Thai driver was ordered out of his cab, tied up and shot dead. His truck was then set on fire. The four other drivers managed

to turn their trucks round and escape. Something like 50,000 Karen are trapped in Burma where, it is reported, chemical weapons and even nerve gas are being used against them "The Burmese government will use every kind of force, and terror, to suppress the minority groups who protest about the lack of democracy, justice and human rights," explained one observer.

**ACTION:** Write to your local MP or lobby the British Government calling for international protest against the Burmese government's actions. Pray for the Burmese Border Consortium and Christian churches in Thailand who are giving practical help.

**Action Cards are sponsored by the BMS, BUGB, Christians Aware, Church of Scotland, Methodist Church DSR, and the United Reformed Church. To obtain a set of cards please contact: The Methodist Church, Division of social Responsibility 1 Central Buildings, London SW1H9NH**





Italian Baptist church

## Legal recognition

The 5,000-strong Italian Baptist Union (IBU) is celebrating the grant of legal recognition by the government. This gives the 100 churches in the IBU legal recognition of marriage services and the right to provide pastoral care to hospital patients, prisoners and military personnel without cost to the state. It guarantees Baptists the right to opt out of Roman Catholic religious instruction in state schools and makes it possible for them to give information about their history and beliefs in school. Unlike other denominations which have negotiated agreements with the state, the IBU have refused to accept tax money which could have been theirs under Italy's unique state-sponsored religious tax system through which taxpayers elect to donate a percentage to the church of their choice. The BMS has a partnership with the IBU, involving three missionary couples - David and Ann Macfarlane in Altamura, Chris and Sarah Mattock in Rancolfo and Mark and Claire Ord doing language studies in Perugia.

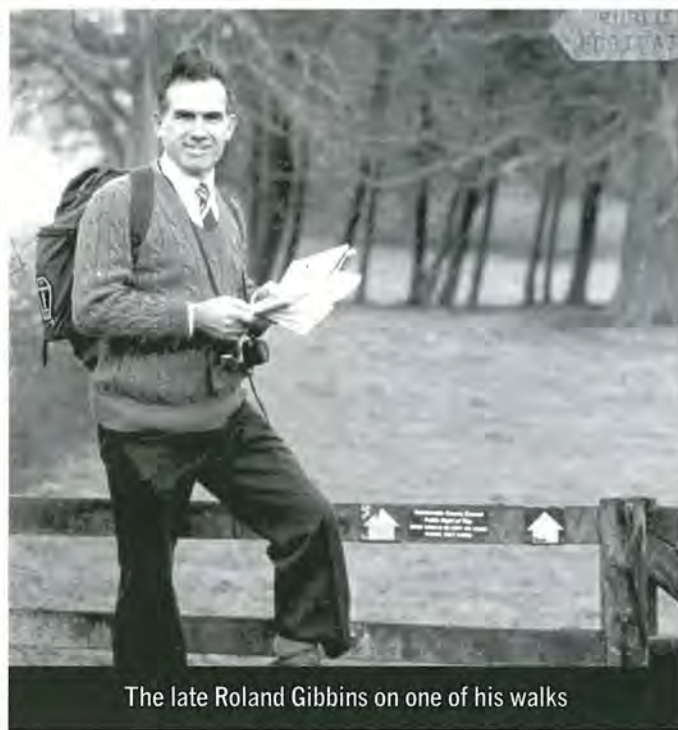
## Cracking video

Supporters of Christmas Cracker, the joint Alpha and Oasis Trust Christmas fund-raising initiative for the developing world, are being challenged to make the news this year.

Once a week throughout December, church groups will be able to publish a newspaper to raise awareness of the world's poor and exploited and to act as a key to an extravaganza of fund-raising activities. Resources, including a regular column by TV personality Steve Chalke, Cracker national director, will be available and to start the ball rolling, Steve has made a video - *Set Them Free* - about the exploitation of Thailand's young women and girls caught in the nation's sex tourism trade.



For more information, telephone Cracker's Birmingham centre on 0121 633 0873.



The late Roland Gibbins on one of his walks

## Cross country Cleansing

A long-distance walk has been arranged in memory of former Baptist Men's Movement (BMM) president Roland Gibbins. The BMM Yorkshire regional commissioner, Frank Every, plans to walk from Coventry on September 5 and finish in Bournemouth two weeks later.

Roland, a keen walker, died in April 1994 shortly after his 1993/94 term of office ended and he had intended to do the walk on behalf of the BMM.

The aims of Frank's 203-mile walk are to attract publicity for the BMM and to raise funds for the movement but he says it will be a good evangelical outreach opportunity. Not only is he seeking hospitality on his route but he is offering to address meetings and conduct services. His route takes him through Leamington Spa, Stratford, Stow, Cheltenham, Stroud, Chippenham and Salisbury.

Violence is still casting a huge "black shadow" over life in El Salvador. Several vigilante groups have been formed dedicated to the clandestine execution of criminals.

One group, calling itself the "Black Shadow", is responsible for the murder of 17 alleged criminals since it was formed in December 1994.

The group began in the eastern province of San Miguel and is spreading to the neighbouring provinces. Its members are former soldiers and guerrillas acting as mercenaries.

Official statistics show that El Salvador is one of the most dangerous countries in the region with 9,000 murders in 1994.

BMS has one couple, David and Rachel Quinney Mee, working in El Salvador. They are based at the Lamb of God Church in Zacamil on the outskirts of the capital, San Salvador.





John Freeman: Evangelistic push

## Unreached parts

The Africa Evangelical Fellowship (AEF) has started a fresh initiative with the United Baptist Church of Mozambique to take the gospel to unreached parts in the north of the country.

Mozambique is one of the least evangelised countries in sub-Saharan Africa, according to AEF deputy international director John Freeman; of the 240 local languages only nine have complete Bibles.

Three unreached people groups numbering five million stretch across the north of the country from the Malawian border to the Indian Ocean - the Yao, the Makonde and the Makua. Missionary work was opposed in the Portuguese colonial years by Roman Catholics and later impeded by 20 years of civil war.

Now the church is growing, the need for missionary help in leadership training and church-planting has become acute and AEF has responded to this need. The BMS has been involved in medical missionary work in Milange close to the Mozambique border with Malawi where Suzanne Roberts spent two years.

## Carey Garnon

The former BMS national representative for Wales, the Revd Carey Garnon, died on May 4. Carey, who trained for the ministry at Bangor Baptist College, led churches at Ruhamah, Bridgend (1948-61) and Capel Gomer, Swansea (1961-79), taking responsibility for Bethesda, Swansea, in 1967. He joined BMS in October 1979 and took early retirement in April 1987 following a serious car accident in July 1985. He is survived by his widow, Marion, and son Tudor.



## Projects soaring

Major BMS projects which have been active in 1994 and 1995 have raised more than £48,000.

The Moving Mountains project, which aims to fund medical, educational and development work in Nepal, has raised £36,794; the Sawadee project, helping women and girls at risk through Thailand's sex tourism industry exploitation has raised £5,501; the Deka Bangladesh project, resourcing a school for blind girls, has raised £722; the Green Light for Albania project, to provide transport for missionaries involved in evangelism and church planting, has raised £5,017.

## Prayer support

Prayer supporters of BMS missionaries have donated almost £10,000 to maintain the vital prayer letter link operated free of charge from Baptist House at Didcot.

Earlier this year the BMS began to invite missionary prayer letter recipients to offer financial support to the work if they felt able and already more than 700 have responded.

The BMS had budgeted just over £4,000 to keep its prayer supporters in touch with missionaries through prayer letters but such has been the increase in interest this year that the cost is expected to exceed £17,000.

BMS Publicity Manager Richard Wells stressed the importance of keeping prayer supporters well informed. "Prayer is our lifeline and cutting back is just not an option," he said. "But we believe that God has provided the resources through his people and we're so grateful for this. It means we don't have to overspend and redirect resources that should be spent directly on the work of mission."

## Lens mountain

Used spectacles are being donated in such quantities that the BMS is finding it difficult to see over the lens mountain. Glasses are normally used in medical missionary work in developing countries but because many opticians now operate a spectacle recycling scheme for the third world, there appears to be a glut.

## Ludhiana

BMS President, Eric Watson, presided at a service of thanksgiving for 100 years of medical work at Ludhiana Christian Medical College and Hospital in North India.

The service, on 29 April, was held in the Chapel of the Royal Free Hospital London, where Ludhiana's founder, Dame Edith Brown, was trained. The preacher was the Revd Prebendary Peter Speck, Senior Chaplain at the Royal Free.

Prof Ruth Bowden, Edith Brown's great-niece, and Lionel Holmes, her great-great-nephew, also took part.

The main centenary celebrations were held at Ludhiana in March.

Ludhiana Christian Medical College (CMC) will be featured on a display stand at the Keswick Convention this year.

## Rwanda and Burundi

Eleazar Zihherambere, secretary of the All Africa Baptist Fellowship, reporting on camps in Burundi containing refugees from Rwanda, says that while conditions are terrible "Baptists and other believers have a stronger faith and their love to God has increased.

"There greatest desire is for peace and to go back home to grow their own food instead of having to be fed," he said. Eleazar comes from Rwanda where he was General Secretary of the Baptist Union.

Paul Montacute, Director of Baptist World Aid, met Baptists from Burundi whilst on a visit to Kenya.



"All the killings in the camps has placed an extra burden on Baptist pastors ministering to Rwandan refugees in Zaire and Burundi," he reported. "Many relief agencies no longer provide for refugees in Zaire. Both Burundi and Rwanda continue to be in essential need of drugs.

"With the deteriorating situation in Burundi, BWAid is receiving more requests to help."

Baptist Churches in the UK have contributed to BWAid's efforts in the region either directly or through the BMS Relief Fund.

## Lutheran 'explosion'

The Lutheran Church in Nicaragua, active in the country since the early 1980s, is growing at a record pace.

The church officially has 4,000 members but more than 10,000 people regularly participate in its 23 parishes.

The Lutheran Church began working in Nicaragua when some of its members accompanied refugees escaping neighbouring El Salvador's civil war.

BMS has a partnership with the Nicaragua Baptist Convention. BMS workers, Peter and Sheila Brewer are involved in theological education.

## Ruschlikon

The last class to graduate from the International Baptist Theological Seminary (IBTS) in Ruschlikon, 28 April, was also the largest. Nineteen students received degrees and diplomas. Twelve graduates were from ten European countries. The other seven were from Ghana, South



Last graduation at Ruschlikon

Africa, Zambia and the US.

With this ceremony, 46 years of classes on the Ruschlikon campus above Lake Zurich have come to an end.

A few days later, the remaining students, and administration began to move to the new campus being prepared in Prague, Czech Republic.

## Ebola killer

As Third World killers go, the Ebola virus is well down the list. But when the world's Press, radio and television discovered that it had systematically liquefied the internal organs of nearly 100 Zaireans, they hit the panic button.

Never before had so many journalists booked so many seats on so few flights at one go than when the Media Circus herded lemming-fashion for Kinshasa.

But in the week before their arrival, the BMS office in Zaire's capital became the centre of communication for news leaving the country for the BBC, the Daily Telegraph, Sunday Telegraph, The Times and The Independent.

The BMS's Steve and Elizabeth Allford suddenly became the most heard and quoted missionaries this year as journalists in London sought the latest news of Ebola victims over the BMS satellite telephone link to Kinshasa.

The problem was that Zaire's

telephone system is virtually non-existent; no one could contact Kikwit, where the virus had developed, nor could anyone phone the government.

But as the Allfords will readily explain, measles has wiped out more children in Zaire than has the Ebola virus - the last epidemic killed 500 in Bolobo.

Throughout the Third World 40,000 children a day die from the lack of health-care, malnutrition or through a water borne disease.

## Prayer call

A call for prayer has been made to combat the concern over an attempt by the Bulgarian authorities to stop a Baptist building project in the capital Sofia.

In February, after Baptists had started building work on a school, orphanage and church, the mayor and council of Sofia called a halt and tried to take back the land which had been leased to them and for which planning permission had been granted.

A torrent of protest from Christians around the world caused the authorities to postpone their decision. Since then they have referred the matter to a special Commission for Education and Culture.

The propaganda against the Baptists' project, is trying to convince Bulgaria that Baptists will influence the orphans in their charge.

Fear is also being spread that the close proximity of the project to two schools will result in the spread of Baptist influence.

If the authorities' decision goes against the Baptists, they will have to go to court to try to recover a refund of the money paid for the land.

## CHECK OUT

JULY/AUGUST  
1995

### ARRIVALS

Sue Headlam from Bangladesh  
Geoff and Christine Bland from Thailand  
Corinna Woods from Nepal  
Chris and Mairi Burnett from Albania  
Neil and Ruth Abbott from France  
Philip and Rosemary Halliday from France  
Ian and Pauline Thomas from France  
John and Sue Wilson from France  
Chris and Sarah Mattock from Italy  
Janet Claxton from Zaire  
Brenda Early from Zaire

### DEPARTURES

Philip and Rosemary Halliday to France  
Ian and Pauline Thomas to France  
John and Sue Wilson to France  
Neil and Ruth Abbott to France  
Chris and Sarah Mattock to Italy  
Frank and Peggy Gouthwaite to Brazil  
David and Sheila Brown to Brazil  
Peter and Susan Cousins to Brazil  
Vince and Sadie MacDougall to Brazil  
Dave and Cath Meikle to Brazil  
Stuart and Georgie Christine to Brazil

Prema Tennekoon to Albania  
Carole Whitmee to India  
Tim and Caroline Trimble to Nepal  
Glyn and Frances Phillips to Nepal  
Andrew and Michelle Furber to Nepal  
Steve and Pam Seymour to Zimbabwe

### VISITS

Reg Harvey to Argentina  
David Martin to Argentina, Brazil, Zaire and Angola  
Derek Rumbol to Zaire and Angola  
David and Sue Wilsono Zaire

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

#### LEGACIES

Coningsby Francis C	200.00
Edwards George R	100.00
Mulhern Gladys	2,500.00
Nuttall Margaret F	1,600.00
Pellow Rachel N	150.00
Rose Freda May L	28,125.00
Slater Ruby R	6.31
Stevenson	200.00
Stiles Bertha W	8,525.00
Turnbull Mary	25.30
	41,431.61

### ANONYMOUS GIFTS

Charities Trust	6.32
Hammersmith	15.00
Swansea	10.00
	31.32



## order form

World mission in the 1990s is exciting, invigorating, and challenging. And you are part of this every time you pick up the *mh* magazine, read it, use it as a stimulus for prayer, and stay up to date. From a recent survey here's what other readers have said about the *mh*:

"I feel the magazine presents a superb image, very professional yet caring and Christian."

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"The more one learns of those persons prepared to give up all for the Gospel's sake, the more one feels the necessity to become a more effective local witness for Jesus."

## how to order

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# Call to Prayer

Supplementing the BMS 1995 Prayer Guide. Week numbers correspond to those in the Prayer Guide copies of which can be obtained from BMS price 60p (inc p&p).

### WEEK 29

July 16-22

**Caribbean: Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana**

The 1994/5 Jamaica Action Team are now back in the UK, and will have finished their tour of churches and schools following their work. Pray for them as they plan for their futures, some going to university, others deciding about jobs and careers. In October another Action Team will be going to Trinidad. Remember these young people as they seek to live out their faith in this new situation.

Two Trinidadian students Junior Ross and Ian Bobb will be starting next month at the United Theological College of the West Indies in Jamaica in preparation for the ministry.

The plans for UK Baptist ministers to spend up to three months working alongside pastors in Trinidad are still going ahead and one or two will be packing their bags in readiness at this time. ●●●●

### WEEK 30

July 23-29

**Home Assignment**

Home Assignment is an important time both for missionaries and for all those who are interested in their work, and who have given prayer support as well as for friends and family.

Pray for the missionaries on HA at the moment. There is often reverse culture-shock on coming home and time is needed to adjust to what was commonplace before. Missionaries on HA spend a lot of time travelling; pray for safety in travel. For those with families this may mean more time than usual away from their loved ones, which can be stressful for all concerned.

HA is also a time for forming new relationships. Pray for the Link-Up churches as they seek to welcome those whom they have prayed for and supported, that the time spent together with the missionary or missionary family will be utilised to the full.

In all the busyness of HA pray for spiritual refreshment that when the time comes to return to their overseas work, or to embark on a new area of service missionaries will feel equipped and able to take on whatever lies ahead. ●●●●

### WEEK 31

July 30 - August 5

**Baptist Word Alliance**

This week the BWA Congress is being held in Argentina, with the theme of "Christ: The Hope of the World!". Up to 10,000 people are expected.

The BMS has donated £20,000 to enable people who would otherwise not be able to afford to go



to attend. Pray for all participants, especially those for whom it is the first time outside their own country, that each person may both give and be ministered to.

During the week various workshops will be taking place. Pray for Revd David Martin, Director of Operations who will be sharing the leadership of one of these workshops called 'Rich and poor in our global village' with David Groves, the Director of Australian Baptist World Aid. David Grainger, Principal of St Andrews Hall will be leading a workshop with Revd Paul Mortimore, Baptist Union Church Life Adviser on Non-book learning culture, and Paul is also involved in a seminar on discipling converts through prayer and worship, and 'assimilating new converts into congregational life.' David Coffey is also leading a workshop on using music in worship.

Pray for the incoming President Revd Fanini Nilson from Niteroi, Brazil who will be taking over from Knud Wümpelmann. ●●●●

## WEEK 32

August 6-12

**Brazil: Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul**

Mike and Jean Gardiner, working at the Seminary at Cuiabá write: "We praise God for 41 students enrolled, the highest number in the fifteen years that the Seminary has existed, and three times the number we first taught in Cuiabá four years ago. Inevitably, some have fallen by the wayside; many people here love to acquire qualifications, and some sign on with much enthusiasm but without much ability, or, more important, without any real call of God. But we now have about 34 firm students, and a very good teaching staff, which is

very gratifying."

They also write: "Please keep up those prayers for us. We are no longer youngsters, as we bounce over appalling roads on a fourteen hour bus journey, as we teach and preach, dripping with perspiration, in temperatures of around 100°, as we struggle at the end of a long hot tiring day to express complex ideas in Portuguese, we just know that God is upholding us, and that we have so many faithful prayer partners." ●●●●

## WEEK 33

August 13-19

**Sri Lanka**

The political situation in Sri Lanka has become very strained again following the end of the cease-fire in May. The peace is an uneasy one. 74% of the country is Sinhalese, and only 20% Tamils. Of these only a small percentage align themselves to the main guerilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (known as Tamil Tigers).

In the church, however, there are more Tamils than Sinhalese people. Missionaries George and Betsy Lee rejoice that there is now a new openness amongst the Sinhalese people, and there are a number of classes being run for enquirers.

Peter and Margaret Goodall, former BMS workers in Sri Lanka returned there in May to work with the Church. They are going back to a fresh movement of the Holy Spirit. Church leaders have a renewed impetus to reach out and plant new churches instead of being introspective and waiting for people to come to them. ●●●●

## WEEK 34

August 20-26

**Nicaragua**

Based in Managua, Peter and Sheila Brewer are working with

the Theological Education by Extension courses. Although they have had to revise their plans and proposals for some courses they are thankful that progress has been made towards establishing more extension courses, particularly in the marginalised coastal areas. The Atlantic Coast churches have been very supportive and enthusiastic in this. This is a year of transition. Pray for the setting up of centres at Bluefields and Corn Island, and for the recruitment and training of teachers at the various centres. However it will be a continuing struggle to get the extension programme properly organised and set up in time for 1996.

Revd Aliston Pérez has been commissioned to be missionary pastor in Puerto Cabezas in the Atlantic Region. Here he will be seeking to revive a church which was almost defunct, and to develop the work among the Miskito congregations. This is an exceptionally needy area, and he, and his wife and family need much prayer as they venture into this new work and difficult living conditions. ●●●●

## WEEK 35

August 27 - September 2

**People in mission**

Mission is not buildings, or organisations. It is not five year plans or institutions. Although these are helps, mission is first and foremost concerned with people. People, wherever they are, in all their various stages of need.

Pray for all those who are seeking to discern God's will for their lives, especially those who are considering service overseas, to listen to his voice, and to obey. Pray that other voices will not crowd out God's voice, and that others both in the home churches and at BMS will stand by these folk, and that both by prayer and

talk will come to know what is the right way ahead for them.

Eternal God we thank you that there are so many in our churches who are not content just to listen to you word but are intent upon putting it into practice. Help them to understand how they are to work for you and in what place they should serve. ●●●●

## WEEK 36

September 3-9

**Zaire: church**

Owen and Deanna Clark just returned from Zaire write, "Our District team has been discussing for some time the possibility of organising a 'Portable School' with the help of one of our Kinshasa pastors, Pastor Loso, in co-operation with the Evangelism Resources Centre. Potential lay leaders from Mpsa, Mikonga, the islands, the fishing villages around Maluku and Kinkole, and now the Bateke plateau will come into Kinkole for two months training in pastoral oversight. The ER Centre will supply teaching materials dealing with Old and New Testaments, Doctrine, Preaching and so on, and will help with the necessary budget. Pastor Loso, Pastor Lombe at Kinkole and we ourselves will handle the teaching programme, and we hope to begin very shortly."

John and Rena Mellor are involved, amongst other things, with literature projects. The International Centre for Evangelism where they work has decided to publish 5000 copies of a booklet 'Congo Revival' about the revival in the 50s. They ask us to pray that this publication will be used to bring about another revival. ●●●●



When the tourists flew in  
our island people  
metamorphosed into  
a grotesque carnival  
- a two week side show.

When the tourists flew in  
our men put aside  
their fishing nets  
to become waiters  
our women became whores.

When the tourists flew in  
local food became scarce  
prices went up  
but our wages stayed low.

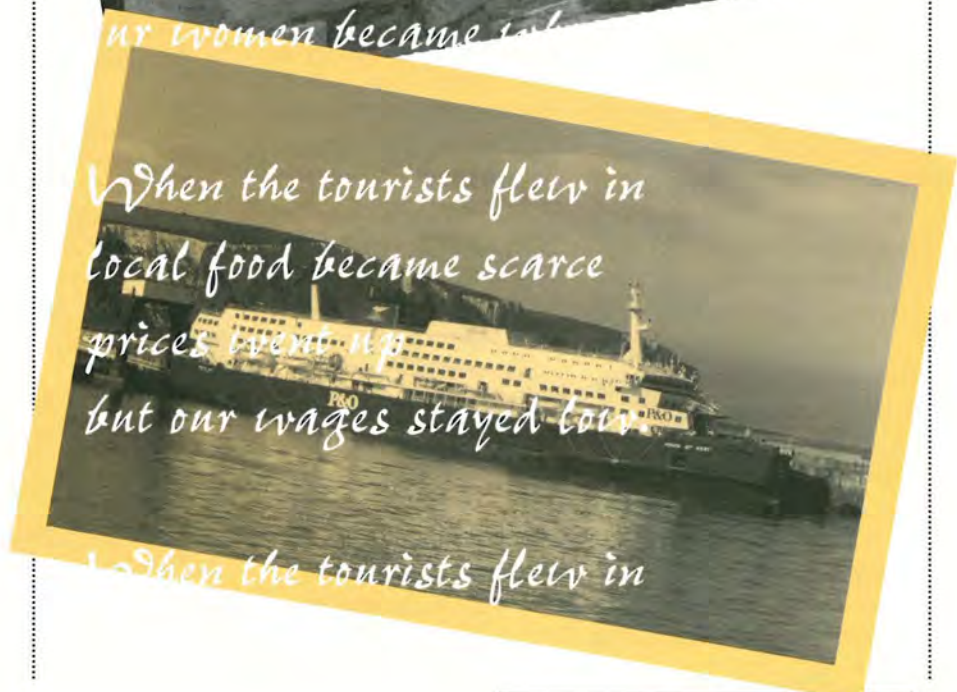
When the tourists flew in  
we could no longer  
go down to our beaches  
the hotel manager said,  
"Natives defile the sea-shore."

Hell, if we could tell them  
where we really want them to go!

**Cecil Rajendra** Malaysia (Penang Island)

## Questions to ask

- 1 Do you think holidays are essential? Could you keep going without one? Is a change as good as a rest?
- 2 Can you remember your holidays as a child? Are they different from now? If so, in what ways?
- 3 How have different working practices led to different patterns of taking holidays?
- 4 What are your priorities when choosing a holiday? What is your favourite kind of holiday? Where is your favourite destination?
- 5 Before you choose a holiday do you ask such questions as: what is the environmental impact of tourism on the area I want to visit? (eg reduction of water supply for local population); by travelling to this country am I supporting a repressive regime?; are people being forcibly resettled to make way for tourist developments?
- 6 If money was no object where would you like to spend your holidays?
- 7 Should holidays and leisure time be tithed in the way that income is? As a Christian could you spend some of your holiday helping your local community, or con-





tributing to the community of your holiday destination?

**8** Has anything you have read in this *mb* made you rethink where you go for and what you do on your holidays?

### Something to do

For those of you who travel abroad either for work, study, or holidays you may like to know that facilities are available via the Baptist Union to make contact with a local church or convention. If you would like to use this facility contact Maureen White at the Baptist Union of Great Britain, PO Box 44, Didcot, Oxon. Tel 01235 512077 and she will put you in touch with a local church (if the country concerned has published a directory) or if not, with the Convention or Union. Please note this is one of many things that Maureen does, and she does not have an established list as such. However she is more than happy to find out as much as she can for you in establishing contacts abroad.

### Most popular tourist destinations in England

- 1 West Country including Scilly Isles
- 2 Southern
- 3 Yorkshire & Humberside
- 4 East Anglia
- 5 North West
- 6 South East
- 7 East Midlands
- 8 Heart of England
- 9 Cumbria
- 10 Northumbria
- 11 Greater London.

(Figures given by English Tourist Board)

### Did you know that

- A British travel survey has revealed that the British public took 58 million holidays in 1994 - with more than two-thirds of them abroad.
- Spain was the top destination for UK holiday makers, with Balearics, Canaries and France next in popularity.
- Total UK spending on holidays in 1994 rose by 13 per cent to a total of £15 billion.
- Travellers cheques are the most popular way of taking money abroad.

Developing countries are more and more using tourism as a 'quick fix' to earn foreign exchange.

### Tourist receipts as % of exports

Egypt	66.8%
Jamaica	54.9%
Kenya	42.8%
Morocco	29.5%
Tunisia	27.2%
Mexico	19.9%
Thailand	18.8%
Philippines	15.0%

Figures arrived at from other figures given by World Tourism Organisation, and World Development Report, World Bank 1992, and quoted in the New Internationalist magazine, July 1993.

### Who can afford to travel?

80% of all international travel is made up of nationals of just 20 countries.

### Per capita spending on tourism

selected countries 1992 (US dollars)	
New Zealand	392.6
UK	332.9
Canada	316.6
Australia	240.9
US	154.6
Mexico	62.4
Tunisia	22.1
Thailand	15.3
Morocco	7.3
Egypt	3.1
India	0.5
China	0.4

Figures quoted from World Tourism Organisation, and World Development Report, World Bank and quoted in New Internationalist magazine July 1993.

# TAKE TWO





**S**ELECT a sunny place, prepare the soil, sow the seeds from the packet, water regularly, weed occasionally and within a few months you'll have a colourful display or a bumper crop.

And if things don't go as planned, it's only a minor irritation. If the harvest is poor, you can pop out to the shops and buy something instead.

But for many people in Albania, Zaire, Brazil or Nepal it's not that easy. No crop often means nothing to eat. And there are so many possible reasons for a failed harvest.

That's where Operation Agri and BMS are making the difference. Working with partner churches in developing countries, they're helping local people to reap good rewards for their labours.

Good crops.

Sustainable harvests.

Year after year.

This year's joint Harvest Appeal will help them to sow good seed in a richer soil to give them a brighter future.

*The joint Operation Agri BMS*

## *Harvest Appeal*



*Plan your part in the appeal with a special resources pack available next month. Phone Christine Neilson on 01235 512077 for an order form*

# euro-bazaar

**T**he holiday season has begun again. Tourists swamp the Belgium coast with their different cultures and their different languages.

From the south the French sweep in with their Renaults and their desire to be the suntanned champions of Northern Europe.

The Germans beat them to the best places on the beaches and pay the best prices to make sure that the locals keep them there.

Then there are the Dutch with their need to see as much of the world in as short a period as possible, dragging their caravans behind them and simply passing though.

The British, too, mostly pass through Belgium as quickly as possible hardly noticing that they have left Britain in their quest to reach the more unusual parts of Europe. But some do stop!

There are the 'day trippers' who come over for what they suppose are the bargains to be had; the cheaper wines, cigarettes, perfumes etc which often cost less at home but seem 'a bargain' when you are dealing in another currency.

There is the 'beer' crowd, too, who invade Ostende every summer to sam-

ple some of the 450 different types of beer available in Belgium, and manage to do it all in 24 hours, leaving the locals with the impression that the British are unruly, loud and generally a nuisance.

Then there are the hundreds of tourists who travel Europe by coach and spend their last night and the last of their holiday money before returning home the next day to the UK.

All this makes the coast of Belgium a very artificial place in which to live. In the summer months the locals migrate with their caravans to the beautiful hills in the south of the country and leave the tourists to get on with the invasion. At the end of the season as the tourists move out and the locals move back, the winter cycle of 'nothingness' returns and one is often hard pressed to meet anyone in the street. Suddenly the burger-stalls, the fish and chips and Kate's Cafe are no longer there!

None of this, of course, makes Christian ministry any easier. The church full of visitors in the summer is gone and we huddle together again in the winter more for warmth than fellowship. The contacts that were made in the summer, you trust have found their roots back in their home

**Liege Market:  
An attraction for the bargain hungry Europhiles**





# Waves

A personal and independent look at tourism by **Iain Hoskins**



area, although you know that churches in Europe are often difficult to find. The winter search for souls begins again.

What is unchanging is the need for folk to hear and respond to the good news of Jesus and this continues increasingly through prayer and the Lord bringing individuals to our attention.

In the past we have soaked the area with tracts and invitations only to discover that the majority of houses belong to summer visitors who are here to enjoy themselves and then away for the rest of the year.

Last year we had a week's ministry with the King's Coaches from Norfolk, only to discover that almost without exception everyone that we spoke to was a visitor. We, along with heaven, rejoiced for those who responded but when winter returned we had no visible fruit of local people in the church from that ministry.

Belgium which stands at the heart of Europe, desperately needs God and the Flemish area which covers the sea coast of Belgium desperately needs a breakthrough of the Holy Spirit.

What is impossible to man is possible to God and we would encourage you to pray without ceasing.

Joyce and Stuart Filby

The last eighteen years our summer holidays have been conditioned by the needs and requests of our two children. Every year we have gone somewhere where there has been sand, sea and shops. One of our kids enjoys the sea; another the shops. My wife and I fit our holiday around the desire of these two young people with different needs and ambitions: I stay on the beach with our son, and my wife visits the shops with our daughter. The culture of the place takes secondary consideration when we think about what we are going to do, since our priorities are clearly laid out. We enjoy having our children on holiday with us; we enjoy the fun and laughter, and also we experience some traumas as well. But generally speaking the most important thing for us is that we are together in a place away from home, telephone and letter box. We enjoy the food (which we take with us); we enjoy the scenery (which we compare to England); we enjoy the weather (which is always better than England). We see some places of culture (we're not complete Philistines, you know!); we visit some monuments, castles and suchlike; we have some outings, (destination agreed by all or carried with a majority vote), but the most important thing for us on holiday, whether it's in England, France, Jersey, or wherever, is that we are together, experiencing 'togetherness' times albeit in a fabricated way. But by the end of the holiday we always have something we can reflect on: pictures in our minds, photos and postcards, also acts, and events that we can laugh at. So when the time is up we come home, pleased to have been away, but more especially, pleased to come home - because where else can you get a cup of tea like a cup of tea in England?

**Iain Hoskins**, is the National Youth Officer for the Baptist Union of Great Britain



# BREAK

# ing

BMS Project 95

# Chains

# Albania

## We were in chains...

*Now we are free  
We are free to love  
and serve the Lord  
Jesus who died for  
us and is our Saviour*



Join with Albanian Christians in breaking  
the chains that have held them captive  
for so long  
Breaking Chains, freeing lives in Jesus  
Help to raise £35,000 to support BMS in  
evangelism and church planting  
in Albania

*BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY*

