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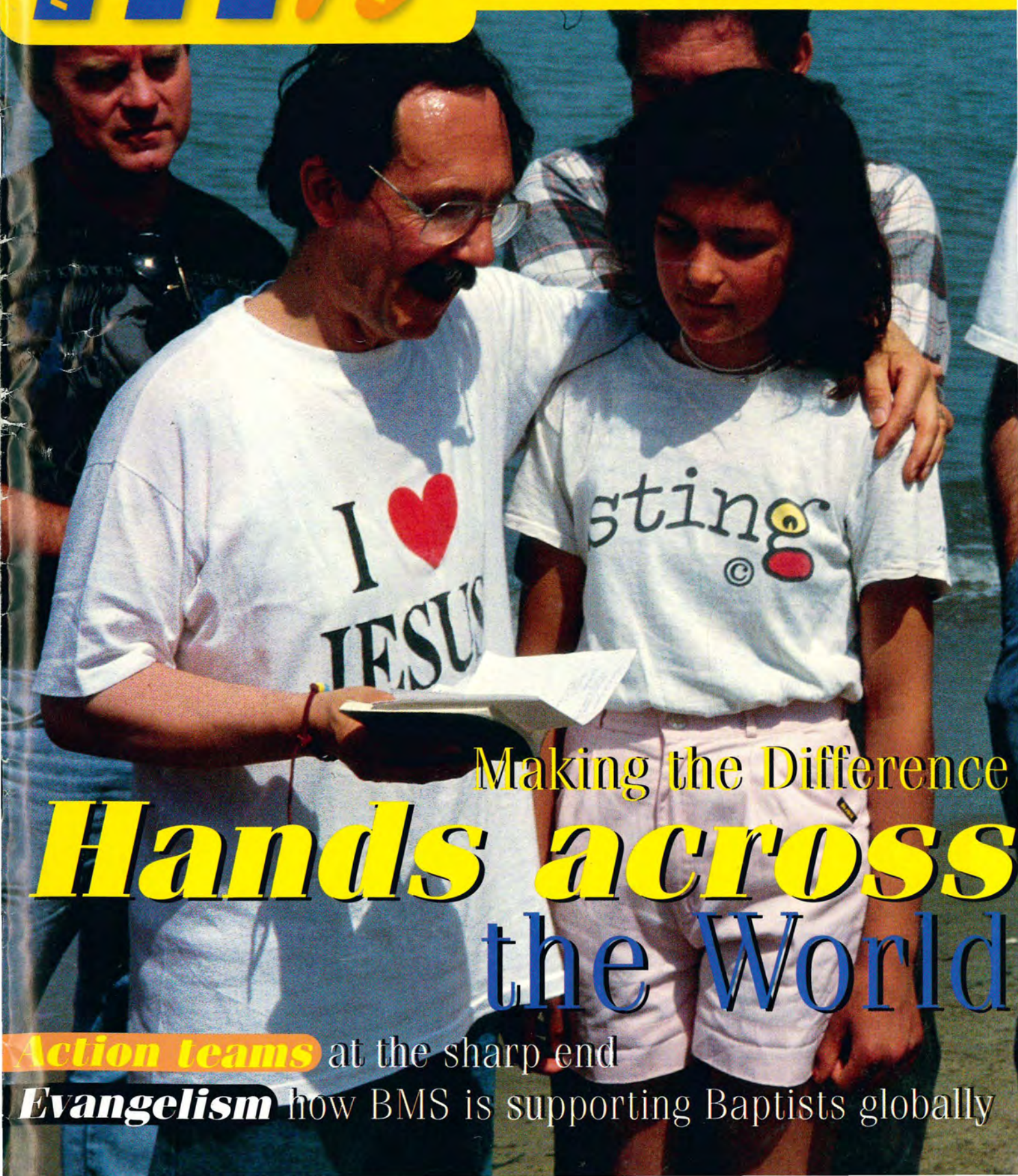
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missionary herald

News around the world

Focus on Italy

Challenge - Steve Chalke

international



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A happy and peaceful New Year to all our readers. As promised, *mh* enjoys a fresh look with an expanded content

for 1996, and much of the inside is in colour.

We welcome Steve Chalke, television personality and Baptist minister, to our team of specially commissioned writers; he'll be contributing a regular column to challenge and inform. John Passmore, the BMS Europe representative, brings wit and humour to a new column with some tales of the unexpected ...

And David Pountain adds strength to the *mh* ideas section courtesy of some fascinating research. Every month, *mh* focuses on a country in which BMS is working and on an issue to make you think and inspire you to pray. In fact, we hope you find the whole magazine provides you with fuel for prayer support for those who have answered the call to make Jesus known throughout the world. **Richard Wells**

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missionary herald

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Christian for baptism in the sea.



Mission was once something “we” did to “them”. As we approach the turn of the millennium things have moved on and those whose lives were touched by the BMS are now taking the gospel into new territory. **Richard Wells** takes a global view

As William Carey leaned on the rail of the deck on the 130ft Kron Princess Maria watching the horizon rise and fall, he may well have wondered what life-changing experiences lay ahead in India, the nation on which God had set his heart. But little would he have realised, as the small sailing ship cut through the waves around the Cape of Good Hope on its five-month voyage, that this 300 guinea passage was to be the pioneer of many to follow during the next couple of centuries.

Hands across the world



Had you told him as he boarded at Dover on June 13, 1793, that thousands, inspired by his sacrificial commitment to the Messianic challenge of Matthew ch28, v19, would embark on similar voyages across the globe, he might have looked with humble disbelief.

The truth is that this first "action team" from the new Baptist Missionary Society, of Carey, his family and veteran medical missionary Dr John Thomas, was to set an example to the world.

Through the ensuing two

centuries the torch they carried for "sharing the gospel of saving grace with the heathen" was to pass not only to the British who answered the call to go to the unevangelised world, but on to those who would hear the gospel through those missionaries and take up the challenge to carry the message onwards.

Today, were you to chart the progress of mission on a world map, your arrows from Britain to foreign parts would be joined by arrows from those nations to other countries across the globe. As the 21st century approaches,

world mission is no longer an "us to them" affair; it is an international partnership.

And it is still the God-inspired passion which drove Carey to leave a successful pastorate at Harvey Lane, Leicester, to share the gospel in India, which motivates. In the very country Carey pioneered the BMS work, there is a thriving mission work reaching out to neighbouring territories.

Since 1968 the Zoram Baptist Mission has co-ordinated the mission outreach of the Baptist Church of →

← Mizoram, once a district of north-east India and, since 1972, an official state. Significantly, the fledgling Zoram Baptist Mission became active just as the door was closing in that part of India to the Western missionary presence owing to political instability. The last BMS missionaries to leave — Edith Maltby and Joan Smith, nurses at Serkawn Christian Hospital — brought to an end 74 years of activity by the society pioneered by J H Lorrain and F W Savidge in 1894.

Now on their own, the Mizo Christians grasped the baton and ran with it. Joy Knapman, BMS Asia Representative, says: "These people may be quiet and unassuming but they have a passion for mission. They believe God has chosen them to be bearers of the gospel to the world."

For the Mizos, the world started on their doorstep and in the first 20 years of their mission society they had called 88 home missionaries to work with non-Mizos in Mizoram and 50 to work in India. With 18 in training and other home ministers, the 41,076-strong Mizoram Baptist community was supporting 581 full-time workers.

Between 1971 and 1988 the mission recorded 12,000 baptisms and 100 new church plants, and its working plan for the years to the turn of the millennium is a progressive strategy for evangelism in neighbouring India, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand and Nepal.

In 1996 the Mizos' vision has lost none of its zest, propelling them forward with church planting projects, sending out evangelists, leadership training and refresher training for leaders. Theirs is a process which does not stand still; when a church has been established by a Mizo missionary, they move him or her on to plant another church. The emphasis is on training for native workers to replace them.

The BMS, on which the Zoram Baptist Mission is modelled, supports the Mizos as they eagerly tackle the challenges. With BMS funding Ringa and Diki Lalringa and Tlana and Laldinpui Lalblankima are serving in Nepal with the United Mission.

With an equal passion for mission on the other side of the globe the Brazilians are not standing still. The

slow growth in the first 60 years from its birth in 1907, during which the World Mission Board of the Brazilian Baptist Convention placed missionaries first in Portugal, then in Bolivia and later in Paraguay, belies the clarity of vision which they have held since the first Baptist church met in Salvador in October 1882.

Once Brazilian Baptist missionaries set foot in their fourth field, Mozambique in 1971, it seemed to set in motion a period of rapid expansion and during the 1970s Uruguay, Argentina, Venezuela, Spain and Canada received missionaries from the South American giant. By the 1990s there remained only two South American nations to be reached by the Brazilians; Suriname and French Guiana are still priorities.

Today, with the urge to reach unreached people across the world, and a 10-year strategic plan to match, the Brazilian Baptist World Mission Board is not only continuing the break new ground but also consolidating existing work, training national Christians to reach areas and cross cultural barriers

The passion for outreach is driven by an expectation of great things from God — an echo of the historic words spoken by William Carey

which would take foreign workers years to accomplish.

In all this the BMS provides not only financial support for Brazilian missionaries, but experienced people. BMS missionary David Brown plays a key role in administration, personnel and training at the World Mission Board in Rio de Janeiro.

"The Lord continues to call many," says David, echoing the passion for mission still ablaze in the heart of the Brazilian Christian. "But the financial burdens are very great and we're only able to send a small number of new workers every year. But the work is the Lord's and so are the riches of the world; our task is to remain faithful."

Where will it all lead? Next we'll be seeing evangelised people evangelising their own nation!

And that is what is in its infancy in Indonesia, a product of a movement of the Holy Spirit in the tribal areas of Asia during this last decade of the 20th century. Joy Knapman, who first visited Muslim-dominated Indonesia for the BMS in 1992, speaks of the powerful vision held by the Kerapatan Gereja Baptis Indonesia (Convention of Indonesian Baptist Churches).

"Their vision is to evangelise the whole of Indonesia — that's 13,000 islands with 180 million people," says Joy. "But they're only a small group and they're going to need help from other Christians." Thus a partnership with the BMS was born.

Working with the support of Baptists from Britain, Australia, the USA and Canada, the 2,000-member Indonesian Baptist convention has started work to plant a church in every district of the nation's 27 provinces. The Indonesians see the involvement of Britain and Australia as an answer to prayer for a "Macedonian call" to foreign mission agencies to partner them in a work on Sumatra, an island of eight provinces and a population of just over 36 million.

Joy was clearly touched by their response to such a mammoth challenge, reflecting a passion for outreach driven by an expectation of great things from God as they attempt to enlarge their borders.

Carrying the torch onwards, living expectantly and attempting big things echo the powerful message Carey gave the Northamptonshire Baptist Association 204 years ago in May 1792: "Enlarge the place of thy tent and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations; spare not, lengthen thy cords and strengthen thy stakes..."

To Carey, who expected God was about to do great things by extending the kingdom of Jesus throughout the globe, it followed that Christians were bound to go big for God. Fuelled by this expectation, he thundered words which have rung in the hearts of many a Christian since: "Expect great things, attempt great things."

And they have. ●



Aid for the Romanians

Hands across Europe

THE TRANSFORMATION OF EASTERN EUROPE SIX YEARS AGO BROUGHT A FLOOD OF AID, BUT WHAT OF THE POSITION IN 1996? **CLIVE DOUBLEDAY** THROWS DOWN TODAY'S CHALLENGE

Over the past six years, the world has witnessed a radical transformation throughout Eastern Europe, which has had a profound effect upon every aspect of its society - politically, economically, socially and not least spiritually.

To deduce that the collapse of Communism has merely created political change in Eastern Europe would be a gross understatement. The advent of Gorbachev led to hopes that the attitudes of the East European satellite governments would soften with time, but the general opinion was

that things would change only when the present generation of hard-liners, the old guard, had died or retired.

In 1989 the face of Europe changed forever, as government after government collapsed like a house of cards under the brave pressure of the people's revolution demanding that democracy replace dictatorship. This domino effect swept through Poland, East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania. The following year the fight for freedom behind the Iron Curtain spread to Albania, former Yugoslavia, Russia and the former Soviet Union

satellite countries.

The primary response of Western churches to this open door of opportunity has been a reactive one, as initially individuals, churches, associations and unions rallied to transport aid to these desperately needy families and churches in the East. In 1990 it seemed that all roads led to Romania.

Undoubtedly, many mistakes were made through lack of co-ordination and indeed co-operation between independent and insular churches and organisations. It was not uncommon for trucks loaded with aid to arrive in Romania without any contact or true destination point for their precious cargo.

Naively some aid was off-loaded at the front door of orphanages and immediately disappeared out of the back door and on to the black market to earn the leaders and staff of the orphanage a handsome profit, without

But encourage one another daily as long as it is called 'today' Hebrews 3:13.



Hands across Europe

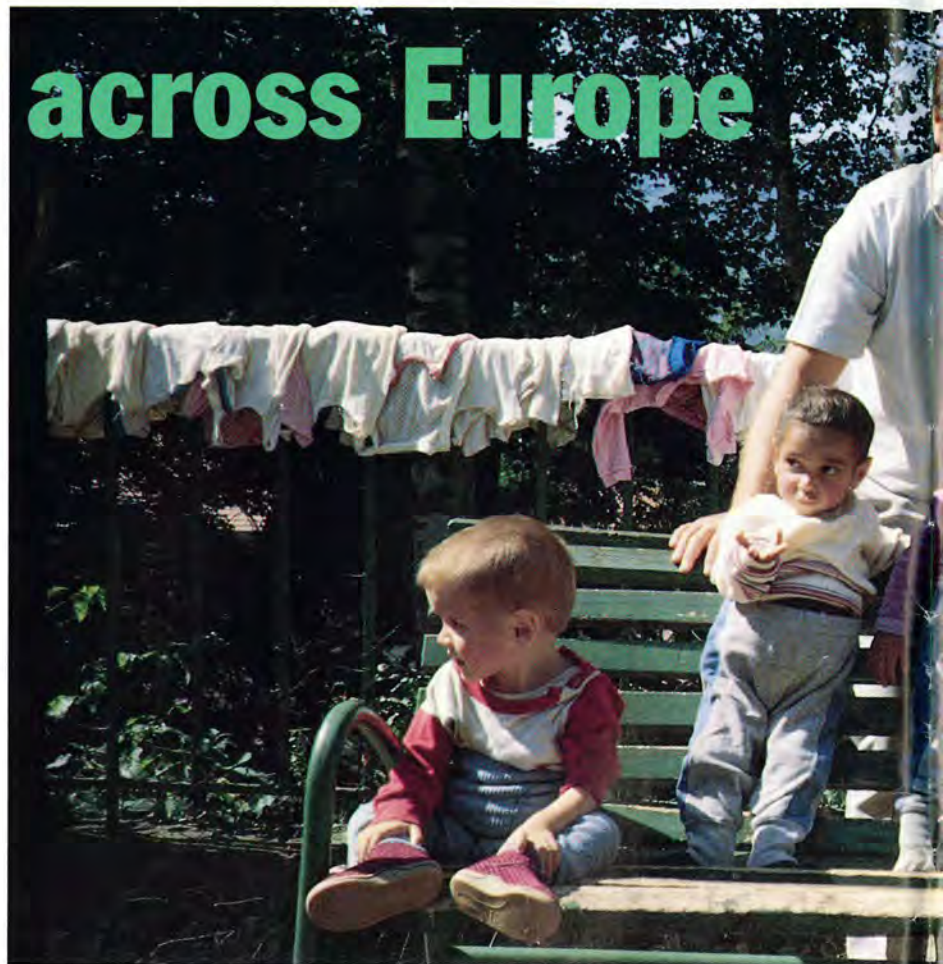
the children ever seeing one item of aid. Fortunately, these reports were not as common as the media would have us believe and most of the aid was gratefully received, checked, lists made and distributed carefully and wisely, particularly if the recipient was a pastor of a local church.

During those early euphoric months of freedom in 1990, there was a wonderful time of fellowship among the fraternity of truck drivers into Romania or while staying in the large city hotels, courtesy of the Romanian government, with hundreds of aid workers, reporters, TV crews and medical teams.

While waiting at the Hungarian-Romanian border, it was not uncommon to be in a queue of 100 or 200 lorries waiting for documentation approval, guarded by machine-gun-carrying Romanian soldiers. The unique international fellowship among Christians from Sweden, England, France, Switzerland, America and every Western country imaginable was as rewarding as the fellowship enjoyed with our Eastern European Christian brothers and sisters.

It is amazing to realise that over two years - while still a full-time student at Spurgeon's College - I had the joy of being involved in delivering £1 million-worth of donated aid to Baptist pastors and churches who distributed it to the needy. Similar expeditions and trips in subsequent years have been made to Albania, Bulgaria, Poland, Russia and more recently former Yugoslavia.

After six years the world's focus and spotlight have moved on to other countries and crises, and much of the reactive aid support has long since ceased.



Today, a very small percentage of Christians, churches and missionary organisations support our Eastern European brothers and sisters. The long-awaited change in Eastern Europe has not brought the hoped-for economic rebirth and instant relief to poverty, and there is much disillusionment and despondency among the

Today, a very small percentage of Christians, churches and missionary organisations support our Eastern European brothers and sisters.

once-hopeful Eastern Europeans. Young people throughout Eastern Europe dream of amassing a sufficient amount in American dollars to travel to the West for education, employment and eagerly sought-after wealth.

What the East needs now is

equipping, encouraging and enterprising projects, both socially and spiritually. The old premise still applies: "If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a man how to fish, you feed him for life." Those tireless and determined individuals, churches and missionary organisations who have been faithfully committed in their equipping and encouraging programmes are to be commended.

More than two-thirds of European Baptists are to be found in Eastern Europe and they still desperately need our encouragement, as they proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to their fellow countrymen. Throughout Eastern Europe at present there is a tremendous battle for the mind and soul, as every modern religion and cult peddles its belief and prescription for happiness and meaning to life.

Theologically trained pastors and church leaders need to be equipped in the handling of God's Word to enable the amazing growth and church



Clive Doubleday meets children at a Romanian orphanage

planting that has taken place throughout Eastern Europe to be sustained in the decades and centuries that lie ahead. Creative Christian social, medical, educational, employment and child care enterprises are to be encouraged, as churches and people equip themselves for the future.

Throughout any workable relationship there needs to be integrity, accountability and mutual respect for any East-West project to be successful. As the West gives of its wealth and abundant experience, we should be prepared to receive lessons in spiritual fervour, commitment, humility and insight from our long-suffering brothers and sisters, and, as partners in Christ, work together for the glory of God and the furtherance of His Kingdom.

Revd Clive Doubleday, BA, is the minister of Poverest Road Baptist Church, Petts Wood, Kent and a member of the Baptist Missionary Society General Committee.

Steve Chalke
Steve Chalke



THE GREAT REVERSAL

He's big. He's bold. He's built like a steamroller and he's not used to losing. But interestingly, when I met former All Black star Va'aiga Tuigamala, he told me that he sees his role here in the UK firstly as a Christian missionary and only then as a Wigan rugby player.

Two months ago, a South African couple appeared on Good Morning with Anne and Nick to explain to us all their God-given vision to launch a Christian satellite TV station designed to re-evangelise the whole of Europe.

The other day, I met a Nigerian couple who told me they were missionaries to Peckham.

And, of course, both Morris Cerullo and Reinhard Bonke have chosen to include Britain in their recent high profile evangelistic campaigns.

Forty years ago, sitting at the heart of an Empire, it was all so simple. We Brits knew the truth, others didn't and it was our job to go and tell them. In a game of them and us, we were us and everyone else was them.

Then came Billy Graham. And in the 1950s, many British Christians, especially leaders, found it extremely difficult to stomach the ideas of an American telling us what the gospel was and how to make it known. Little did they know that Billy would be just the first in a flood of foreign preachers, teachers, evangelists and missionaries to view this country as a harvest field God has called them to work in.

So what can be learned from this Great Reversal and those who have come to help us from around the world?

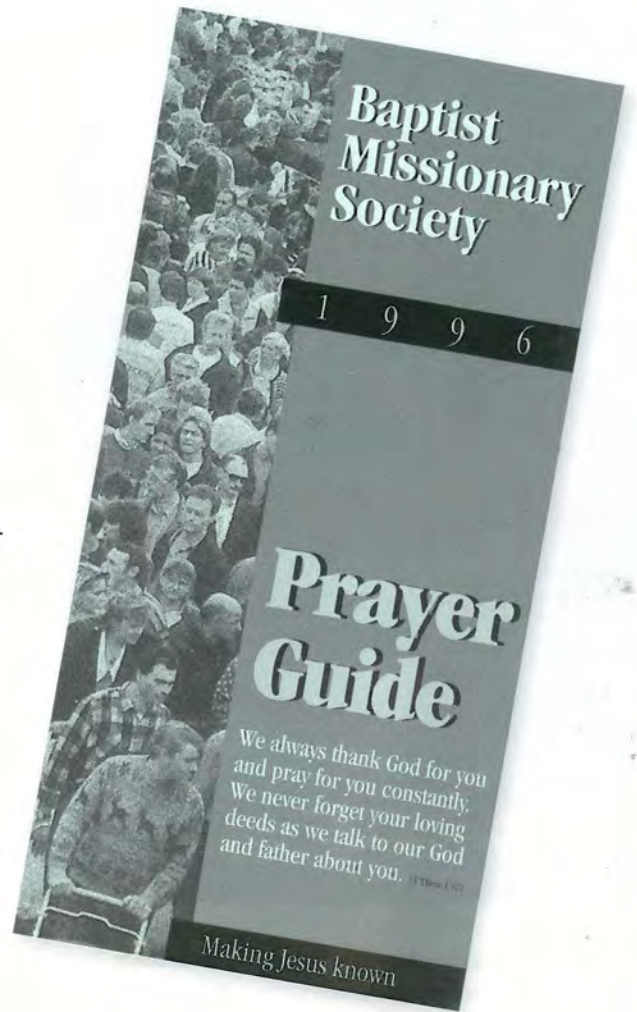
Firstly, we can learn from their presence. Because we are Christians, we have something to say and we want to say it. Indeed, it goes far deeper than that: we have been entrusted with a message it's our duty to share. We are called to speak out. We cannot keep silent. But as a result of this, we have become naturally better at giving than receiving; better at talking than listening. We need to learn again how to listen and to receive. We need to learn a new humility and this is a wonderful opportunity to do so.

Secondly, we should learn from their enthusiasm. It's hard to avoid the conclusion that timidity and pessimism are killing some of our churches and crippling many others. We have often been so apologetic about our faith that we have lost our distinctiveness and, in effect, ceased to be the "salt" and "light" we exist to be.


Thirdly, we must learn from their mistakes. Tragically, some (though by no means all) of this new missionary activity is carried out with the same disrespect for local culture that we ourselves have sometimes exhibited elsewhere in the world. It's disturbing to find yourself at the receiving end of irrelevant and insensitive evangelism which doesn't hold itself truly accountable to the indigenous church and creates more problems than it solves. Perhaps this experience will help us to think even harder about our overseas mission partnerships than we do already.

Steve Chalke is General Director of Oasis Trust.

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Steve Chalke launches BMS The Video



THE MAN DRIVEN INTO FULL-TIME CHRISTIAN WORK BY A PASSION FOR TELLING PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS SET A DYNAMIC TONE AT THE NATIONAL LAUNCH OF THE NETWORK BMS, THE NEW VIDEO CONCEPT IN COMMUNICATING WORLD MISSION TO CHURCHES.

Guest keynote speaker Steve Chalke stood in London's National Film Theatre and told invited guests before the premiere screening that the new video, *You Can Make the Difference*, was breaking fresh ground; it dispelled a myth that was alive when he was a child that if you WANTED to work full-time for God, it surely couldn't be his will!

He recalled Sunday school tales of missionaries on furlough visits who appeared as ordinary people — nothing like the superhuman images conjured in small boys' imaginations — and who hadn't WANTED to be missionaries, but God had SENT them...to places like the Congo. And they didn't look too excited about it, he said.

"So every Sunday school kid grew up with the idea that they were in this terrible place called the Congo, sent out for years at a time by those awful people at the BMS," said Steve.

And there was his dilemma. As a desire for communicating the gospel grew in Steve over the years, he was beset by the mental picture of a God whose will was to send people who didn't want to go. "But I wanted to do it, and I thought this meant it wasn't God's will," he said. "If I DIDN'T want to do it, then it probably WAS God's will."

"It took a long time to work through this misconception of mission work," he admitted. "This video is an important tool because it helps to dispel these myths.



Among adults around our churches is an unhealthy image of mission. I believe there's little understanding that mission is a partnership between local churches and churches around the world."

The video presents in a TV current affairs style a programme illustrating the value of church members' active involvement in prayer, financial and practical aspects of mission, using examples from churches in Scotland, Wales and England. It is available, priced £7.95 including a free illustrated teaching manual, from BMS Didcot.

Steve Chalke a Baptist minister, is director of the Oasis Trust and appears regularly on breakfast television.



New guidelines for care

Fresh policy and guidelines for pastoral care of missionaries have been adopted following a year-long research project by a BMS working group chaired by Alan Pain, minister of Sutton Coldfield Baptist Church.

The group's research explored pastoral needs, examined the current care and collated information from a comprehensive questionnaire to missionaries.

Presenting the group's 10-page report to the BMS General Committee, Alan Pain highlighted the shared pastoral duties of sending churches, partner churches, BMS co-ordinators, regional representatives, training colleges and missionaries themselves.

"We're concerned in this report with improvement, being more specific, precise and practical," he said.

General Committee members expressed concern about the workability of suggested guidelines, principally those involving BMS regional representatives in a six-monthly missionary visitation programme.

BMS Director for Missionaries Sian Williams says it is recognised that the means of providing care will depend on missionaries' locations and accessibility and while regional representatives will not be able to provide all of the suggested pastoral care personally, they will be responsible for overseeing that care is given.

Regional representatives have welcomed the new guidelines. Derek Rumbol, representative for Africa says: "They will help us to improve our pastoral care for missionaries and although they'll work out differently in different areas, I hope that missionaries will be better served as a result."

Top left: Steve Chalke discusses the BMS Video with General Director Reg Harvey
Above: Alan Pain: improved Care

Fresh bid to WOW the youngsters

Dramatic changes to mission motivation for young people are introduced this month with the aim of educating youngsters about world mission, stimulating their interest and encouraging their participation.

The Window on the World club is the vehicle on which BMS is pinning its hopes of world mission inspiration for the sixes to thirteens.

It sweeps the traditional monthly Look magazine for children into a 21st century full colour support publication for club activities and resources which include, for each child who joins:

- * A large colour world map and 24 stickers to collect.
- * A summer action day.
- * A club badge.
- * An annual 44-page action pack of resources for leaders.
- * A new WOW fund-raising project.

"The WOW club will now have an open membership and be the umbrella for all our future children's work," says Phil.

Phil, who has spent the past six months preparing the club material, as well as working on resources for older

youth, says the club package will be supported by a children's video towards the end of the year.

Older youth work by the BMS will focus on a summer camp, a touring roadshow next year, a new year party to welcome 1997 and a new fund-raising project, as well as a youth culture video.

Phil, who has taken responsibility for BMS Action Teams, is aiming to



expand the project to embrace UK Action Teams, more summer Action Teams and special Action Teams to accommodate young people whose post-studies plans are not confirmed until well after the qualifying date for the 28:19 overseas teams.

"Several youth leaders have said that children's and youth work has fallen behind and needs a higher and serious profile," says Phil. "We need to act quickly and positively if we're to effectively reach today's young people with the challenge of world mission." ●

Angola fund could help Zaire

The Charity Commission has been asked to grant permission to widen the use of the BMS Angola Hospital Fund.

Sanction is required quickly to enable the fund to satisfy a pressing need in Zaire for repairs and renovation to hospitals run by the BMS partner church, the Baptist Community of the River Zaire (CBFZ), at Bolobo, where 500 children died of measles earlier this year, at Ntondo, Pimu and Yakusu.

Communication between these hospitals, necessary at the best of times but critical during epidemics such as the Ebola virus in May, is non-existent and BMS Director of Operations David Martin says that essential radios, computers and modems to allow national and international contact could be financed from the fund.

Some of the £400,000 in the fund may be needed for the rehabilitation of the hospital at Mbanza Kongo, in Angola, the original beneficiary, and for repairs and equipment at hospitals in the north of the country but because of the results of the long internal war — landmines, civil unrest and impassable roads — it has not been possible to assess the needs.

BMS General Director Reg Harvey estimated that

the fund contained eight times as much as was required to satisfy the needs of Mbanza Kongo hospital. ●



Angola: People exist in a fragile peace



Confirmation for Candidates

Baptist minister Paul Ellis, his wife Linda, and staff nurse Susan Campbell are preparing for mission work with the BMS following their acceptance by BMS General Committee. And the committee has also confirmed re-offers of service from John and Valerie Furmage.

For Paul (49) and Linda (51) there is a definite Belgium connection because his mother was born there and he feels a strong calling to take the gospel across the Channel.

Paul and Linda (*right, top*) say the stirrings of a call to Belgium began in 1991 after a visit with his mother. Later a friendship developed with Samuel Verhaeghe, President of the Belgian Baptist Union, and the couple forged links between their church at Hemel Hempstead and Samuel's in Middelkerke.

The turning point in their lives came through Acts ch 16, v6-10. Paul says: "The apostle Paul found that various openings were being blocked by the Holy Spirit until he finally heard the appeal from the man of Macedonia. Linda and I believe that this was clearly also the way for us."

After preparation courses they will start ministerial service in Belgium.

Susan Campbell (32), who has been at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary since 1993, trained at Dumfries and Galloway College of Nursing and Midwifery with missionary work in view.

She married Gordon in 1985 and both felt the call to mission work. But tragically he died in a road accident three years later and Susan's route to mission work was put on hold. However, from 1992 Susan began to be involved in church youth ministries and led two Scripture Union camps. In 1993 she co-led a Task

Force team for Tear Fund to Uganda and a year later led a team to Brazil.

Described by Joyce Wainwright, chairman of BMS Candidate Board, as a dynamic leader and pioneer, Susan feels the time is right to pick up the mission call again.

Susan, a member of Leven Baptist Church since 1991, studied at Glasgow Bible Training Institute and Liverpool Bible College, Ormskirk. She has been closely involved with HIV/AIDS and drugs work for Grampian Health Board.

John and Valerie Furmage (*left below*) will return to pastoral work in South West Parana, Brazil, next August after four years at Fishergate Baptist Church, Preston. The couple came home from Brazil in 1990 after 19 years service and the following year John was called to the pastorate at Fishergate.

BMS Director for Missions Sian Williams spoke of the high esteem with which the couple were held in Brazil. ●



Christine Neilson – Off the shelf

The New Year means new publications from the BMS.

The new video, **You Can Make the Difference** – one of the Network BMS series – is proving very popular. At £7.95, including free workbook, the video is great value and can be used for personal viewing or to start a group discussion. It presents, in current affairs format, the strong partnership between Baptists in Britain and the global work of the BMS.

If you're into drama,

volume two of Fool's Gold — **How About it Mr Millman?** — is well worth considering at just £6. It's a collection of 10 short plays with a mission theme and small groups will have great fun rehearsing and performing them.

Let's Take a Look at BMS is a free four-page leaflet aimed principally at young people, which tells the story of the society and brings you up-to-date using Globetrotter and Boomer, the new WOW Club

characters, and selected missionaries. Strong graphics make this leaflet very readable for all ages.

Watch out for **Around the World in 80 Ways**, the BMS's colourful new-look catalogue for 1996. It's a user-friendly guide to everything the BMS publishes for sale and hire. Many mission resources are free. And so is the catalogue!

● Call Christine, BMS Literature Secretary, on 01235 512077

Family off to Asia

Former management accountant David Kerrigan and his wife, Janet, are due to fly to Sri Lanka with their family where David is to work as one of the BMS Asia representatives. He will relieve current Asia representative Joy Knapman of much of her workload, which has grown over the years as BMS activities have expanded and new partnerships formed.

David and Janet, whose re-offer of service was accepted by BMS General Committee in June, had been in ministry at Pinhoe Road Baptist Church, Exeter, since 1991. David trained at Spurgeon's College and spent his student pastorate at Forest Row Baptist Church in East Sussex. ●

mh.

subscription

Some confusion may have arisen over the mh 1996 subscription revision, owing to incorrect information published in October's issue, which had gone to press before the details were finalised. The correct prices appear on Page 3 of this issue and we apologise for the error.



Romanian Baptists reach out

A strong desire to extend the Baptist witness into Romania's under-evangelised east has been expressed by the country's Baptist Union. Baptist work has been strong in western Romania and in the capital, Bucharest, but the east has very few Baptist churches.

Under their new general secretary, 40-year-old father of three Pastor Aurel Gacea, the strategy is to challenge strong, wealthy Baptist churches in western Romania to choose

areas in the south and west where they could begin church-planting and

evangelistic work.

Gacea, who is working closely with the Romania Baptist Union president Vasile Talos, says: "These churches could support missionaries in these places and provide a place to meet for the new congregations which will be established."

The general secretary, who feels he was elected because Baptists were looking for people interested in mission, is known for his heart for evangelism. He is pastor of one of the few eastern Baptist churches, at Tulcea. ●

Lost tribe setback in Brazil

A nine-year search by missionaries for a tiny lost Amazon tribe has been halted within sight of success. Government officials forced a team of three explorer-evangelists camping in the rainforest to leave a restricted area only days away from anticipated contact with the isolated Himarima people.

Youth With a Mission has been spearheading efforts to take the gospel to the small tribe. Efforts to trace the Himarima began in 1986 when the first team began exploring the remote jungle lands of the Amazon, since when several months-long expeditions have been made resulting in sightings from the air and traces on the ground.

The latest expedition found fresh footprints and discarded clay pieces around the Piranha River but

instead of meeting members of the tribe, they encountered government agency representatives who guard the vast region's isolated Indian groups from approaches by outsiders.

YWAM's Transcultural Ministry leaders, Braulia Ribeiro, based at Port Velho, Rondonia, says this setback was not only a disappointment but could create difficulties in working with other Indian groups. "Our workers

enter restricted areas because we fear that otherwise some of these small tribes could be destroyed before they ever get the chance to hear the gospel," he says.

The Himarima live nomadically, making temporary shelters in the trees and hunting or fishing for food. ●

Gratitude for children's holidays

Baptists throughout Europe, who helped provide holidays for children suffering from radiation sickness, have received a letter of gratitude from the leaders of the Belarus Baptist Union.

For the past three years the European Baptist Federation (EBF) has sponsored the programme Children of Chernobyl which locates churches in Western countries willing to host holidays for children from Belarus and other areas affected by radiation fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe.

Hundreds of children have been helped so far and it is thought that even a one-month respite from

radiation is sufficient to improve the health of children.

Belarus Baptist churches, which support three missionaries working in children's hospitals and clinics, also contribute to their union's summer camp programme for the children in a former military base near Kobrin. However, further finance is needed to enable the 1996

camp programme to go ahead and the Belarus Baptist Union is also aiming to raise (US)\$30,000 to begin work on a second camp. ●

New moderator in North India

The Rt Revd Dharendra K Mohanty has become the moderator of the Church of North India (CNI) following a decision by the Ninth Synod of the Church in Delhi. Bishop Mohanty, from a Baptist family, grew up in the state of Orissa where the denomination agreed to join the CNI when it was formed 25 years ago. He was Bishop of the Cuttack Diocese with which the BMS has special links. ●

Mutual recognition in Italy

The Italian Baptist Union has joined with two other protestant denominations - the Methodists and Waldensians - to grant each other full and mutual recognition.

Recognition includes people, ministries, churches and "ordinamenti", which covers ecclesiastical practices, constitutions and by-laws, like, for example, believers' baptism.

Renato Maiocchi, president of the Italian Baptist Union, said no one wanted to create a rough copy or mixture of the diverse "ordinamenti" but that a full recognition of each independent body should be achieved.

"We recognise that in the New Testament there are elements of both the presbyterian and congregational systems," he says. "Both have productive elements to be valued. This recognition allows each group to keep its own systems, regulations and ecclesiastical traditions but no longer will anyone say or think that one is inside and the other outside the Biblical perspective." ●

Bible studies stir Muslim interest

An advertising campaign inviting people to write in to learn more about Jesus has attracted interest in a Muslim republic in the former USSR.

Newspaper advertisements and television commercials - surprisingly

uncensored - offering a free home study kit to respondents were reported to have "caused quite a stir" according to the Bible Correspondence Course organisers, a joint project between WEC (World Evangelisation for Christ) and Youth With a Mission (YWAM).

The course organisers say many Muslims are eager to learn about Christianity and the home study kit allows them to learn in private without fear of discovery or threat of being cut off from families.

In nearby Turkey up to 10,000 requests for the kit were received in a year and several churches have been planted. In this republic - unnamed for security reasons - fewer than one per cent are Christians. ●

Poles celebrate recognition

Polish Baptists had cause to celebrate at their assembly. After more than two years of negotiations they had secured full legal status with the help of a Baptist Member of Parliament.

The new status enables Baptists to retrieve property which belonged to them before World War II, allows Baptist pastors the same tax status as Roman Catholic priests and opens the way for them to serve as chaplains.

The Polish Baptist Union comprises 61 churches; currently 18 congregations are without pastors and 16 Polish missionaries are working in new areas to establish churches. ●

UPDATE

LANDMINES

Whilst receiving quite a bit of media coverage on the day itself Action Day To Ban Landmines, 23 Sept 95, sadly did not have much effect on the corridors of power. David Davies, the Foreign Office minister, writing a week later, in the Guardian said,

"Why does the British government not support a total ban?"

The answer come back to reality. We want a policy which works - not one that simply catches the headlines. Landmines remain an effective defensive weapon. Our own armed forces have them and need them. If they had to do without landmines, our forces would be weakened. They would risk taking more casualties.

We do not believe it would be right to deny other responsible countries the right to have landmines too."

The UN Weaponry Convention meeting in Vienna, which coincided with the media coverage, was not able to reach any conclusion.

REFUGEES

Four members of Victoria Baptist Church, Eastbourne, (pictured right) Ian Coupland, Steve Jupp, Antony and Maree Miles, and Baptist pastor Revd Oliver Vellacott from Caithness journeyed to Slovenia at the invitation of Pastor Izet Veladzic. As a church, Victoria Baptist have prayed for and supported Pastor Izet in recent years. Pastor Izet was brought up as a Muslim and he and his family have suffered persecution. They will also be visiting the Life and Peace Center

in Croatia, which has as its Director, Revd Stevo Dereta, described as a dynamic Baptist pastor. Since August 1993 over 2,000 refugees, especially women and children, traumatised by the war have been to this refuge for a short period of rest, relaxation, good food and Christian compassion. ●



PICTURED ABOVE: Victim of a landmine blast learns to move around again (Christian Aid/NicDunlop)



LEFT: Being a refugee at 20-20 Vision

Dates for your diary

If you are organising a world mission event open to visitors, and would like it publicised in this diary, please let us have details three months in advance. Write to: World Mission Link Diary, BMS PO Box 49, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 8XA.

February 3/4

Salisbury Area Fellowship BMS Event
Details: Gill Pembleton (Tel: 01722 412163)

March 2/3

Western Link-Up Group BMS weekend
Details: Pauline Trounson (Tel: 01297 442583).

March 5

Newport and District WMA meeting and annual gift day
Details: Kathleen Wilkie (Tel: 01633 894427)

Confessions from the World Mission Link Desk!

It is Friday and I don't appear to have a map of the town. Am I sure it didn't come in today's post? I'm speaking there on Sunday morning so I really ought to have some directions.

Check the fax. That's it, it probably came by fax.

No fax...

OK, I'll phone them.

No answer. No map. No directions.

Help!

Still, I suppose this is better than not knowing which church I'm speaking at.

That's my colleague's problem...

He congratulated himself on the fact that he was really well prepared.

He had the hymns chosen, sermon written, the time of service clear.

He arrived at the church an hour before the service was due to start, pleased with his time management and map reading.

"Welcome! Oh, by the way, could you do the children's talk?"

Don't

If you have booked a BMS speaker, please:

- wait until the week of the meeting before contacting the speaker.
- assume the speaker knows your church circumstances.
- expect them to always be at home when you ring.
- assume they will use a car.

Do

- contact your speaker at least two weeks beforehand.
- discuss the meeting and what you would like them to do.
- if you want them to choose worship songs, tell them which hymn book you use.
- check how they are travelling and give clear written directions.
- make sure they know the time and length of the meeting.



Seven children who attend Pandy village chapel were so touched by the work being done by the school for blind girls and young women in Dhaka that they held a Bangladesh party to raise some money to support it.

The school features in this year's BMS Children's Project Deka Bangladesh for which the target of £4,000 has been broken already.

The seven children, aged between five and 13, sent invitations to every house in their village in the Ceiriog Valley, in Wales, and put posters up around the neighbouring village of Glyn Ceiriog.

Their party features stalls including cakes, bric-a-brac, plats, hot dogs, teas, a lollipop game and sweets. Village riding stable owner John Payne lent a pony for rides and parents and friends helped to man the stalls.

The party raised £280 for the blind school work.

More fund-raising for Bangladesh has been going on at Woodley Baptist Church near Reading, Berkshire. A Drop in the Bucket was their way of getting funds to families in Chittagong village. Their link missionary, Sue Headlam, wrote to the



church raising the plight of villagers who waited hours for their water buckets to fill, drop by drop. So they placed a bucket in the church foyer every Sunday and invited people to put their "drop in the bucket" in the form of loose change to help Sue's work.

The result: £551.16.

At Tottenham Baptist Church, north London, Sunday school children were so shocked to learn of the plight of the youngsters of the "rag picking" village near Vellore, in southern India, that they asked teacher Janette Whitehead if they could hold a sale.

Janette says: "When they read in their BMS Look magazine that these Indian children had to sort through rubbish tips to find things to sell, they wanted to sell their old comics and toys, and cakes that they would make, to help them."

With donations, £237 was raised. ●

Inspiration, motivation, ideas, news on world mission for churches...

Mission Link



WML Inspiring the young

Envisioning young people for world mission is a challenge for any church. **Chris Binstead** explains how they tackle it at Exeter



Over the past four years members of the Sunday Club at St Thomas Baptist Church, Exeter, have been on their travels - to Honduras, Nepal, the Seychelles and, most recently, Brazil. All this has been without a passport and, indeed, without leaving the church.

Once a term the seven to 11 age group is led by members of the church Mission Committee. These are sessions enjoyed not only by the children - who are learning something of mission and of what God is doing in the world - but by the regular teachers ... and the committee members.

Resource materials are readily available these days and speakers have in the past made use of BMS Bubble and Squeak packages - you say what you need, the BMS comes up with the resources. With the launch of the WOW (Window on the World) Club, even more resources will be available. St Thomas also use materials from other mission organisations, some of which work in partnership with the BMS.

While ready-made programmes are available, St

Thomas mission committee members adapt resources to their own situations. But good resources are only part of the equipment. Enthusiasm is essential; it rubs off on to the children and they will pick up quickly the signs of a lack of enthusiasm. Further, those making presentations need to have prepared thoroughly so that they know what they are talking about.

When the children travelled to Brazil recently, they looked at life in the favelas (shanty towns) and tried to build their own shanty houses. They thoroughly enjoyed this and experienced the frustration of roofs and walls falling down. They also realised the need to work together and probably learned more than had been anticipated when the lesson was being prepared.

The aim of the St Thomas mission sessions is that the youngsters will become world Christians, aware that "God so loved the world ..." and able to encourage older Christians to catch their vision.

A comment made by a seven-year-old from the group led to the organisation of a coach trip from the church to visit Logos II, the Operation Mobilisation ship, when it docked at Southampton.

Children will enjoy learning that God is alive and active, and working through his people in the 1990s, worldwide. They will be excited by it and you will be encouraged. So why not introduce your Sunday Club to mission? ●

Chris Binstead is chairman of the Mission Committee at St Thomas Baptist Church, Exeter



Dear Audrey...
I've got a mission event on Brazil coming up and I'm expecting 80 teenagers. Our speaker's cancelled and we're having to do it ourselves. What can we do?
If you're a regular subscriber to the BMS Power Pack service, a resource pack published three times a year, you'll have access to ideas for talks, studies and discussions. If not, speak to your BMS area co-ordinator (see centre pages for telephone numbers) for a fund of ideas, pictures, visuals and even first-hand experience in some cases. Consider a drama presentation involving some of the young people and, if you're feeling really adventurous, what about a Brazilian meal?

The church has decided to have a monthly midweek mission prayer meeting. Any ideas?
BMS can provide you with the latest prayer letters from missionaries across the globe and can put you on the mailing list for our monthly dispatch. These will give you up-to-date topics for prayer. More than likely, you'll have a Link-up missionary on whom you can focus prayer as well. Consider the occasional speaker, who can add perspective and could bring an audio visual presentation. Your area co-ordinator can help you select speakers. ●

Working Together for World Missions

Getting the message across

Teamwork is the key to a successful world mission church event. That's where BMS co-ordinators can make all the difference, says **Andy Stockbridge**

At the heart of BMS support are the local churches of Scotland, Wales and England. And to all but a handful, the resources of the BMS at Didcot might as well be a million miles away.

To bridge the gap and make those resources more accessible, BMS Co-ordinators work in partnership with churches and together for the promotion of world mission. As with any good partnership, all sides bring different skills, qualities and resources

Questions

How can I get more involved in world mission?
I want to have a mission celebration - what can I do?
Is God calling me to missionary service?
What new materials, videos and resources are available?
How can I get training as a mission speaker?
What is PIPS and how do I find out more about it?
Who can help me - I want to enthuse my church for mission?

which together achieve much more than can be gained on their own.

The eight co-ordinators are strategically placed around the UK so that help with organising an event, booking a speaker, arranging a conference, or whatever, on a world mission theme, is never far away.

But with almost 3,000 churches to cover, personal visits don't happen very often. Instead, they're available to support church mission secretaries, organisers and leaders chiefly as enablers, encouragers, motivators, resource providers and advisers to make the difference to their church activities.

As Alan Prosser, mission secretary at Oaklands Baptist Church, Surbiton,

in Surrey, says of London and South East Co-ordinator Derek Mucklow: "He is an invaluable resource for me. He is always available for advice, he is a useful local source of information on the BMS and always keeps me informed of matters of direct interest."

Whether you are a mission secretary wanting to make a display for the church noticeboard, or a housegroup leader looking for a set of studies to use over a number of weeks, or a church speaker seeking additional world mission resources, help is just a telephone call away. Co-ordinators hold lists of speakers who can be invited to take part in a church world mission event on a Sunday or at a mid-week meeting and local teams are being set up to help with larger meetings and events.

Display boards, self-help kits and leaflets on all aspects of BMS mission work in four continents are available from the local co-ordinator. And if you think God is calling you to be more active in your own church, or you are considering missionary service, then the local co-ordinator should be the first person to contact.

Apart from their "product knowledge" - they know BMS inside out - co-ordinators are highly skilled communicators who make it their business to absorb local knowledge so that they can tailor-make the right promotional services for the right people to use in the right situations. The result is an economical use of time and resources.

Caroline McLuckie, missionary secretary of Oban Baptist Church says of Scottish Co-ordinator Derek Clark:



"Derek is an enthusiastic person. He is able to get people excited about the BMS when he speaks. It's easy for me to be excited but it's difficult to pass on that excitement."

Caroline looks forward to Derek's visit to her church: "I feel I wouldn't be able to get across in one meeting all the work in all the countries BMS does. Derek has a lot of things available - in one night he can get all the work across."

As well as their resource, information and encouragement roles, co-ordinators also provide training for World Mission Link contacts, mission secretaries and leaders. Hundreds of world mission event organisers have already benefited from the co-ordinators' network.

Andy Stockbridge is BMS Director for Constituency Support

ssion



Derek Clark



Jim Clarke



Cath Mawson and Theo Lambourne



Gareth Hutchinson and Derek Mucklow



PHIL HINDLE

The new BMS co-ordinator for the South and South West is Chipping Cambden Baptist Church Deacon, Phil Hindle.

He says:

"Having spent more than 20 years in telecommunications, computing and banking, I felt that the time had come for a change from the business world. The opportunity arose to apply for this post with the BMS and Christine, my wife, and I gave this careful

consideration, worried that it may have been just a mid-life crisis. But the Lord's calling was very clear!

"I am excited about this change and my hope for the future in this region is that we will see growth in prayer, emotional and financial support for the BMS, with each church developing a deep and lasting interest in the society's work. I am looking forward to developing friendships in as many churches as possible.

"If time allows, I also hope to be able to continue my hobbies outside working hours, of reading, gardening and riding my trials motorbike."

Phil and Christine hope to move to the Taunton area in the New Year.



DELYTH WYN DAVIES

The new BMS co-ordinator for North and Mid-Wales is wife of Baptist Minister and teacher, Delyth Wyn Davies.

She says:

"Cyfarchion o Gymru! Greetings from Wales. I was brought up in the seaside town of Llandudno, which is fairly anglicised but Welsh was the language of our home. Our family attended a small Welsh Presbyterian Chapel where I enjoyed going to Sunday school and playing the organ. After completing a degree course in education at The Normal College, Bangor, I taught in a few primary schools in the area. Throughout this time I felt a call to do Christian work with children and spent much of my time doing this voluntarily.

"I was then appointed Children's Work Organiser with the Presbyterian Church of Wales Youth Service and during the eight years I became involved in mission education. Now I look forward to serving God in this new role and to the challenge of enthusing those in local situations to put mission work high on their churches' agenda. My main hope is to see churches looking outward and discovering the thrill and enrichment of being involved in the work of the church throughout the world."

Scotland

Derek Clark

41 Newton Road, Lenzie, Glasgow, G66 2LS

Tel: 0141 775 1201

North England

Cath Mawson

49 Allerton Road, Bradford, BD8 0AY

Tel: 01274 487341

Midlands

Theo Lambourne

13 Briar Walk, Oadby, Leics. LE2 5UE

Tel: 0116 271 3633

Central and East England

Jim Clarke

Dingley Dell, Church Road, Wentworth, Ely, Cambs, CB6 3QE

Tel: 01353 778984

London and South East England

Derek Mucklow

51 Clandon Close, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 2NH

Tel: 0181 393 6017

South and West England

Phil Hindle

Rosebank, Sheep Street, Chipping Campden, Glos, GL55 6DR

Tel: 01386 840238 (moving in 1996)

North and Mid Wales

Delyth Wyn Davies

Borth Rd, Porthmadog, Gwynedd, LL49 9UP

Tel: 01766 512957

South Wales

Gareth Hutchinson

20 Southward Lane, Langland, Swansea, SA3 4QU

Tel: 01792 360909

BEGINNING A NEW SERIES IN WHICH **JAN KENDALL** TAKES A CLOSER LOOK AT SOME OF THE COUNTRIES IN WHICH BMS HAS A WORKING INTEREST

country in focus



Superficially Italy is very religious, with churches everywhere. The Vatican is in the centre of Rome, but although Roman Catholicism has its hold, most only have a nominal allegiance and their outlook is basically secular. Others, disillusioned with the church have sought refuge in Marxism, the cults or witchcraft. Only 1,500 of Italy's 33,000 communities have an established evangelical witness.

In 1984 Roman Catholicism ceased to be the state religion, and all religions now have equal freedom. However the Protestant church is still weak, and considered a foreign sect, despite the existence of the Waldensian Church, the world's oldest Protestant denomination.

At present BMS has three missionary couples working in Italy:

Ann & David MacFarlane

Ann & David are based at Altamura, in the southern tip of Italy, (near the top of the heel on the 'boot'). They come from Scotland and their home church is Falkirk Baptist. Before going to Italy David, who is a minister, worked as a residential social worker. They are in Italy with their three children, Diann aged 19, David aged 18, and Elizabeth aged 14.

Mark & Claire Ord

Mark and Claire are members of Clapham Baptist Church. Mark had previously spent a year with Oasis and

British Youth for Christ and had been a youth worker for his local authority. He'd also been a home help, and been involved in church work, and completed his theology degree from Spurgeon's College in 1993.

Claire has a degree in history, worked as an assistant careers officer and has undertaken part-time theological studies at Spurgeon's.

They have a daughter, Elizabeth, aged two.

Just over a year ago they started their language study in preparation for work in Italy. When Mark wrote the following article they had only been in Genoa three weeks.

GENOA

One hundred and fifty years ago Charles Dickens described Genoa as "a place that grows upon you every day. It abounds in the strangest contrasts, things that are picturesque, ugly, mean, magnificent, delightful and offensive, break upon the view at every turn."

Although we have lived in the city for only three weeks, the description seems to have worn well.

Looking across the port the buildings which stand out from the crush of flats and houses range from ancient cathedrals to disused dockside warehouses to glistening, new high rise office complexes. The overall impression is that this ancient city has seen better days.

Genoa is Italy's fifth largest city and is home to around one million people.



It feels typically, chaotically Italian. Baptists form a very small part of the community, even the Christian community, which is of course, predominantly Roman Catholic. There are two Baptist churches with a combined attendance of less than 100 people. Unfortunately both churches will lose their pastors by next easter as they are due to retire.

Given this, it was exciting to be at church twice on Sunday (normally there is only one service) and find it packed to capacity on both occasions. In the morning three young people were baptised and the church was crammed with church and family members, friends and people from other Protestant churches in the city. The feeling of crampedness was heightened by the fact that the entire congregation had to move downstairs for part of the service to a room which houses the baptistry.

In the sermon the pastor, a former Roman Catholic priest whose son had

just been baptised, told us how on the night of his son's birth he had run through the streets of the city shouting that he had a son. He was so animated that you half expected him to do the same about his son's baptism. He preached so loudly that I imagine half of Genoa got the message.

In the evening the church was full again, this time with young people. It was the Baptist church's turn to host the monthly youth service. The church was transformed; the organ was hidden behind a huge amplifier and an OHP screen, and along the front of the platform was a row of microphones which fortunately had not been available to the morning's preacher. The whole service was led and enjoyed by young people from virtually all the churches in Genoa: Baptists, Methodists, Waldensians, Roman Catholics, Pentecostals, Brethren and Adventists. It is difficult to imagine such a gathering taking place in Britain. In this large and diverse group the feeling of being in such an extreme minority is quelled for a time - which I imagine is part of the idea.

It was a good day and such occasions will be as important to us as to any protestant in Genoa. A welcome antidote to the difficulties of bearing a credible witness to Jesus in a city, and a country for that matter, which looks on most Protestant churches as sects. A fact that was brought home to me when I was looking for a flat in Genoa. On hearing I was a Baptist, the estate agent asked if I would be performing any strange ceremonies in the flat, and ended by asking me if I believed in Jesus Christ. A novel question to ask a Baptist missionary.

The Protestant churches in Genoa have a difficult task in mission, perhaps due as much to their perception of themselves as other people's perception of them. Discussing some of Genoa's social problems with a Waldensian churchleader, he told me that unemployment was 10%, which is high for northern Italy. When I asked if any church was working with unemployed people he replied, "We are a small community; we are not the Roman Catholic church. What can we do?" A good question.

Mark Ord



Facts and figures

Religious allegiances

Roman Catholic 78%
 Protestant 1%
 Non religious 18% (almost all were baptised in the Catholic church)
 Orthodox 1%
 Sects eg Jws, Mormons 1%
 Muslim 2%

(Figures have been rounded, so do not make 100%)

Population:

57,868,000 (1994); estimate for year 2000 58 million

Children per woman: 1.3 (1991)

Health services: One doctor per every 210 people

Calorie consumption: 138% of required intake

Literacy 98% male; 96% female

Communications: 106 newspapers, 421 TV sets & 791 radio receivers per 1,000 people

Economy: Annual growth 2.2%
 Annual inflation 9% (1980-92)

Christopher & Sarah Mattock

Chris and Sarah are members of Basingstoke Baptist Church. After leaving school Chris studied horticulture, worked as a VSO in Papua New Guinea and then in the family's rose growing firm near Oxford. He is also a qualified driving instructor. He trained for the Baptist ministry at Regent's Park College, Oxford from 1990 - 93.

Sarah, who comes from Cheam, trained for Occupational Therapy in Oxford. After getting married she worked in hospitals in Basingstoke, mostly in Community Health, and in 1991 spent three months as a volunteer at the Christian Medical Hospital, Vellore, India. They have a son, Simon, who is two years old.

They first went to Italy in 1993, beginning their work with language study.

Close-up on Saverio Guarna, BMS Missionary in Albania

Married in Rome in 1965 to Betsy, Saverio immediately enrolled at the Baptist Theological Seminary at Röschlikon to prepare for the ministry, whilst still carrying on his Law studies at the University of Rome. A couple of years later with a Bachelor of Divinity, Master of Theology and a Doctorate in Jurisprudence from Milan University under his belt, God led Saverio into a church planting ministry which resulted in a congregation of Italian immigrants being accepted into the Italian Baptist Union in 1968. After that, a pastorate in Switzerland, then back to Italy (now with three children) where Saverio pastored a congregation as well as being part-time Secretary of Evangelism within the Union. The work of Evangelism developed, and became a full-time post with Saverio director of it from 1981 - 1990. Then in 1990 Saverio was elected President of the Italian Baptist Union, but in 1992 he declined a second term in order to go back to pastoral ministry

WALDENSIANS

The Waldensians were founded as a reform movement within the Roman Catholic church by Peter Waldo, a merchant of Lyons in the late 12th century. Waldo gave away his worldly goods and led a simple life of poverty and preaching. Others rallied to him and his lifestyle and at first this group was given papal approval. Their lives of poverty however served to emphasise the worldliness of many clergy. Both the Archbishop of Lyons and a new Pope prohibited their preaching and excommunicated them. In less than a decade the pendulum had swung from applauding their enthusiasm to branding them as heretics. The Waldensians fled from Lyons to two regions: Lombardy (north-central Italy) and Provence (south-east France), and with continued persecution by the end of the 13th century they had infiltrated practically all of Europe except for Britain.

They were now convinced that the Catholic church was indeed the 'Whore of Babylon' and rejected all paraphernalia associated with church as being totally unnecessary, eg. the buildings themselves, cemeteries, altars, holy water, liturgies, pilgrimages, Catholic feast days and indulgences. However, they did keep confession, absolution and the eucharist (which seems to have been held once a year.) There also seems to have been some kind of Waldensian baptism.

Although they spread throughout Europe they were stronger in some regions than others, and were particularly strong in central and eastern Europe and it was here that their work was later to influence the course of the Reformation, and in the 16th century Waldensian beliefs. ●

PRAYER POINTS

Lord,
Many years ago when Paul wrote his letter to the Church in Rome, many people in Italy worshipped you, and they sent missionaries all over the world.

Nowadays Lord, in modern Italy, people think you're out-of-date; that religion is just a lot of beautiful churches and superstition. People are a lot more interested in the "3 Fs": football, family and food; faith has got left out.

Lord God make the Christians in Italy channels of your peace:

- Bring honesty where there is corruption;
- Bring faith in Jesus where there is trust in crying madonnas;
- Bring unity where there are two divided nations, North and South;
- Bring compassion for the poor and outsiders where they are often despised and ignored.

Lord breathe the life of your Spirit into the Church in Italy and to overflow into the people.
In Jesus Name. Amen.
(Thanks to Claire Ord)

COUN



Summer Year Teams

SOMETIMES A 28:19 SUMMER TEAM OR YEAR TEAM WILL BE SENT TO ITALY. HERE'S AN EXTRACT FROM SOMETHING A 28:19 ITALY SUMMER TEAM WROTE:

"The three of us formed a mission team with the MacFarlanes, plus three Italians, one Scotsman and someone who wasn't quite sure who he was! We spent four days in each of the four different Churches in the region. Our main aim was to try to revive the Churches' vision for evangelism.

"We broke the ice by going out onto the street singing choruses in English and Italian. So constant was our repetition of the songs we did know in Italian that, after three weeks, we were singing them in our sleep!

"We also performed sketches from our limited repertoire of seven and did

door-to-door visitation and leafleting. The leaflets invited people to a service which we held at the Churches every evening. At these services we gave testimony to our faith through word, song and drama. We tried to get the church members involved in our street work in order to give them experience in evangelism.

"In the Italian Baptist Church there is a real reluctance to evangelise. This is partly due to the problems of witnessing in a society where Catholicism dominates and Protestants are not recognised as Christians. Although the Pope has publicly

apologised to the Protestant denominations for not acknowledging them as Christians, we found that Catholics were very hostile and would not accept this. We also found that many Italians are so caught up in the tradition of the Catholic culture, that Christ and the Bible are not at the centre of their faith. In fact, 50% of Italians do not believe there is a God."

Esther, Robert and Nicola

Italy in focus



Christians on the move

EARLY CHRISTIANS DISCOVERED THAT TRAVEL WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THE GOSPEL. **DAVID POUNTAIN** REVEALS SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE FIRST MISSIONARIES

Travel broadens the mind, but does it do anything for Christian mission? At least one former BMS worker would have no problem in answering that question. Whenever he arrived at Gloucester Place in BMS's London days, he would regale staff with tales of his journey from Scotland. "I'm sorry I'm late," he would say. "There was this man on the train I was talking to about the Lord. We hadn't finished our conversation when we arrived in London, so we sat on our suitcases for a while, still talking about the Lord."

He was following in the tradition of those early Christians who used their travels to witness to the gospel. It is no accident that the first churches were established in cities and towns strung along the highways of the Roman Empire. People were on the move in the Roman world two thousand years ago. Backwards and forwards along the roads travelled soldiers, government officials, merchants, letter carriers, artisans and others. Many of these travellers were Christians and it was this, perhaps more than anything else, which contributed to the rapid expansion of the Christian faith in the first century.

The Roman legions preserved the peace and kept brigands and pirates at bay, making it relatively safe to travel by land or sea. The Romans were also great road builders and improvers, providing a network of routes throughout Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. Christians took advantage of this and Paul, with his team, probably travelled something like 10,000 miles during his missionary career. That doesn't seem much by modern standards, but then he and his companions covered most of that on foot at a rate of 15 or 20 miles a day.

When you travel like that you meet people. You meet the soldiers, the merchants, the artisans, the letter carriers and the government officials. You meet fellow travellers, runaway slaves, workers in the fields and people sitting outside their homes under their fig trees. Who can imagine Paul not taking the opportunity to share his faith? That's something we've lost, journeying, as most of us do, insulated from the world in our metal boxes on wheels.

When Bishop Dinesh Gorai of the Church of North India was appointed to the Barrackpore diocese, he had no transport. He was forced to travel by bus, bicycle and on foot. This brought him close to the people of his diocese. "When you walk all afternoon with a man, you have time to get to know him, to talk about his problems and his hopes and to sense what makes him tick," he said.

A few years ago a group of BMS workers at Ntondo in Zaire discovered the truth of this. They were joining some American missionaries who were celebrating the tenth anniversary of their Habitat for Humanity mission. They decided to have a celebratory walk along the 40 kilometre track to Mbandaka. As they passed through different villages on their way people came out to speak with them.

"We thought you 'mindele' (white people) only travelled by Land Rover," they said. For the first time they were able to talk to these folk who normally only waved to them as they passed by.

Some of those early Christian travellers, like Paul, Barnabas, Timothy and Titus, were undertaking specific Christian mission. Others, like Lydia selling her purple cloth, were just going about their normal tasks. When Paul wrote to Christians in Rome, which he had never visited, he was able to greet people he had met and evangelised elsewhere (Romans 16), people like Prisca and Aquila and Epaenetus. It was natural for such Christians to

come together for worship and to encourage each other to share their faith. So the church grew because Christians were on the move.

Not until the 19th Century was the world opened up again enough to enable Christian missionaries to travel throughout the world. However, in the late 20th century ordinary people in Britain have also had the opportunity to travel. Year after year folk go on foreign holidays. Young people are spending a large part of their money on travel and have become the new back-packing globe-trotters. Others are travelling on business. Many of these people are Christians. How are they using these new travel opportunities? Are they seen as mission opportunities? Christians whose business or professions takes them

The Roman legions preserved the peace and kept brigands and pirates at bay, making it relatively safe to travel by land or sea.

RESOURCES

overseas, even for short periods, often find themselves in situations and countries which are closed to traditional mission work. Ought we not to be preparing them to live and work effectively as Christians in these different cultures?

They may not see themselves as able to preach for conversion, but all Christians should, in some measure, be witnessing to their own conversion by their words, their conduct and their life-style. Firms which send employees to work overseas take considerable time and effort to prepare them to be effective ambassadors for their companies. Sadly most churches do little than promise to pray.

What about Christian tourists and holiday-makers? Are holidays an excuse for taking time off from our Christian responsibilities or should we see them as a means of meeting new people, making new friends and sharing our faith? The opportunity to visit other countries is also an occasion to meet local Christians and to offer encouragement. In the early church, the movement of Christians from one place to another meant that there was a constant flow of news and ideas. So Paul could respond

quickly to news from Jerusalem and arrange for offerings to be taken up.

In some parts of the world, small groups of isolated Christians, almost overwhelmed by other religions, welcome with open arms Christian visitors from elsewhere. It reminds them that they are part of a global church and this can make all the difference.

However, news and ideas can flow back into the life of local churches in the UK too, as long as churches are ready to receive them. Just as Christians on the move to other countries should be properly prepared for the adventure of sharing their faith, so they should be effectively debriefed when they return. The lessons that individual travellers have learned on their journeys are important for the life and work of the church back home.

Travel broadens the mind, it can also widen our Christian horizons opening up new areas of Christian service.



David Pountain is Missionary Herald Consulting Editor and minister at Florence Road Baptist Church, Brighton



**Who's sending who to where?
Countries where BMS has an involvement**

	Protestant Missionaries FROM	Foreign Protestants TO	Statistical comparison Missionaries per 1 million	
			non christian	non protestant
Albania	n/a			
Angola	9	115	37	14
Bangladesh	132	316	3	3
Belgium	65	572	550	58
Brazil	2768	3397	311	32
Bulgaria	0	77	28	9
CAR	14	208	131	99
China	n/a			
Croatia	0	2	4	0
El Salvador	130	113	409	28
France	456	1348	85	25
India	11284	775	7	7
Indonesia	1518	1599	13	12
Italy	198	462	41	8
Jamaica	45	209	168	134
Nepal	155	584	31	31
Portugal	174	333	382	33
South Africa	1866	1294	161	72
Sri Lanka	159	117	8	7
Thailand	117	1293	24	23
Trinidad	32	94	165	98
Zaire	2086	1470	551	66
Zimbabwe	240	630	145	98
Australia	3598	743	149	83
Canada	5336	408	53	23
Korea (S)	3957	409	14	13
New Zealand	1715	218	224	136
UK	7012	1021	61	44
USA	59074	2484	52	26

Taken from Operation World

Notes

Data is given only where it is expedient to do so. Missionaries include short term workers of over one year's service and furloughing missionaries assigned to these countries.

The statistical comparison is a statistical reconstruction rather than the actual number of missionaries. The lower the figure the greater need for missionaries.

For discussion:

- 1 Which figures stand out to you from this table, and why? (For example, they could be the high figures, countries sending or receiving a lot of missionaries, or at the other end of the scale, the low figures, countries in need of missionaries.)
- 2 Are the statistics from some countries a surprise to you?
- 3 BMS has a policy of working in partnership with other mission agencies; some will be predominantly involved in evangelism, others in other kinds of Christian service eg

social work, helping with development. Do you think this is a good thing? Are there other ways BMS could work? (Wh't not write and tell us about your ideas. Address your letters to the Editor, Richard Wells.)

4 Following on from Q.3, missionary service nowadays is often seeking to train national Christians to minister to their own culture, in ways that are appropriate, so that the Western missionary becomes redundant in that situation.

Operation World comments in its section on Africa that "Most Africans think missionary work to be the job of Europeans."

What are your comments on this? Is it a situation to be welcomed or resisted?

5 Mission is more than missionaries. What other things must be recognised and included in the support of world mission?

Total Missionary Serving Members 1980 - 1995

	1980	1986	1991	1995
Missionary sending churches	560	469	491	508
Roman Catholic Societies	1799	1588	1625	1496
Interdenominational Societies	3058	3218	3346	4160
Other Denominational Societies	1080	1276	1215	1261
Anglican Societies	1655	1384	1381	1482
Total	8252	7935	8058	8907

Taken from Quadrant Information produced by Christian Research Association, October 1995

TOP TEN MISSIONARY SENDING COUNTRIES

This table shows the top ten nations sending the highest ratio of Protestant missionaries in relation to their population eg for every 2,550 people in Norway one Protestant missionary has gone overseas.

- 1 950 Faroe Islands
- 2 1,540 American Samoa
- 3 1,790 Northern Marianas
- 4 1,990 New Zealand
- 5 2,010 Tonga
- 6 2,080 Solomon Islands
- 7 2,300 Western Samoa
- 8 2,490 Fiji
- 9 2,550 Norway
- 10 3,780 Finland

Source: Operation World

POINTS FOR PRAISE

AFRICA The vision for the number of missions in Africa has grown, and the number of African missionaries and agencies is steadily increasing. Note especially a number of Nigerian missions, many reaching out to Muslims and unreached peoples.

ASIA as a continent has seen spectacular church growth since 1980 eg in countries like Korea and Indonesia. In

1980 there were five Asian countries with no known believers; today there are three (Cambodia, North Korea and Maldives). Countries with restrictions have eased them and more Christian ministries are possible eg in Nepal, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. Asia's missions have increased in every way possible - in size, in maturity, in momentum Chinese, Korean, and Filipino missionaries are becoming an increasing component in the missionary force in many lands.

EUROPE Give thanks that freedom of religion is now a reality for all of Europe. Pray that it may continue!
SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA Praise God for the explosive Christian growth that has been seen this century. Brazil has twice as many evangelicals as there are in all of Europe.

AND PRAYER

AFRICA There is a huge need for leadership training and there is a bottleneck because of lack of funds for training and supporting full time workers. Pray for leadership training at all levels, and for material to be biblical yet Africa orientated.

ASIA. In some parts of Asia the church has declined as a percentage of the population eg Sri Lanka, North India, Hong Kong. Pray that this might be reversed. In Asia there are blocs of Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists who are virtually untouched by any Christian contact. Pray that more of these countries may open up and that those who hear, may believe.

EUROPE The church in Europe generally has lost the younger generation. Young people with their own youth culture can be seen as a sub-culture which needs missionaries specially attuned to hearing what young people are saying. Pray for those involved with outreach and discipling ministries among young people.
SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA Pray for the training of pastors - mainly that it may happen! Some reckon there are 175,000 evangelical pastors with no formal training.

Yeshua Ben David - Why do the Jewish People reject Jesus as their Messiah, by Walter Riggans
MARC price £10.99

Jewish theologians insist that Jesus could not have been the Messiah of Israel. But if Jesus isn't Israel's biblically promised Messiah, how could he be anyone else's Messiah? Walter Riggans's book is, perhaps, more broadly about Jewish people and covers the theological, historical and psychological reasons for their rejection of Jesus as Messiah. It is firmly intended for the layman and is easy to read, but is, nevertheless, a very thorough book handling even technical issues in a fashion

suitable for any serious Christian. The author addresses the cross-cultural complications of evangelistic ministry among Jews and the Messianic passages from Old Testament scripture. He covers the textual reasons and the interpretive arguments for Christianity's differences with Jewish theologians. He details the immense sensitivity which Jews have concerning Christian evangelism and he continually extends the careful and thoughtful evangelism. Walter Riggans is a Church of Scotland minister and General Secretary for the Church's Ministry among the Jews.
Kelly Hendrick

Touching the Soul of Islam, by Bill Musk
MARC price £8.99

As Christians with distinctly Western minds, we have very little grasp of Middle Eastern culture.

In his most recent book, Bill Musk explores Muslim life, thought and literature to bring to our Western minds an understanding and appreciation of the Middle Eastern world.

He demonstrates that Middle Eastern culture is very similar to the culture of the Bible and, in doing so, brings light to our understanding of the present day Middle East,

as well as to Scripture.

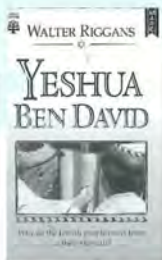
How fascinating to see Scripture through the eyes of Middle Eastern culture instead of the culture of the modern West.

The author's thoughts, however, are not organised in a very systematic way and as a result the book does not enjoy an easy flow; it's almost like walking through a dark forest looking at the vegetation with a torch. After reading the book, though, the ramble is something one begins to appreciate.

Touching the Soul of Islam is a strong effort to do just that.

Kelly Hendrick

TAKE 2





GLOBAL CHALLENGE

They came from all parts of the UK. They have gone into all the world. Their challenge is to make Jesus known. The first report from the 1996 BMS Action Teams comes from Richard Wells

For the city of Birmingham it was another Saturday. The continuous stream of morning traffic taking a legion of shoppers into the city centre under a grey overcast sky made the same interminable buzz as the previous Saturday.

The same passengers paid their customary homage to the public transport system by catching the same buses.

The same children, pockets fiscally recharged, made their habitual pilgrimages to the same sweet shops.

But for 22 young people this particular Saturday -

September 9, 1995 - heralded the beginning of the most challenging year of their lives; the threshold of an experience that would change their outlook on the world forever.

These were the successful applicants for the BMS 28:19 Action Team 1996 expeditions.

Whatever diverse academic levels they had recently celebrated, these young people were now to compete on equal terms; waiting in the reception area of St Andrew's Hall missionary college, at Selly Oak, they anticipated the two-week intensive practical training course ahead with a mixture of apprehension,

excitement and inadequacy.

The course was to be no respecter of intellect or muscle; it would expose them to tough challenges in their personal, spiritual and practical lives in preparation for the rigours ahead.

The challenge for course leader Phil Marsden - BMS Youth and Children's Co-ordinator - was to weld this mismatched mixture, as compatible as a bagful of ferrets and hedgehogs, into strong teams, prepared physically and spiritually for front line mission tasks like street evangelism, teaching and care work.

This was the first time the 22 had met as a group. They had come to Birmingham from places as far flung as Stirling in Scotland, Teignmouth in Devon, Swansea in Wales and the London suburb of Tooting. At the other end lay the prospect of six months in a foreign land, coping with an alien culture without familiar shoulders to lean on.

"It was essential that we equipped them in every way

for the job," says Phil. "They needed to know the value of working and living as teams. They needed the proper practical skills to survive in totally different circumstances, and they certainly needed devotional lives to match."

And so began the practical training in evangelism, street work, communication, drama, counselling and spiritual warfare with in-house lecturers and guest speakers.

Study sessions on servanthood, prayer and fasting, living a Spirit-filled life, integrity and holiness, aimed to underpin their Christian faith and reaffirm their beliefs, and it was here that foundations began to rock, inadequacies and lack of confidence started to emerge.

"Of course we had emotions and tears," says Phil. "These were young people away from home, facing a mammoth challenge. They were bound to wobble."

One by one doubts and fears were addressed by Phil and his team:

"I think I've made a big mistake."

"I'm not good enough - look at the others, they're so much stronger than me."

"Will my family still be there when I get back?"

"Will I be able to stand through all this?"

For the first strenuous few days, the 22 different personalities fought an uphill struggle. Then came the release and, as though a mist had lifted, team spirit

emerged, attitudes changed, empathy strengthened.

"We were seeing individual lives changing before our eyes, young people growing closer to God," says Phil. "Young people were being filled with the Holy Spirit for the first time. There was confidence, boldness and courage in God."

Teams began to pray together daily, share more openly with one another, counsel each other. The level of encouragement rose as each realised that they shared similar apprehensions and feelings of inadequacy.

Today, as the five teams look out at the sharp end of mission work in France, Albania, Trinidad, India and Sri Lanka, they will be drawing deeply on the practical and spiritual skills and knowledge built up during those two intensive weeks, for trouble was certain to strike.

And strike it did - visa problems in Trinidad, the intense irritation of mosquito bites, the shock of living in extremes of temperature, language barriers, meeting people whose needs and aspirations are totally different to those back home. Add to this homesickness, and it is not long before the challenge of simply existing stretches tolerance to breaking point.

But, as teams have discovered, perseverance triumphs - like the breakthrough 19-year-old Nigel Cope, from Moortown Baptist Church, Leeds,

experienced as one of the India and Sri Lanka team.

"It took a few days to get over the shock of the city of Calcutta," he says. "Everything just overwhelmed me, the poverty, the smell and the squalor, and the fact that I was spending three months in it.

"But Wednesday afternoon saw a change. For some reason I just took a step back and went out in it. It was amazing; all my other thoughts disappeared. I looked for the first time beyond the city and saw the people. They are amazing."

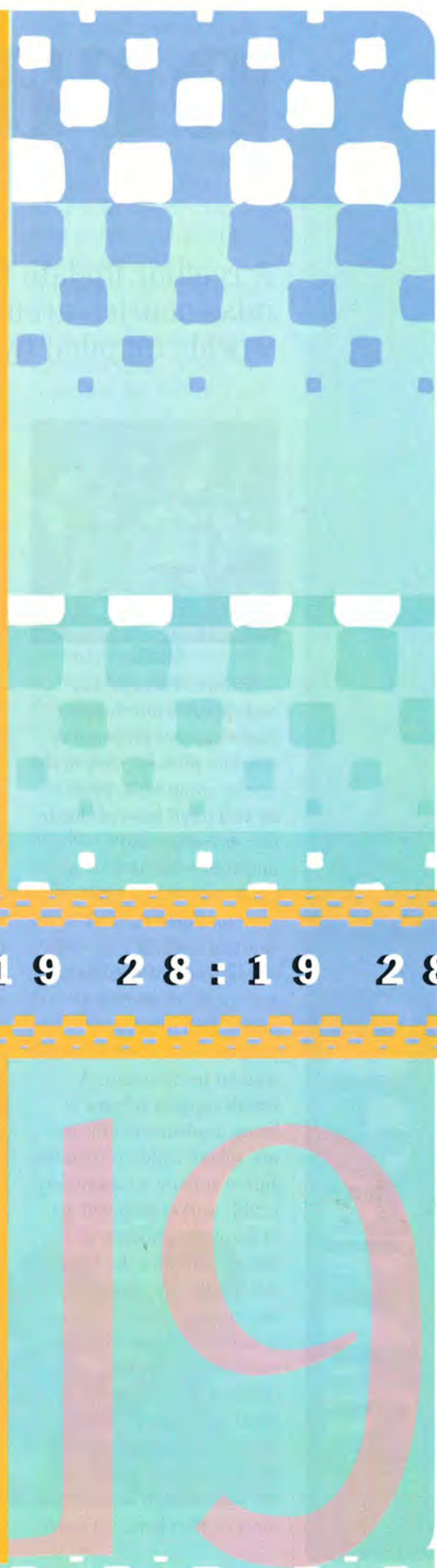
Persistent Nigel had got to grips with the reason for his Action Team's assignment. His heart had been touched, compassion began to rise and he realised the Holy Spirit's tutelage had added a new layer in the foundations begun at Selly Oak.

28 : 19 28 : 19 28

He and his fellow team members were moving forward in their mission to communicate the gospel effectively, rising to the challenge to show it in their lives.

The team were becoming increasingly aware that their strongest testimony during the coming months would be their love for each other.

Richard Wells is the BMS Publicity Manager



prayer focus

A regular update from our missionaries around the world compiled by **Sam Gibson**



Stuart and Georgie Christine

BRAZIL

A 'Pioneer Package' has been produced to support local churches prepared to consider mission work in the favelas around São Paulo - an area often ignored due to fear, prejudice and uncertainty about how to tackle such varied and profound material and spiritual need. It is a combination of evangelistic and social programmes including a pre-school programme and ministerial student involvement. A health support scheme is being implemented for the pre-school children with the aim to appoint a community health worker who will get to know the children in the schools and give the families the health care, guidance and support that they need at home to create a healthy environment for the children to grow and develop. At the moment, these five year olds already suffer poor health and are not well enough to make the most of the chance to learn

and grow out of the poverty cycle they are trapped in. The scheme is also looking to equip a vehicle as a mobile dental and health care clinic from which a nurse will operate, reaching children and their families in up to ten favelas.

Please pray:

- for the appointment of a health care worker
- for the right vehicle to become available for the mobile dental and health care clinic
- for the whole scheme to come to fruition
- for local churches to catch the vision and become involved in mission work in the favelas.



David and Rachel Quinney Mee

EL SALVADOR

Parliament has recently approved a new minimum salary level. To arrive at this figure, the National Council for Minimum Salary took account of the cost of basic foods, housing, clothing and miscellaneous items (health care and education) to come

africa

Roger and Nikki Pearce

Roger and Nikki Pearce met at Heaton Baptist Church, Newcastle-upon-Tyne where they are members - they were married in 1991 and are expecting their first child in September. Before joining BMS Roger was head of Language at a secondary school in Morpeth, Northumberland. He teaches French and German. Nikki is a trained general nurse and midwife. Roger and Nikki studied at St Andrews in Selly Oak before flying out to Albania this month. Roger begins work as an educational advisor and Nikki will be involved in community health care and midwifery. Roger likes curry and supports Manchester City - how difficult it will be to find in Albania is anyone's guess! Nikki enjoys sewing and embroidery.

up with a basic cost of living for an average family of something over 4,000 colones a month (£300). They then set the minimum salary at just over 1,000 colones per month for the industrial sector and about 600 colones for different agricultural sectors. Their 'average family' therefore needs about four urban minimum wage earners or seven rural earners to cross the poverty line. An increasing number of 16 and 17 year old girls are seeking

jobs in sweatshops where they work 12 hours per day. Six hours is the legal maximum and they receive less than the minimum wage with no overtime pay.

Please pray:

- for guidance on how to pray for heads of state and those in high places, so that all in El Salvador might live in peace and dignity
- for the Quinney Mee's first baby which is due on 6 January, Rachel wants to have a home birth

americas



John and Leslie Moody

EL SALVADOR

John and Lesley Moody from Orpington have two grown up daughters. Before joining the BMS, John worked for a Lloyds insurance syndicate for 27 years and Leslie worked for a housing association. They have completed their biblical and mission studies at All Nations Christian College and then finished off their training at St Andrews, Selly Oak. They flew out this month to Brazil with a view to becoming hostel parents in São Paulo. Both John and Lesley are keen on sport and are interested in golf, swimming, badminton and walking.



Peter and Susan Cousins

BRAZIL

A book about Modern

Science and the Christian Faith, written in Portuguese and arising from Peter's work over five years with students of the Federal University, has finally been accepted for publication by the ABU Editoria in Brazil. Peter says, "Once word got around that I had a degree in physics as well as being a theologian lecturing at the Baptist College, I found that university students were searching me out with their intellectual problems." Peter found that the intellectual standard of these young people was usually way below that which they had to cope with when they got to university. They soon discovered that their childhood ideas of a six thousand year old universe and a six day creation neither squared with what they were learning at the Faculty nor with their own changing view of the world.

After a few years of working with the evangelical students at the Federal University, Peter was persuaded to give a series of evangelistic lunch-time talks on science and the Christian faith in 1990 and again in 1991. Peter says, "They were a wonderful

experience, especially as some students and a lecturer came to faith in Christ." After that, invitations to speak in other parts of Brazil came in and eventually the chief editor of the ABU suggested that Peter should write a book. This he did and the book was finished in 1994.

The book, which as yet remains untitled, is an attempt to present Science and Religion as complementary rather than contradictory - where they overlap, Peter tries to harmonize them. It has a dual purpose of firstly giving Christian students a view of the world and God's involvement in it which enables them to deal with the attacks on their faith common in Brazilian universities. Secondly, Peter has made the book evangelistic so that it can be given as a present to interested friends. Peter says, "Having seen the relief on Christian students' faces when they discover that they can believe in the Bible and dedicate themselves fully to their studies, I am desperately anxious to put the book into the hands of students all over Brazil."

Peter is also pleased to see the look on the faces of non-Christians when they realise their arguments against the Christian faith are not as solid as they had imagined!

Peter believes this book has a wide ministry and so is keen to have it in print as soon as possible. In November, the ABU agreed to publish the book although at the time they did not have sufficient funds. They applied to the BMS for a grant from the literature fund which was agreed very quickly and so it finally appears to be 'all systems go' for this important work.'

Please pray:

- thank God for the story so far and pray that there will be no further hindrances to this book being published
- for its witness to Christians and non-Christians alike
- for Peter and Sue - thanks for their perseverance in pushing this book towards publication and for Peter's ministry amongst the students of Brazil
- that Peter and Sue be greatly blessed as they continue in their work as hostel parents

EUROPE

Wayne and Wendy Hadley

Wayne and Wendy Hadley are members of Sutton Coldfield Baptist Church. After working for Lucas in Training Administration, Wayne studied for three years at Moorlands College (Theology and Missiology). Before their children Ben and Charlotte came along, Wendy was involved in secretarial work as well as church youth work and other organisations. Wayne and Wendy went to Massy, France for language training this month and hope to work in France when this is completed. They both enjoy walking and swimming and Wayne likes to play sports such as rugby, badminton and football. Wendy is looking forward to being able to take the children camping and boating.

**Europe**

nepal



David and Catherine McLellan

NEPAL

The Nepali government has been undergoing a period of turmoil over the past few months. A General Election was called by the communist PM who requested that the King have parliament dissolved. This was done but then overturned as it was ruled to be unconstitutional. The PM resigned and two days later a Congress party leader replaced him heading up a three party coalition government. The handover of power has been generally peaceful despite a few tense days of strikes and the new PM, Mr Deuba, has promised justice and water for the poor. It remains to be seen how this is to be implemented.

Just a few days before the change of government, the United Mission to Nepal's five year general agreement to operate in the country was approved. A few days later and a different set of government ministers would have been involved causing delays and reviews. Work now begins on getting four further departmental agreements approved which will enable UMN to continue to work in the fields of Health, Education,

Rural Development and Engineering and Industrial Development.

Please pray:

- for peace to continue as regards to the change of government
- that there be no reduction in the freedom of religion experienced by the Nepali church under the new government
- that the PM's promises to the poor will come to fruition
- for David, Lyndsay and Kirsty in general and for Catherine as she takes on extra work with her teaching English as a foreign language and becomes involved in prison visiting



Bob and Ruth Ellett

NEPAL

Opposition to the growth of the Church in Nepal is becoming more apparent. 11 Christians are still in prison after being charged with 'converting' others to Christianity in September 1994. There is no case against them as the said converts are still Hindus and deny the charges. The Christians remain in prison awaiting a hearing however. Much money would be needed to have them

released on bail and a large amount has already been spent on lawyers and help for the families of the prisoners.

There have also been calls from the World Hindu Federation for an end to Christian missionary activity in Nepal.

Please pray:

- that justice may be done and these brothers and sisters released soon
- that they may continue to experience the presence of God
- for the continued expansion of God's church in Nepal in the face of opposition
- for the family as they face further separation - Ruth is already in England and hopes to teach when her course is completed, Sarah finishes school in the summer and hopes to go to art college in England which will leave only Susanna in Nepal without her sisters



Valerie Hamilton

BANGLADESH

Violence has erupted onto the streets of Bangladesh due to political upheaval. The opposition parties are campaigning to have the government

ousted which has led to a series of general strikes of increasing length and effect on the people - if the trend continues, these strikes will cause untold suffering to thousands of daily workers and will ruin businesses. As well as the general strikes there are processions and demonstrations which erupt into violence. There have even been some deaths and the sound of gun-fire is heard frequently day and night.

Please pray:

- for an immediate end to violence and for a resolution of the political turmoil
- the continued safety of Valerie and other missionaries in countries where violence reigns
- for the break through of the Gospel - many are coming to Christ in Bangladesh but many more have still not heard



Jerry and Ruth Clewitt

NEPAL

The Clewitts have felt the call to leave Nepal where they were involved in public health and education work in Kathmandu, and settle back down in London. They have returned to their house in Plaistow and are worshipping and finding new roles at their home



NEPAL

church, Memorial Baptist. They have now officially resigned from the BMS although they are keeping in touch with many friends in Nepal. Both Jerry and Ruth have found jobs after encountering the frustrations of the employment market in this country. Ruth as a primary school teacher in East London and Jerry with the third world charity PLAN International, liaising with the overseas development administration of the government and other official funding bodies, trying to get funding for projects. The children have all settled into their respective schools quite well considering the upheaval of a different society and education system. Simon, at eleven, began secondary school in September and Naomi and Paul are both attending a local primary school. The children have joined sports clubs and the boys are now involved in Boys Brigade.

Please pray:

- for the Clewett family as they continue to re-adjust to
- life in this country, that the education of the children will not be adversely affected by these changes
- that they will quickly discover God's continuing plan for their lives in Britain.



Hilary Drinkwater

Paul and Hilary Drinkwater are members of Kendal Road Baptist Church, Gloucester and have also been actively involved in a church plant - Kingholm Christian Fellowship. Paul is a teacher and has taught in colleges of further

education and higher education, in Electronic Engineering and Teacher Training. Hilary is a registered nurse and district nursing sister. Paul and Hilary flew out to Nepal this month where Paul is to teach electronics at Kathmandu University and Hilary is hoping to get involved in medical work. Paul and Hilary have three children and two grandchildren.

africa



Simon Collins

Simon Collins is a doctor who grew up in Sussex and did his medical training at Liverpool. He is now a GP at Bromsgrove where he is a member of New Road Baptist Church. Simon did mission studies at St Andrews College in Selly Oak, Birmingham and then a course in tropical diseases. Simon has just begun six months of language training in Portugal before he goes out to Angola. In Angola Simon will be responsible for setting up a community health project in a region of 150,000 people - a difficult task due to the lack of infrastructure caused by the continuing civil war. Simon enjoys the cinema, sport, skiing and food.

Jill and Philip Igoe

Jill and Philip Igoe were married in 1991. Philip, who trained at Spurgeon's College, has been minister of South Ossett Baptist Church since 1989 and prior to their marriage, Jill was involved in childrens and youth work. She then went on to complete a BEd teacher training course. Jill and Philip have been accepted by BMS to work in Zimbabwe and are studying at St Andrews in Selly Oak prior to going out early in 1996. They both enjoy walking, gardening and reading and Philip enjoys football whilst Jill is more interested in swimming.

JANUARY 1996

Arrivals: None

Departures:
 Paul and Hilary Drinkwater to Nepal
 John and Leslie Moody to Brazil
 Wayne and Wendy Hadley to France
 Roger and Nicola Pearce to Albania
 Simon Collins to Portugal
 Jacqui Wells to Thailand
 Katie Norris to Nepal
 Lee and Evenlyn Messeder to Brazil
 Mary Parsons to Brazil

Overseas Visits:
 Carolyn Green to India and Thailand
 Phil Marsden to Amsterdam
 Derek Rumbol to Kenya, Zimbabwe and Angola

BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY

invites applications for the following post
THE BARNABAS PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR
 (50% full time)

Within the Department for Missionaries the person appointed will be responsible for co-ordinating the Barnabas Programme, which will incorporate the selection, training and placement of volunteers both as individuals and in teams for short term service overseas. He/she will also provide their own administrative/secretarial support and computer skills are essential. This post is initially subject to a three year fixed term contract and subject to review.

Good holiday entitlement; occupational pension scheme and free meals in the staff restaurant.

The BMS is actively involved in mission in over 30 countries and its work is supported by churches throughout England, Scotland and Wales from whom we look for continued support.

Registered Charity number 233782.

Further information, application forms and job descriptions are available from: Mr M J Quantick, Administration Manager, Baptist Missionary Society, PO Box 49, Baptist House, 129 Broadway, DIDCOT OX11 8XA, Telephone: 01235 512077, ext 240. Closing date for applications is: 12 January 1996.



Naked talent

There is nothing quite like sitting around an open fire on a cold winter's evening, a good meal inside you and congenial company. Stories were being told and events of the past relived in the mind at least as the evening wore on.

More logs were added to the fire and there was music playing softly in the background. It was a clear, crisp night and the stars were out but no moon. Why mention the sky. Well because we could see it of course. Did I forget to mention we were not in some cosy sitting room with the curtains drawn and lights on but outside sitting around a fire in a courtyard in front of several bamboo and thatched houses in the north of Bangladesh with someone playing a bamboo flute on a nearby verandah.

Eventually someone suggested bed and most of us settled for the night. Most because the men of the village took turns at staying awake on dark nights to keep guard

where is my ...

over their cattle against raids across the border from India.

I was with the Association Secretary on a tour of churches holding meetings and meeting local pastors as we went. We had a district pastor with us who was visiting some folk in order to collect the payment for a pair of water buffalo he had sold to them. The day had been successful with a good turn out at the evening prayer meeting and the pastor had the money for buffalo in his shoulder bag.

The three of us continued talking as we tried to get comfortable on the fresh straw which had been put on the hard mud floor to act as some sort of mattress for us. I dozed off and I guess the others did too until rudely awoken by a prodding in the ribs and a very loud stage whisper in the ear telling me to get up quickly and run as the dakoits (bandits) were coming to the village. Never needing to be told twice about such fundamental acts of self-preservation, I got out of my sleeping bag as quickly as I could and ran following the others into the undergrowth.

There was a commotion all around and eventually we heard that the robbers had been driven off. Not before time as it was very cold, not to mention distinctly uncomfortable, in the bushes!

We then had a problem how to return discreetly to the now dimly lit houses as one of my colleagues was stark naked! He had been in such a rush to get out of the blankets and away that he had grabbed his bag with the money in it but forgotten his lungi (sleeping garment).

We'll get him back, rekindled the fire, no more sleep that night but more tales of daring raids and even more heroics in the defence of property and possession. I have often wondered though, had it been me, which I would have grabbed. ●

John Passmore, the BMS Europe Representative was a missionary in Bangladesh for seven years



John Passmore takes a sideways view

waves

A CHRIST-GIVEN PURPOSE

Luke 24:36-49

What are we here for? What does being a Christian, being the church of Jesus Christ mean? After the crucifixion, Jesus' traumatized disciples must have asked what's it all about? What did he call us together for? What should we be doing now? Jesus gives four guiding principles:

Clothed with power from on high (49): We cannot witness or serve in our own strength. Spiritual gifts are given by God for his mission and ministry and we need to be open to whatever he wishes to give to us.

Renewal is about new lives. It is the expectancy that God will act that I have experienced in Brazil; the sense of fellowship, sacrifice and suffering for others which I have observed in Central America.

You are witnesses of these things (48): We have read and heard some dynamic Christian speakers who excite and challenge, but these are not our authority. We must only proclaim those truths which we are authorised to believe by those who can say: "I saw, I heard, I touched."

Preached to all nations (47): Mission is every part of our daily life - no dualism of Sunday and the rest. Not the absurdity of supporting overseas mission, while neglecting personal witness to our neighbours who know little of God's purpose for their lives.

The Good News is God's rescue from this money-mad, sex-mad, power-mad, success-driven life that so many are trying to live, only to drown in stress and disappointment.

But there will be no mission without passion - if you don't believe it don't preach it, I tell my students.

Understand the Scriptures (44-46): Do we believe that the Bible is God's word for our lives and the life of the church?

Yes! Good evangelicals will be sure to give the correct answer. But it is not enough to believe that the Bible is the word of God - we must live according to its truth. The cross must be at the centre of our faith; the way to resurrection life in the power of the Spirit is through the cross.

The way ahead is the only way we've ever had: to go and make disciples in the power of the Spirit.



After ten years as minister of Highfield Baptist Church, Northamptonshire, John Weaver is now Tutor in Pastoral Theology at Regent's Park College, Oxford. John has benefited from two periods of sabbatical study leave with the BMS: Brazil (1989) and Nicaragua and El Salvador (1995).

WHERE IT MATTERS

Helping Where it Matters

BMS Relief Fund



Meeting needs that don't always hit the headlines

£250 £50 £25 £10 Other

Name

Address

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Natural disasters, civil wars, refugee crises... they're images we see regularly on TV and in the newspapers. But what about those that don't always hit the headlines? Like making life more bearable for children who survived the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, or supplying medicines to fight measles in Zaire. The BMS Relief Fund is able to respond with compassion and speed to those hit by circumstances beyond their control. What's more, we know we have control over where the money goes and that every pound donated will go to meet those needs, because nothing is deducted by BMS from gifts for administration.

Please will you help us to help where it matters?

BMS Relief Fund

Please make cheques payable to Baptist Missionary Society. Unless requested, receipts will not be issued for donations under £10.