



News around the world

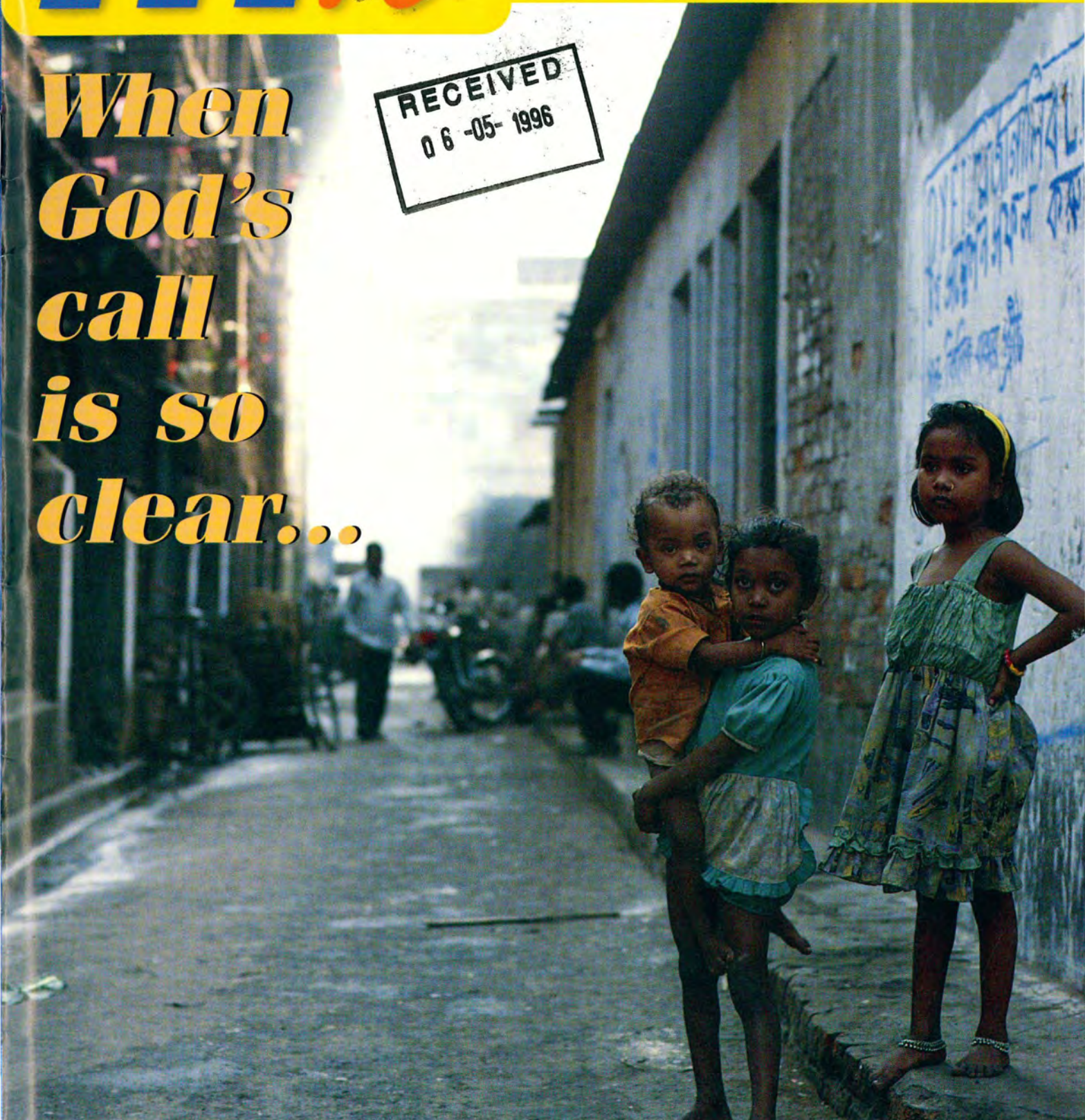
Focus on Zimbabwe

Action teams on the road

international

*When
God's
call
is so
clear...*

RECEIVED
06-05-1996



Steve Chalke Sunday school myths

Response to God Why I became a missionary



PRAYER FOR ZIMBABWE

*O God the great Shepherd
look down upon us
as we struggle with each
passing day.*

Carry us one more day.

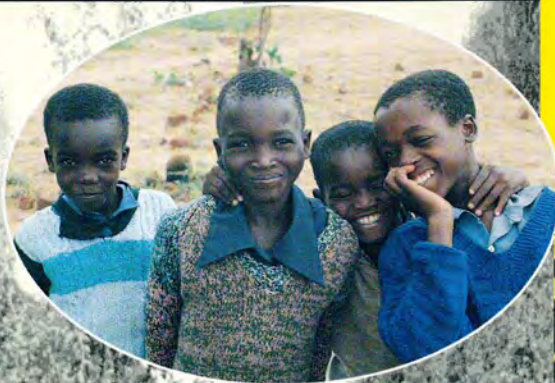
*O God the great Healer
reach down and touch us
as our bodies disintegrate
before our eyes.*

Renew us, make us whole today.

*O God our great Saviour
come down amongst us
as other powers hold us in their grasp.*

Deliver us today.

ZIMBABWE



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Africa, in their
vision for
church planting
and
evangelism.
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£36,500
to support
BMS work in
ZIMBABWE.**

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Telephone Christine Neilson, BMS Literature Secretary on: 01235 512077 if you want to support Project 96, and for your Project pack. Audio visual material will be available in May '96.



The call to mission is a lofty phrase principally associated with service overseas. However, we should not be

lulled into this mindset; we're all gifted and equipped by God in a variety of ways to respond to his call, wherever that may be.

But have you noticed a tendency – probably not intentional – to elevate those who respond to a mission call overseas? It's almost like raising them on a spiritual pedestal. We treat them as extra special.

Our BMS colleagues involved at the sharp end of mission are the last people to consider they're any more special than any one of God's family. They would say they're just ordinary people who felt a stirring of God in their spirits to service overseas and who responded.

The right people in the right place at the right time.

... like any one of us whose heart response is obedience to God.

To him we're all extra special.

Richard Wells

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FOCUS ON NEPAL

The only Hindu kingdom and the fastest growing Christian church in the world

FRONT COVER: Children of "the untouchables" in the slums of Calcutta to whom the gospel is being taken
Picture: Richard Wells

**SIMON COLLINS EXPLAINS
HOW FROM THE AGE OF 15 HE KNEW
GOD WANTED HIM TO BE A MISSIONARY**

**ANGOLA
HERE!
COME!**

For me, the call to mission was more a steady process over many years than any single “Damascus road” experience. I grew up in a Christian family, in the days when the BMS still held annual “Summer Schools”. Our church’s youth group went on these fortnights of fun, Christian teaching and missionary consciousness-raising for several years, and it was at one of these, when I was aged about 15, that I first knew that God wanted me to be a missionary. It was not a dramatic thing – just a certainty in my heart that this was the plan God had for my life. I had recently read a book by Richard Wurmbrand – a Romanian pastor whom the communists imprisoned for many years for his faith, and had been challenged by his assertion that most Christians in the West had “gone soft” – not having experienced real persecution for centuries, they no longer even thought about its possibility, and thus would be less able to stand up to it should it ever descend upon them. His words challenged me,

and I promised God that I would serve Him wherever He called.

At that time, I had no specific career in mind. But next August, back at Summer School, God changed that. There was a talk on “closed countries” – lands that were anti-Christian, where missionaries weren’t allowed to preach the gospel openly, and could only enter if they had a specific professional skill to offer. The speaker used an overhead projector to list the sort of jobs that he meant – it included “engineer, agriculturalist, doctor, teacher, accountant, nurse . . .” I distinctly remember looking at the screen and thinking “The only one of those that interests me is ‘doctor’. I suppose I’d better become one, then.”

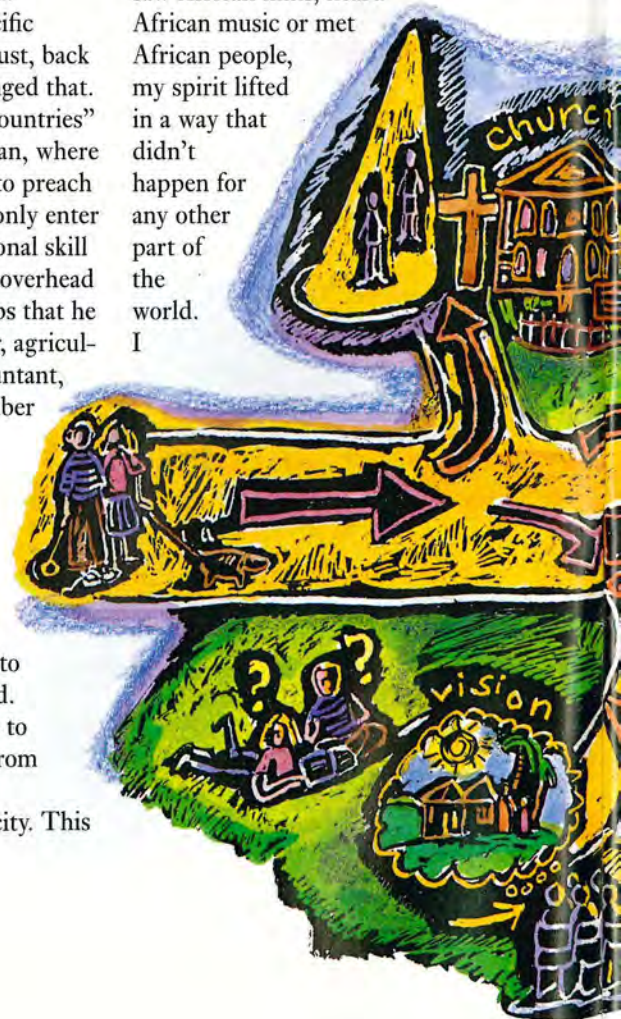
And that was the start of my call to medicine – always with the intention of using it to serve God on the mission field.

In due course, God led me to study in Liverpool. Coming from a southern town, I wanted to experience life in a northern city. This

was just after the Toxteth riots, and news coverage of that had awakened a deep desire towards Liverpool. Coupled with the fact that I had supported Liverpool football club since a child, plus the initial stunned reaction of my parents and teachers: “Can’t you choose somewhere safer?”, it was the natural choice. God confirmed this through the Bible passage I “just happened” to read on the train coming back from my interview – it was Ezekiel 27 – the lament for Tyre – and it struck me how closely this described Liverpool – a once-proud city, its wealth built on the slave trade, but now fallen into ruin.

One direct consequence of my studying in Liverpool was being able to spend my elective in Zaire. At medical school, you get the chance to do an “elective” period of study during your course – two months where you can go anywhere in the world, to see how medicine is practised there. I wanted to go to sub-Saharan, “black” Africa, as by now I was pretty certain that God was preparing me for life there. Again, this was not a dramatic thing, much more a gradual process. Whenever I saw African films, heard African music or met African people, my spirit lifted in a way that didn’t happen for any other part of the world.

I





when the extent of HIV and AIDS was first being understood in the West. As a result, that year many medical schools refused to allow their students to spend their electives in sub-Saharan Africa. Liverpool was one of the more enlightened ones, realising that AIDS



definitely not made to be a surgeon. And besides, from my reading, I had become convinced that the main health need for Africa today is for primary health care – working with the local community to provide such basics as health education, nutrition, and

mother/child health. During my university and junior doctor years, God had given me the chance to serve on several committees, developing the kind of



PICTURES
Simon Collins:
The early years

arranged my trip through a missionary couple I'd met at Summer School some years previously – Steve and Carolyn Green. My medical school thought that the purpose of my elective was to learn more about medicine – I knew it was much more a practical “tasting” of missionary life in Africa, to test my call. And I loved it. I felt very much at home, more certain than ever that this was where God would have me be. I can now see the wisdom of God's leading me to study in Liverpool – my elective was in 1988, a time

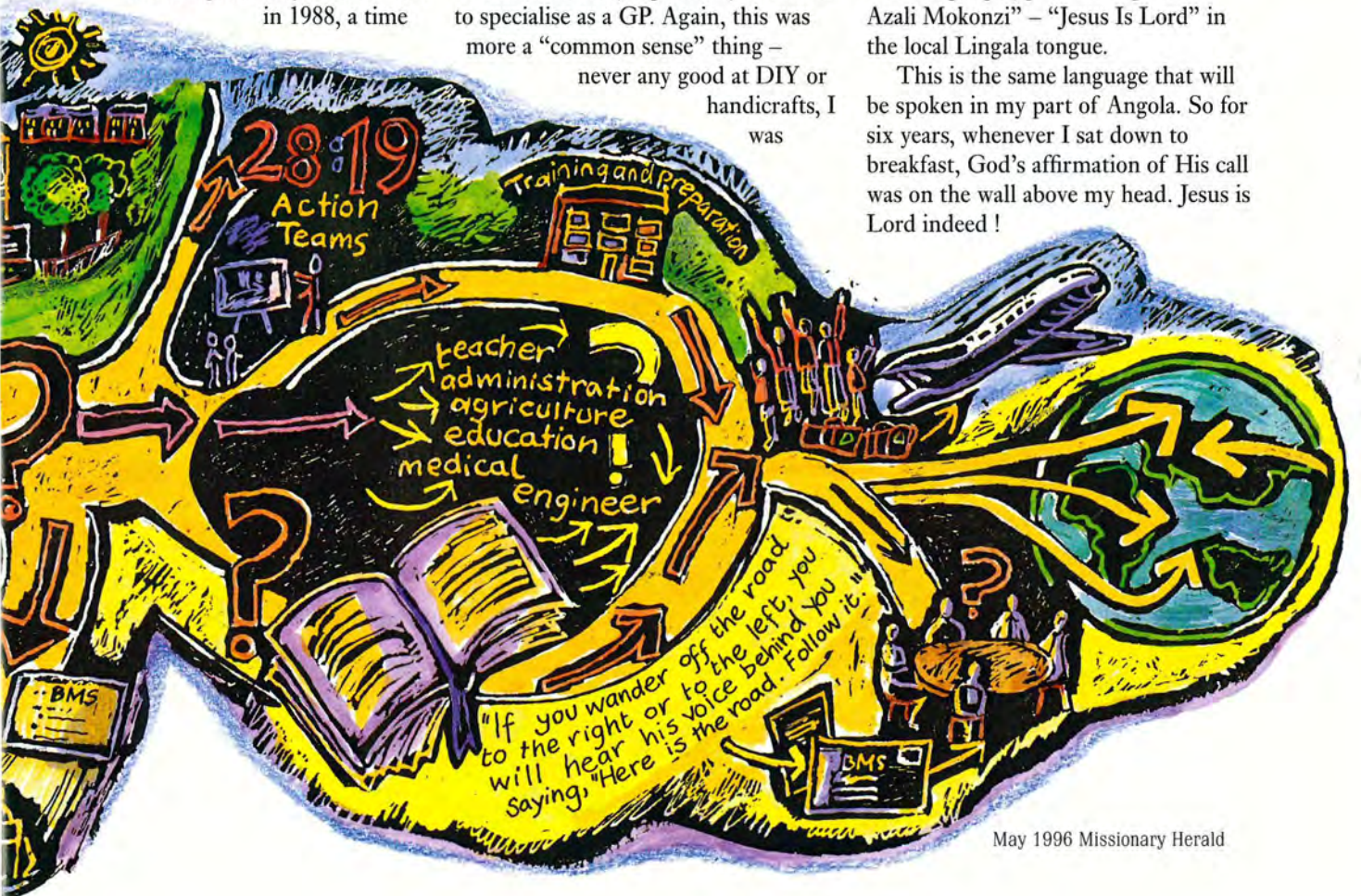
was a threat that had to be faced, not run away from – and so my “tasting” was able to occur.

In due course, I qualified, and chose to specialise as a GP. Again, this was more a “common sense” thing – never any good at DIY or handicrafts, I was

“political” skills that I would need.

So there you have it – my call has been very much a gradual process, as God slowly but surely led me along the path that is taking me to Angola. Where needed, there have been several specific confirmations along the way, however. For example, I spent my elective in Zaire at Kimpese, in the old Congo nation. My posting in Angola is just across the border – amongst the same tribe. One of the souvenirs that I brought home from Zaire was a wooden plaque, proclaiming “Yesu Azali Mokonzi” – “Jesus Is Lord” in the local Lingala tongue.

This is the same language that will be spoken in my part of Angola. So for six years, whenever I sat down to breakfast, God's affirmation of His call was on the wall above my head. Jesus is Lord indeed !



The waiting years

PHIL AND ROSEMARY HALLIDAY

RECALL HOW THEY SPENT THE TIME BETWEEN THE CALL TO 'GO' AND THEIR ACTUAL DEPARTURE

For Rosemary, the call to mission work came when she first became a Christian as a young teenager. In offering herself to God, she was already conscious that this commitment required a willingness on her part to serve Him anywhere in His world, not just at home. For Phil, the call to work outside of Britain came during a two-week period, shortly before his sixteenth birthday, through a number of encounters with different missionaries and through Bible study. Before our arrival in France, we were both to spend more than twelve years preparing for the work which we believed that God had called us to do and seeing our call tested and focused.

After leaving school, Rosemary trained to be a nurse and then a midwife. She wondered if it would be these skills which would take her abroad. Her home church, Charlotte Chapel in Edinburgh, had close ties with a hospital near Nazareth and there were regular requests for experienced

nurses/midwives. Before training for the ministry at Spurgeon's, Phil spent a year with Operation Mobilisation in Belgium and then another year doing 'proper work' in Glasgow. The period with O.M. provided an excellent practical training in discipleship and evangelism, but also opened his eyes to the enormous differences in spiritual life between Britain and other parts of continental Europe. While in Glasgow, Phil spent his free time working with an Open Air Campaigners evangelist and this experience too, helped him to test and clarify his call.

They met in 1986, when Phil was invited by Charlotte Chapel to help with some street evangelism during a special week of mission at the time of the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh. A month before this, Phil had written to the BMS about the possibility of his working with them. He had put aside the thought of returning to continental Europe for longer-term ministry, despite an on-going concern for the needs there, since the BMS had no invitations to send people to this part of the world.

However, just at the time of Phil's

letter, the



French Baptists were in the process of issuing an invitation for the British Baptists to send four ministerial couples to France!

More confirmations followed and then – one wedding, three children and a four-year pastorate later – they moved to France on Boxing Day 1993.

Prayer points:

- For a continuing integration of the various nationalities within Massy Baptist Church.
- For a deeper involvement with a concern for those who live around us.
- For wisdom as to how best to make contact with the community at large.
- For our on-going programme of evangelism.





Does God change his mind?

HELEN JOHNSTON WRESTLES WITH THIS PROBLEM

When I arrived back in the UK in December 1994 after two years in Sierra Leone, I expected to return after my home assignment. But the rebel war escalated and it became clear that a return would not be possible in the near future. The secondment agreement between EBM and BMS was terminated and I was left in some confusion and doubt.

Leaving a country precipitously, or being unable to return because of war or unrest, is not a new missionary experience but it is associated with many emotions and questions. The needs in the country still exist and may be greater than ever before. Where is God? What is He doing? What should I be doing? Does He still want me to work overseas in mission?

I had to review my 'call to mission'; my call to serve God. I had to take time to pray, to listen, to question, to be with God. But it was not as easy as it sounds. Did God change His call? - Yes And No!

I had felt a strong call originally to Africa but I no longer felt that, which was quite difficult to accept in some ways. But He gave me a new concern and love for the people of Nepal, a country about which I

did not know very much but to which I feel God wants me to go.

The more I have questioned and prayed about it, the more Nepal is confirmed to me in different ways by different people. At one time, I felt a little bit like Jonah when God wanted him to go to Nineveh but he did not want to go, although our reasons for reluctance were somewhat different.

Throughout this time of uncertainty and doubt, I have felt strong support from BMS, family and friends; individuals and groups praying for me and for guidance, for which I am more grateful than I can say.

Prayer is powerful and necessary. I believe God is still calling me to serve him overseas but in a new situation, a new culture with new challenges and possibilities to share His love. ●

(to an excited response). We prayed much for guidance and felt God leading us overseas but still had no idea of where and in what capacity.

With this in mind we wrote to the various mission organisations. Our first interview was to be with BMS, a week after our own church had given us its full support at a quarterly meeting. As we drove to Didcot for our 'chat' with Andrew North, we wondered what we could tell him about ourselves. Yes, we are both accountants, but accountants were not needed in mission, were they? We both were heavily involved in our home church, Richmond Road Baptist, Caroline in the children's work and Tim as deacon and treasurer. We were both long-standing members of Cambrensis Choir in South Wales. There must be something we could

offer to the mission field?

At the end of a relaxed, friendly chat with Andrew, he produced a fax from a brown paper folder, saying, "We have just received this fax from Nepal, the United Mission to Nepal urgently need an accountant; please

think and pray about it."

As we left Baptist House it was as if our blindfold had been removed. Yes, God need accountants in the mission field. Our questions were answered. Two days later another missionary society pointed to the same work in Nepal, confirming to us this specific call.

This was not the end of the process; our call was tested at a second interview, this time with Sian Williams, BMS Director, Dept. for Missionaries and then at BMS Candidate Board. Then after a period of missionary training we arrived in Nepal in July 1995.

For five months we have been working as accountants in Kathmandu but our call is still active as we seek how we can best become involved in the Nepali church.



TIM AND CAROLINE TRIMBLE TELL HOW GOD CALLED THEM TO NEPAL

Come over....and help us." Suddenly, as these words were read from Acts 16, we heard a clear call from God to make ourselves available for mission. Where or when, we didn't know. For a few years previously we had felt God 'nudging' in a new direction but now the call was unbelievably strong, it felt as if God was giving us a 'kick up the backside'.

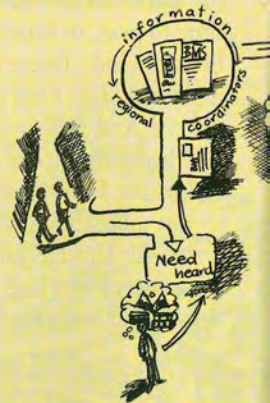
That took place in Spring Harvest 1994 at Pwllhwi. On returning home to Cwmbran in South Wales we shared this call with family members (to a mixed response) and with our church



Qualities to be looked for in a Missionary

A	Adaptability	The ability to fit like a glove into uncertainty and daily surprises
B	Beauty	Borne of depth and understanding
C	Compassion	Seeing people through the eyes of God
D	Drive	Staying the course even when all seems in vain
E	Encourager	Helping other people to grow
F	Faith	To sustain, inspire and transform
G	Grace	To forgive and be forgiven
H	Humour	To laugh with others, yourself and God
I	Instinct	The gut reaction by which to respond
J	Joy	Reflecting a real, down to earth, experience of faith
K	Kindness	That profound loving kindness in dealing with those like you and those not like you
L	Language	A willingness to learn one or more languages
M	Maverick	'Independent and non conformist'!
N	Needy	Recognising your own impoverishment of love, understanding and experience
O	Openness	To receive and learn new things of God and his purposes
P	Proclaimer	Of God's reconciling love in Jesus Christ
Q	Questioning	Always wanting to know more and dig deeper
R	Radical	A heart discontented with the world as it is and vision for what it could be
S	Still	An ability to exude stillness in the midst of chaos
T	Teacher	Who can practise and proclaim the presence of God
U	Unusual	A hint of exceptionability
V	Vocation	The root of missionary life
W	Weakness	An appreciation of this will be a strength
X	Christ	Looking to Jesus, who showed us how it should be done
Y	Yes	The response to God's call, his world and his people
Z	Zip	That certain sparkle which embraces life in all its glory.

Last year the BMS received about 350 requests for information about missionary work, 180 of which became "inquirers" who corresponded further with the Missionaries Department. The rigorous selection process, resulting in interviews with the BMS Candidate Board, resulted in the acceptance by the General Committee of eight "offers of service". Currently 180 BMS personnel work in 33 countries, and the most pressing need is for experienced ministers to work in leadership training, pastoral encouragement, church planting and urban ministries.



The road to world mission is a different experience for everyone but it always starts with God's call and a desire to do God's will.

It can take a couple of years to arrive at your destination, but with the BMS you can be sure that the process through which you have come will have been a thorough preparation and an encouraging confirmation of God's call on your life.

Steve Chalke
Steve Chalke



SUNDAY SCHOOL MYTHS

"God's work is never held back by a lack of finance, only by a lack of vision" – just one of the popular Sunday School myths I was taught as a boy. I've since discovered that it's only people with a lack of vision who believe that one! But the two most damaging and dangerous myths, which caused me and many others so much unnecessary worry and confusion are those to do with "calling".

Myth No. 1: You Must Have A Verse To Do What You Do.

As a child I often met missionaries who, whether they meant to or not, left me with the impression that you couldn't get called to "Christian Service" unless God had specifically given you "a verse". The "verse" was the indisputable, authenticating hallmark of every genuine missionary vocation. No "verse", no call: in my church, it was that simple. (Nowadays, of course, the "verse" has been replaced in many churches by a "prophetic word" about you.)

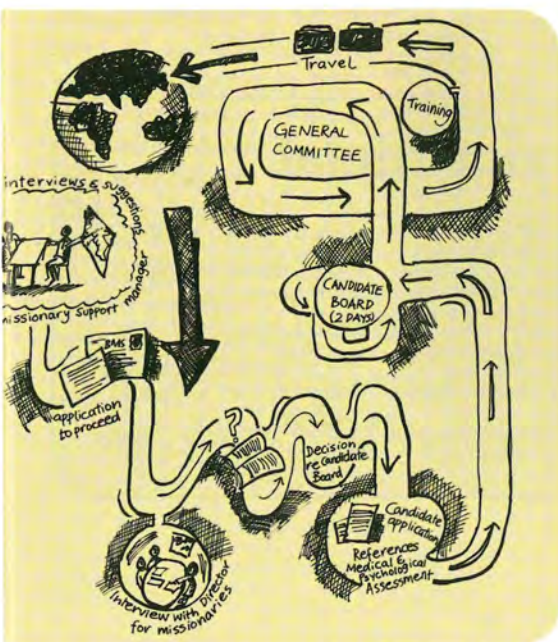
Myth No. 2: You Must Not Enjoy Doing What You Do.

The reason why every missionary I ever met placed such great store by their "verse", it appeared to me, was that none would actually have chosen to become a missionary without it. Serving Christ was a case of grinning and bearing it, remembering that "whoever endures to the end will be saved". As a teenager I was told if I was really committed to Christ, I'd become a Sunday school teacher, like it or not. (Strangely, you did not seem to need a "verse" to do it!)

These two myths left me with a big problem. From the day I became a Christian at the age of 14, all I ever wanted to do was to be a Baptist minister and spend my life telling people about Jesus. But I just couldn't convince myself that I really didn't want to do this. And however hard I prayed, I never managed to get a "verse". I even resorted to playing Bible Lottery, opening my Bible and reading verses at random in the hope of hitting the jackpot; but the best I got was Hosea 1:2, "Go, take to yourself an adulterous wife." I became depressed, harbouring a guilty fear that my desire to become a preacher was motivated by selfish ambition.

It wasn't until just two or three weeks before starting theological college, at the age of 21, that the truth dawned: God had given me the drive and enthusiasm to become a minister. He wanted me to be set free by serving him, not squeezed into a mould that didn't fit and I wouldn't enjoy it. It was OK to be excited and enthusiastic. There's no evidence that men like Nehemiah ever had "verses" from God. But there's plenty to suggest that he gave them the necessary skills, drive and enthusiasm for the job. The days of needing a proof-text (or even a "prophetic word") to validate a call are over. Look for the obvious signs and don't be afraid to let people see you enjoying your work! Above all, let's think carefully about the signals we send our children, intentional or not.

Steve Chalke is General Director of the Oasis Trust



news

Scottish pastor to head BMS

Baptist minister Dr Alistair Brown has been proposed as the new General Director of the BMS. His nomination follows Reg Harvey's announcement last year that he will retire early.

Alistair (45), for 10 years in leadership at Gerrard Street Baptist Church, Aberdeen, will be recommended to the BMS annual business meeting in May for an initial seven year term of office.

Passion for mission burns deep in his heart and he has encouraged his church in giving so that it now donates 20 per cent of its income to mission and another one per cent to relief work. The church has sent 11 missionaries and every summer up to 50 of the congregation go on mission.

Far from being an armchair mission supporter, Alistair has visited Senegal, Thailand and Pakistan to encourage missionaries from his home church, and as the BMS heads for the 21st century, he is keen to encourage Christians to take bold steps in world mission.

Before entering the ministry in 1975, Alistair was a journalist with *The Scotsman*. A graduate from Edinburgh in 1974, he also gained a BD (hons)

Revd Dr Alistair Brown:
Nomination as the new BMS
General Director



four years later and a PhD in New Testament studies in 1982.

He began his ministry as student assistant pastor at Craigmillar Baptist Centre, Edinburgh, and in 1979 was appointed part-time pastor at the new Dedridge Church becoming full-time in 1981. His major emphasis was evangelism and during his ministry membership rose from 37 to 150.

He became pastor at Gerrard Street in 1986 and in the following two years, numbers rose so high that the church had to move to a new building. Today the congregation numbers 500 and the church has planted in Sheddocksley, which has a 100-strong membership.

"The church has changed dramatically in the last 10 years," said Alistair. "The breath of God's power has blown through our ranks and changed the lives of individuals and our forms of worship."

He said he was pleased to see the reaffirmation of the evangelical

emphasis of BMS work in recent literature and videos.

In the past six years Alistair has had four books published, has contributed a chapter to another book and his latest, *Near Christianity*, is due to be published this year by Hodder & Stoughton. Among other responsibilities, he has served on the Executive and Council of the Baptist Union of Scotland, and has been a member of the Scottish Council of Interserve.

Alistair, married to Alison with four children – Alistair (21), Rachel (19), Judith (17) and Catherine (15) – is expected to take over full responsibility on November 1 but will join BMS in September.

In the meantime, he asks for prayer support for wisdom in bringing his present ministry to a close, preparation for what lies ahead and that his family's needs would be met.

"This move will have a major impact on them," he said.

Barnabas . . . your flexible service friend

A new flexible method of volunteer Christian service has been launched by BMS.

The Barnabas Project will meet the needs of overseas partner churches by finding placements for

volunteers of all ages between three months and a year, whether single people, couples or teams.

Placements will cover a wide range; in fact, says project co-ordinator Andy Wilson, the possibilities

are endless.

"Experience is the key word," he says, "both in offering the experience that you have and in gaining the valuable experience of working in a cross cultural situation."

Andy is excited that Barnabas will provide more people the opportunity to explore and fulfil a desire to serve God with their gifts and experience.

● Details: 01235 512077

Legacies rescue the finances

Legacies to the BMS and investment income last year saved the society from having to dip into its reserves to the tune of £318,650 as planned.

A total of £1,015,395 was bequeathed, including a single legacy of £245,000 which came in during the last week of the financial year. This was £365,395 more than the anticipated £650,000.

Investments brought in £99,619 more than expected because the market performed well.

Actual income during the year 1994-95 totalled £4,681,553; the BMS estimated it would receive £4,378,200. But Finance and Administration Director Chris Hutt said that while there was a surplus of £303,353 over the expected income, donations from churches were well below last year's appeal figure.

It had been hoped that giving would increase by five per cent over the 1993-94 figure. In fact it rose only 1.3 per cent.

"The BMS financial position was bolstered by investment income and selling investments, and

Finance and Administration Director Chris Hutt:
"Essential for the churches to increase giving..."



legacies," he said. "But our rock support from the churches is not growing as much as we hoped. We don't get these legacies every year; we're very vulnerable on legacy income and we don't expect it to grow."

Although total income was up on expectations, spending during 1994-95 was £6,113 below the £4,696,850 budget. However, the BMS still spent more than it received – £4,690,737 against £4,681,553 – a deficit

of £9,184 which will be taken from reserves.

"Because donations from churches were significantly below the appeal figure, we've got further to go this year," said Chris. "So it's essential for churches to increase giving by the sum appealed for. Even if churches reach the target four per cent increase figure, it will still mean a substantial draw on reserves – as high as half a million pounds if other income and expenditure is as anticipated."

But Chris had brighter news; in February this year giving by churches had increased by five per cent.

Martin chosen to wait in the presidential wings

When Carolyn Green takes over from David Wilson in May as president of the BMS, 43-year-old Martin Pearse will step up to the vice-presidency.

Martin, married to Anna with two children – Nicholas (11) and Mark (9) – is the son of BMS missionaries and has had contact with the society over a number of years, attending 18 summer schools.

His father served in



Martin Pearse: New BMS Vice President

India in the 1930s and 1940s and became Associate Foreign Secretary.

Since his election to the BMS General Committee in 1986, Martin has served on six committees and from 1994 has served on the Board of Management as a representative director.

The family attend New Baptist Church, Burton-on-Trent, where Martin is a deacon and chairs its

youth working party and premises development committee. He is a member of the East Midlands Baptist Association General Committee.

From 1985 he has been director of the Burton-on-Trent YMCA.

Outside work he is a football referee, barn dance caller and producer in a Christian drama team. Overseas interests involve him in India and Malawi.

Grace 'makes the difference'



Ten year old Grace Slatter, of South Bank Baptist Church, Middlesbrough, swam 72 lengths of her local swimming pool to raise £85 for the BMS Relief Fund. The attendants at the swimming pool cordoned off a lane so Grace would not be interrupted and her grandfather kept account of the lengths while her family cheered her on for the one and a half mile swim.

Well done Grace!

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 at least three months in advance. Drop us a line at: Diary Dates, World Mission Link, BMS, PO Box 49, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 8XA. Alternatively, telephone on 01235 512077.

May and June - Presidential Tour

In May and June Carolyn Green will be in the Southern and Eastern Areas

Church leaders' Presidential Breakfasts by invitation

Thursday May 30 at Woodley, Reading

Friday May 31 at Thornhill, Southampton

Saturday June 1 at Kidlington, Oxfordshire

Details: Jim Clarke, 01353 778984

At the Cutting Edge - a celebration

Saturday June 29 at Avenue Baptist Church, Southend

Details: Jim Clarke, 01353 778984

All these events give an opportunity to hear about BMS in action today - a world mission vision as we approach 2000.

8 May - Wednesday

Annual Women's Missionary Meeting, Caersalem, Caernarfon, 2pm and 5.30pm.

Details: Mrs Ivy Turner, 01248 681121

18 May - Saturday

Albania comes to Amersham, 28:19 Action Team at Amersham Free Church, Bucks, 4pm.

Details: Jim Clarke, 01353 778984

20 May - Monday

East of Scotland WMA Spring Conference at Dunfermline

Details: Rena McLachlan, 0131-449 3667

29 June - Saturday

Holiday Hot Dogs, BMS missionaries at Totteridge Baptist Church, High Wycombe, Bucks, 4pm

Details: Carolyn Leonard, 01628 526512

May/June
96



World

The Big Slurp

Many churches supported The Big Slurp on February 10, a national awareness event to promote fairly traded tea and coffee through a variety of fun activities.

At Scorishbrick New Road Church, Southport, Margaret Moore was keen to organise something but had already arranged a training course at Ormskirk District Hospital, where she works.

Undaunted, she decided to combine the two. The result was a "slurp" in the hospital physiotherapy department with the 15 course participants. Margaret says: "We certainly slurped a lot of Clipper tea and Café Direct coffee but more importantly, awareness was raised of the issues involved. Everyone was interested in the projects BMS described and will certainly look for fair trade labels in the future."

Harrow Baptist Church made it into their local press, the Harrow Observer, with their free tea and coffee tasting session at the church in the town centre.

This was supported by a trip around the corner to



the shopping precinct with two full vacuum flasks. Hot drinks were handed out to passers-by with leaflets explaining what church members were doing. Despite competition on the streets from charity collectors, market traders and suspicion from people not used to getting something for nothing, the day was a success and everyone involved enjoyed the experience. They even made a profit from the sale of home-made cakes and a donation box.

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

Mission Link

W M L

'One in a Million' is evangelism at the front end

If you're over 18 and would like to be involved in evangelism at Notting Hill Carnival in August, look no further than One in a Million. Last year's event, hosted by Westbourne Park Baptist Church, involved a team of people from



believe it. Right through the two days of

the carnival hundreds upon hundreds of people came into our church – people who would never normally go near one."

For further details contact: Phil Hobern, Viz-A-Viz, 227 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex, CM13 1PJ or telephone (01277) 215222.

Paul Jackson, minister of Westbourne Park said, "You have to see it to



Big Slurp Day in Wigan coincided with the Wigan Baptist Church bicentenary celebrations and a BMS You Can Make a Difference weekend so Astley Bridge, Atherton, Bolton Central, Leigh and Golbourne churches joined together in an evening of fun and fellowship based on our response to the needs of the world. A Traidcraft stall sold brands of fairly traded tea, coffee and chocolate and the evening rounded off with a 'slurp' and scones (pictured) with worship and prayer for the world.

Dear Audrey...

Q. We are a small church but we're developing an interest in BMS. We've got hold of the BMS's Around the World in 132 Ways and it mentions a BMS Prayer Guide, which we think it would be good to have. Are there still copies available?

A. There are a few left at £1 each; just let us know how many you would like. We do send a pulpit copy of the Prayer Guide to every church at the beginning of the year. If you can't find yours, it might be worth asking your Minister/Leader where it's got to!

From a harassed minister ...

Q. I'm sure I should know this but I've just moved to this area and no-one seems to know what is happening about Link-Up as our last missionary no longer works for BMS.

A. I'm sorry you're confused. When a missionary comes to the end of their service with BMS we end the Link-Up and ask the group to discuss a new Link-Up. Your Link-Up group contact hasn't yet replied. I'm sure it would move things along if your church got in touch with your Link-Up group contact and you might even like to offer to get a group meeting organised. ●

NEWS IN BRIEF

VIETNAM: Three American missionaries had their passports confiscated and were detained for four days by police after the break-up of an underground church meeting in Ho Chi Minh City. Vietnamese law allows freedom of religion and some denominations are officially recognised but a growing number of Christians belong to underground churches who meet in small groups without a licence. The three were each fined US\$50.

FIJI: The 1,000 ton YWAM medical ship *Island Mercy*, part of the international Mercy Ships fleet which twins practical health care with evangelism in developing countries, is planning to visit the tiny island of Yasawa in Fiji following an unusual invitation. A bottle containing a leaflet describing the work of the ship was tossed overboard in July 1994. Nearly a year later it was washed up 700 miles away on a Yasawa beach where it was found by a member of a local church.

AMERICA: A small team at the Bethany World Prayer Centre, USA, is compiling short reports on the lives of the 1,685 people groups who have yet to hear the gospel. Organisers hope the reports will be used by thousands of prayer groups around the world leading to a gospel breakthrough. The project is part of the AD 2000 and Beyond movement which co-ordinates missionary efforts among unreached people.

BULGARIA: The Bulgarian Evangelical Alliance (BEA) has sent an urgent plea for help following a campaign in the country against sects. The BEA spoke of opposition and animosity against evangelical churches which, it says, the media treat intentionally as sects. Some recognised evangelical denominations have existed in Bulgaria for more than 100 years but now many local authorities are refusing to allow the construction of churches and evangelical gatherings in public places.

Tension after bomb



Following the headline-hitting bomb blast at the central bank in Colombo in February the situation in Sri Lanka is still unstable.

There have been reports of explosions in many cities, including the capital Colombo, and fighting is continuing with Tamil rebels.

The February bomb killed and wounded several friends and relatives

of FARMS, a Christian non-profit making organisation concerned with family development. JADEC, the joint BMS and Operation Agri committee, has recently made a grant to further its ministry.

● ABOVE: Behind two armed police guards lies the ruin of Colombo central bank in which more than 100 died. *Picture – Richard Wells*

Young Baptists mobilised in Zaire

The Zaire capital of Kinshasa welcomed around 250 young Baptists from three major national Baptist communities for the third Zairian Baptist Youth Congress.

The five-yearly congress, under the title of Risk All For Christ, our

only hope, challenged young people to set Baptist values over and against various religious influences from all over the world, to fight against social injustice and to move heaven and earth to reconstruct their broken society.

Relief Fund grant will help clear u

A BMS grant of £2,000 has been made to help with the post-flood rehabilitation programme in Bangladesh. The severest floods hit the north three times between

last July and September. A flash flood also affected Rangpur, Dinajpur, Gaibanda, Bogra, and Thakurgaon districts destroying 40,000 houses and many crops.

Families were left homeless without drinking water or food. This in turn led to diseases such as diarrhoea and dysentery. The grant will help in rebuilding houses for 1,000 families, distributing 30 pumps for irrigation and domestic use, and in the



Church grows amid economic gloom

Against a poor economic climate in the new Republic of Georgia (a state of the former USSR), the Baptist church has grown from 2,000 to 4,500 members in six years. In the same time the number of congregations has multiplied more than threefold from 13 to 42 and there is a fledgling seminary with 70 students in the capital of Tbilisi.

Georgia has no fuel for heating, little electricity and 80 per cent unemployment. State-funded orphanages and hospitals have been closed down, many employees have gone without wages for months and parliament shut down until the spring due to lack of funding.

But Pastor Akhalmosulishvili, a surgeon in Tbilisi, believes the economic duress provides an opportunity for the church to witness through social and medical programmes and he has joined 20 doctors and 30 nurses, many unemployed, to establish church-sponsored clinics.

There are plans for new agricultural co-operatives and an oil press donated by Baptist women of Great Britain should bring in badly needed income for Baptist farmers. Medical equipment for clinics and furniture for the seminary will be shipped to Georgia from US Army surplus stockpiles bought by the Baptist Federation of Germany.

First birthday for Tirana church

Tirana Baptist church celebrated its first anniversary in February. From a congregation of 42 which met in a large room, the church now worships in a 200-seat cinema. Membership is 96 and another 17 are to be baptised.

A music group has been formed and young people have begun to lead worship. Every week there are eight Sunday School classes for all ages. Christians in Tirana are excited as they see God changing lives, new Christians growing and others displaying leadership qualities. They ask for prayer as the church develops, particularly for a building.

After the big floods



distribution of 100 sets of slab latrines. The BMS Relief Fund grant was matched by the Liebenzeller Mission International, Bangladesh Baptist Sanga's other overseas partner.

ABOVE: The most effective way to get around in flooded Dhaka.

LEFT: Business as usual despite the flood

UPDATE

Vision for improvement

Sally Murcutt from CVG TV visits the Baptist Sangha School for Blind Girls in Dhaka

Over the years I have been privileged to film around the world for many different Christian organisations. In January I visited Dhaka, Bangladesh, to make the Christmas Cracker video for Christmas 1996, in conjunction with Sight Savers International, showing their progressive eyecare work in the villages.

I visited the BMS-supported Baptist Sangha School for Blind Girls in Dhaka, with an open mind, because you can never be quite sure of what to expect. From the moment I met Mrs Manju Samaddar, the principal, I was impressed. She certainly knows what she is doing and where she wants to go. The vision she has for the school is tremendous and she is determined against all odds to improve the quality of life for blind girls in her country.

It is tragic to hear of the many children going blind needlessly through malnutrition or preventable childhood diseases, such as measles. Many, especially the girls, are just cast aside by their families. This is why the school is so vital and there is no other school like it in the country.

It was heartening to see such a well run and disciplined place where it was obvious the staff cared and showed such loving kindness in the way they spoke to and taught the girls.

By the time we left we were in total agreement that the school should be featured in the next Cracker video with Steve Chalke. The girls had all made a real effort and looked smart and pretty with ribbons in their hair. We filmed them outside doing PT, which helps them with co-ordination and mobility. We filmed them in a music lesson and saw them learning English from Braille text books. Steve Chalke had a go but he wasn't very good!

We followed the girls on a shopping spree, designed to teach them mobility and to increase their confidence. We blind folded Steve and sent him off with them, and he did pretty well.

I cannot emphasise enough the tremendous work of this school. It is so encouraging to see a work started by a missionary now being run by a national that is not just surviving, but growing from strength to strength with 100 full-time students, aged five to 18, doing work up to GCSE standard. Some have later gained degrees

● Watch out for the new Christmas Cracker video, Blind Truth.



On location at Dhaka: Sally Murcutt with the Cracker film crew at the school for blind girls

PICTURED:
Informal
breaks
between talks
sessions
during the
September
consultation
between BMS
and CBFZ in
Kinshasa

The BMS has renewed its partnership with Baptists in Zaire. A further five year term has been agreed following a consultation last year with the Baptist Community of the River Zaire (CBFZ). Zaire is a traditional BMS mission field with a history dating from the 1870s, when BMS missionaries George Grenfell and Thomas Comber accepted the challenge and moved from the Cameroons to what was then known as the Congo, following the gift of £1,000 from Leeds Baptist Thomas Arthington to establish a mission on the Congo river.

Today, Zaire is a country in a state of disintegration, but the church is positive, says Africa Representative Derek Rumbol.

"Younger members have great enthusiasm for getting on and doing it themselves," he said. "The church is



New era for Zaire church

willing to move forward and is thinking of the future."

While the BMS and the CBFZ have agreed to new ventures to take the gospel to all people groups, they are keen to encourage the financial independence of churches in Zaire.

The BMS aims to reduce its financial support for church administration to zero in five equal yearly steps of £2,000 starting next year. However, said Operations Director David Martin, this may be offset by grants for special projects and other ministries.

"This may be one small step in budgetry planning but it's a giant leap for cutting the dependency culture," he said. "It's an incentive to them to face a challenge and respond."

He stressed the BMS would not leave the CBFZ in the lurch if the going got tough. The situation would be monitored and adjustments made if necessary.

During the next five years the BMS and CBFZ partnership will cover:

- Medical work improvements.

- A plan of action for development work.
- A plan for evangelism and the necessary language training to make it happen
- A focus on Christian education to include training centres, Christian literature production, travel scholarships and theological education.
- A youth work package involving spiritual and intellectual enrichment.
- Support for educational development.
- Promotion of personnel, leadership and theological training.
- Work in urban centres.
- A strategy for radio-telephone and satellite communications.
- A management plan for transport.
- A policy of financial independence and income generation.



01235 512077

Christine Neilson – Off the shelf

More than 600 churches are now using BMS News, the monthly A5 insert for church magazines and newsletters.

It's free and comes in photocopyable artwork form and contains news of mission activities from around the world.

Check to see if it's in your church magazine.

The popular Praying

With Missionaries poster has been revised and is available free of charge.

And if you haven't yet bought your copy of the Network BMS video, You Can Make the Difference, please hurry because we're running out.

It makes challenging and interesting viewing, and comes with a free workbook for further study.

And it's only £7.95.

Hot off the press is the BMS Project 96, which focuses on Zimbabwe and the movement of God's Spirit there. A project book, poster and bookmarks are available to those who want to help raise money to enable Christians there spread the gospel.

Audio visual resources will be available later.

Violet Corlett

Violet Corlett, former BMS missionary in India, died on February 2, a month before her 90th birthday. Her health and quality of life had recently deteriorated. She was the widow of W A Corlett and they served in India from 1946 to 1969. Violet had been in the Cheverel Nursing Home, Worthing for several years. She was well known to members at Carey Baptist Church, Calcutta, who held a memorial service.

Carolyn Green



PROFILE BY SANDRA CARTER

Watch out for a new look BMS when Carolyn Green becomes president in April. Asked what she'll bring to the job, she says mischievously: "Fashion sense. A bit of class. Sense of humour."

What she doesn't mention is her wealth of experience from 13 years as a missionary, a clear vision of what mission is all about, and a passion to share her enthusiasm with others. Add to this a no-punches-pulled approach to communication, and it begins to look like an interesting year ahead for the BMS.

At 45, she is younger than the average BMS president. This too makes her laugh: "I've been referred to as the youth vote. It's a sad day when a grey-haired woman of 45 is the youth vote!" But there's nothing frivolous about Carolyn when she talks about mission and her role as president.

"We've been looking for a fresh approach to making the work of God through BMS known in the churches. The God we serve and whose love we share doesn't change. But even our supporters have got used to BMS."

During the year she hopes to speak to every Baptist minister in England, Scotland and Wales - "encourage them to put world mission on their agenda". Breakfast or lunch meetings will be held in centres throughout the land, as well as celebrations in some areas. So what will be her message?

"I'll tell them what the BMS is doing NOW, not what they thought we were doing 20 years ago.

"I'll be reminding them that mission is God's priority, otherwise he wouldn't have bothered with Jesus. Whether they engage in mission at home or overseas is up to them. The pastor is either the stopper in the bottle, or the catalyst

for the whole congregation."

Carolyn already has a good idea of attitudes in the pulpit. In 1994 she conducted research for the BMS, speaking to nearly 200 pastors, a tenth of the total. She says: "Around 82% described themselves as evangelical or evangelical/charismatic. They tended to support relief agencies rather than missions, and many said they felt the BMS wasn't evangelical enough.

"I don't believe that is a true perception. The vast majority of those involved in the BMS could be said to be evangelical, though people may not like the label. But salvation by faith with works following - that's evangelical, and that's what we're preaching."

As she travels the country, she knows she must face the barrier of being a woman before some will listen to her message. "It's essential that women minister in the church. Of course if there weren't so many

wimpy men the women wouldn't have to do it! But I hope they don't think I'll be a feminist leader. I'm not a feminist in the usual sense.

I'm me.

"As a married woman I believe I chose to be with my husband and Steve is head of our family. We make decisions together but Steve will present those decisions, and carry the can. Steve has released me to do this work. I couldn't do it without his 110% support."

Steve says: "I spent years being the one up-front while Carolyn played the supporting role with the children and home. She has a lot of gifts that need to be used now and I'm happy to support her in doing it."

Carolyn adds: "I have the support of our two sons too,

continues on page 18



Carolyn Green

Cutting Edge

continued from page 17

which is just as important." Andrew, (22), is taking a year out from his university course, teaching in Moscow with the British Council. Barney, (19), is on a BMS youth team in Paris before starting medical training.

As Steve and Carolyn talk it's clear they are a couple who communicate easily and freely, sparking off one another's ideas, supporting and stimulating one another. By appointing one to BMS office, you're going to get the wisdom of two.

Their 13 years with the BMS gave them invaluable insight into overseas missions. Steve was a hospital paediatrician in Zaire. Carolyn, a science teacher, taught at a church secondary school and a nursing school, and then found herself running the guest house linked to the Christian hospital: "We had everyone from ambassadors to gun-toting extortionists and presidents in exile. Often our home was an extension of the guest house."

She also gave their sons home schooling until they went off to boarding school.

As Carolyn tours Britain she won't be spreading a blinkered message that overseas mission is all that matters. The important thing for Christians is to catch God's heart and be obedient wherever he leads.

She says: "Missionary life? It's great fun. How can you possibly be anywhere better than where God wants you to be - whether that's home or overseas."

Steve adds: "Sometimes we meet people who missed it for fear of what they might suffer. Obedience is what God is after, not suffering. Okay there are blue moments whether overseas or home when everything seems to be going wrong. I remember one such time in Zaire when God

clearly said, 'I asked you to come here, the results are mine.' That's the issue for everyone."

Carolyn points to God's provision of Steve's job: "We were told we ought to return home within 10 years if Steve was to have any hope of continuing his career in the NHS. Then we read these words: 'How tragic to spend life building a safety net for when God drops you.' It's better to live your life trusting God. Steve got a consultant's post within a year of returning home. That was God's provision." He is now consultant paediatrician in Bradford, not far from their home in Leeds.

Steve is a leader at a small church linked with South Parade Baptist Church, and Carolyn often leads the worship. She is involved with the church's community project in Leeds. She has done two years of a law degree, which she plans to complete next year. She then hopes to work as legal adviser with the project.

One reason for mission's low profile in the church at large, Carolyn believes, is that some British Christians have lost interest in evangelising: "In Zaire, Christians believe that everyone who doesn't know the Lord is lost. Here, faith is so personalised. There, they are desperate to share their faith with other people.

Here we prefer to share money. Giving to charities can be a sop to mission, done to make us feel better. We've slipped away from the truth of people's need for God. People are embarrassed to say that faith is the only solution for the world."

But mission, whether at home or overseas, is crucial. And this is where the missionary society comes in: "It's a means to an end, enabling us to work with our church partners in other countries. The BMS is a resource agency for any Baptist concerned about world mission." ●

The cut

THE NEW BMS PRESIDENT IS TO MEET THE PEOPLE IN A NATIONWIDE TOUR

Saturday 29 June 1996:

*Southend for Eastern Area.
Keynote speakers: John Passmore and Martin Hewitt*

Saturday 14 September 1996:

Southeast Area: Horsham

Friday 11 October 1996:

Metropolitan Area: Haven Green Ealing

Saturday 19 October 1996:

*Metropolitan Area, Trinity Baptist Church Sidcup
Keynote speakers: Sammy Verhaeghe and David Martin*

Thursday 17 November 1996:

Bristol for Western Area: Westbury on Trym

Saturday 16 November 1996:

Cardiff, Albany Road, likely venue

Tuesday 19 November 1996:

Carmarthen: with Welsh input

22/23 November 1996:

North Wales

29 November 1996:

Lancs and Cheshire Association, Liverpool

10 January 1997:

*South Parade, Leeds for Yorkshire Association
Keynote speaker: Bill Slack*

12 January 1997:

*South Bank, Middlesbrough
Keynote speaker: Alan Pain*

17 January 1997:

*Cambridge, Histon Baptist Church
Keynote speaker: Michael Quicke*

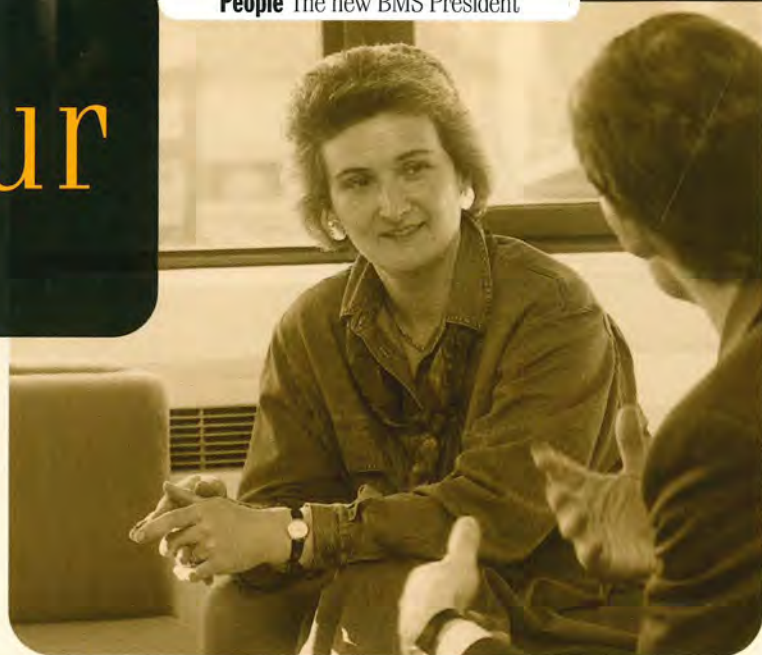
18 January 1997:

Buckinghamshire, Union High Wycombe

Friday 7 February 1997:

*Nottingham: venue to be fixed
Keynote speaker: David Coffey*

ting edge tour



Carolyn Green: The way forward BMS PRESIDENT 1996/97

Edinburgh born and bred, Carolyn went to St Andrew's University in 1968 to study sciences. With an honours degree in Physiology, Carolyn and her husband Steve joined Rattray Street Baptist church, Dundee in 1972.

With no particular desire to be a teacher, she did a PGCE course in Dundee out of obedience rather than choice, but God's preparation was not wasted when later, in Zaire as a BMS missionary, she home-schooled her sons and taught in secondary and nursing schools.

Steve's career as a doctor took the family to Leeds and they joined South Parade Baptist church. Carolyn helped run the playgroup and established an out-reach to women through a coffee and lunch club.

The couple and their two sons went to Zaire from South Parade in 1979. They returned to Leeds in 1992 having seen the beginnings of revival in Kimpese and trained a Zairian paediatrician to take over Steve's work.

Carolyn, appointed an elder at South Parade in 1993, represented the Yorkshire Baptist Association on BMS General Committee until her appointment as Vice-President. She is also in joint membership of Cragg Hill Baptist church where Steve is in leadership. Andy Stockbridge talks to her about her coming twelve months in office.

Andy The role of BMS President is fairly new having been introduced in 1994. How do you see that role and yourself fulfilling it?

Carolyn Along with chairing meetings of General Committee and taking part in the Baptist Assemblies, I see the role as being the public face of BMS - representing the Society to the churches. There is an element too of representing the churches to BMS as there's always the opportunity to bend the President's ear in the round-the-country travels. As each President does the job for one year, there is continually a fresh impetus. I see my own involvement being to enthuse and encourage the people I meet that they too can to part of the vision of sharing the Good News with the world!

Continues on page 20



Saturday 8 February 1997:

Leicester: Friar Lane and Braunstone
Keynote speaker: John Lewis

Friday 7 March 1997: ?

Newton Abbot for the Southwest.

Friday 14 March 1997:

Sutton Coldfield Baptist Church
Keynote speaker: Andrew Green

Friday 11 April 1997:

Celebration in Scotland



← **Andy** A key feature of the year will be your 'At the Cutting Edge' Presidential Tour. Why have you planned this and what do you hope to achieve?

Carolyn 'Mission' has had a bit of a bad press in recent years - not just from outside the church, but also inside. We've grown up believing you "have missions" and "send missionaries" - and I believe this is why a lot of folk have gone off the idea. I want to remind people in the UK Baptist churches, and particularly the ministers and leaders, that mission is what's been in God's heart since the beginning, it's what we should have in our hearts too. We, as Christians have a mission to fulfil, the mission of making Jesus known.

I wanted to go out and meet people, tell them what's going on in BMS and how we are involved in the mission of the whole church - particularly in the cross-cultural context.

I want to encourage the pastors to put mission back into their preaching! I want them to see for themselves that BMS is 100 per cent involved in making Jesus known in the cross-cultural context. Either enabling UK Baptists to fulfil God's great commission to them to go outside their own culture to work and witness, or enabling Christians called to work outside their culture, bring the gospel of Jesus to the UK.

Andy Where are these events, and how will ministers and leaders know about them?

Carolyn We have tried to set up breakfast or lunch meetings throughout the country. I will be sending out personal letters of invitation to ministers.

Andy Mission Celebrations are also planned, what is your thinking here?

Carolyn I see these as an opportunity to express our thanks to the tremendous commitment that key BMS personnel in our churches have to mission.

I want to show our appreciation of those doing the nitty-gritty - our Missionary Secretary, World Mission Contacts, Magazine and Birthday Scheme secretaries, in fact everyone who promotes the work of BMS locally.

I will be personally inviting all these key people to a 6.00 pm reception before the Celebration. This will be a chance

for me to meet them and hear what they have to say. They will also have the opportunity of meeting BMS staff and our key note speakers at the Celebration.

Andy What will be the main emphasis of your message during the year and why do you regard this as important?



Carolyn Well, I believe mission is not an optional extra for any Christian. To have to choose a theme for the year has been a daunting task - especially as I've said that I believe the whole of Scripture shows God's missionary heart. But I believe that Paul in his letter to the Romans has been able to put in a nutshell, the challenge I want to share.

Romans 10 has a neat series of questions about getting the message, the Gospel, to those who need to hear and the final point brings the responsibility fairly and squarely to each of us! Unless we as Christians in the churches in the UK, make Jesus known by word and deed in our own culture or in another, people will still be unable to call on the God who saves. BMS is one organisation committed to this - and I want to make sure others know this and support and USE BMS.

Andy What's your heart and vision for BMS as an organisation?

Carolyn Well what I would love to see is that when any member of a Baptist or Associated church thinks of mission their first consideration is BMS. When they think of mission they think of BMS and look to the Society to help them in fulfilling that calling.

Andy Are there particular new challenges you see BMS facing during the coming year.

Carolyn I think there is a need for us to continue to evaluate what we are doing and not necessarily to be bound by the past. We have to take risks and do new things.

It has been exciting to see what God has done in recent years and obviously with new leadership from our new General Director we anticipate a building on the past. It is exciting. I am sure some things will change and it is challenging. We must pray that God will lead and guide us in this coming year. ●

country in focus

ZIMBABWE

THE BAPTIST CHURCH IN ZIMBABWE

Baptist work effectively began in Zimbabwe in 1913, with the first Baptist church being established in 1920. The Baptist Union of Central Africa (BUCA) grew out of this small beginning and as a result of other African events eventually led to the formation of a separate Baptist Union of Zambia, and then in 1981, the Baptist Union of Zimbabwe.

There are now four Baptist groups in Zimbabwe, all of which are members of the Baptist World Alliance. They are:

- the Baptist Union of Zimbabwe - until Independence this Union concentrated on settler churches which were predominantly white and urban. Since 1980 it has begun work in rural areas and has black and coloured people in membership.

- the Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe - a black church with links with the Foreign Missions Board of the Southern Baptists (USA).

- the National Baptist Convention (NBC) - formed by four churches in 1989 which had split with the Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe. The NBC has grown and now has over 30 churches; it is open to all races, though it is mainly black.

- the United Baptists - a group started by an American Baptist who then returned to the USA. The

United Baptists work in the Eastern Highlands and in Harare. They have about 2000 members. Their General Secretary Joshua Ndube was formerly in Robert Mugabe's cabinet.

Zimbabwe has severe social and economic problems.

Unemployment is widespread. Fewer than 3% of the 300,000 who leave school every year find a job. This has obviously had repercussions in the churches and has led to lobbying for self-help projects. The NBC has its own projects programme aimed at creating self employment for its members and those of other churches led by Philip Jambaya who specifically trained so that he could help others who wished to start their own self-help projects. The projects people have undertaken include catering, tailoring, welding and video production. Churches are helping out too: as part of the scheme Luveve Baptist Church Bulawayo is extending its church building and pastor's house. ●

Facts and figures

The landlocked country of Zimbabwe enjoys political stability, an advanced economy and freedom of worship.

Zimbabwe is a religious country with many people believing in God whether or not they have a commitment to him. Some people still believe in the power of their ancestors spirits controlling their lives - in reality casting total fear and intimidation over them. Zimbabwean church leaders believe that satanism is penetrating the churches causing divisions and scandal, so that there are instances of adultery and rape even among preachers. Young women, too, have had illegitimate children and then dumped them. This is becoming increasingly common; babies have been found abandoned down pit latrines and in rubbish tips.

Religion in Zimbabwe:

Traditional 32%
Non-religious 4%
Muslim 2%
Christian 62% with growth at 5.6%

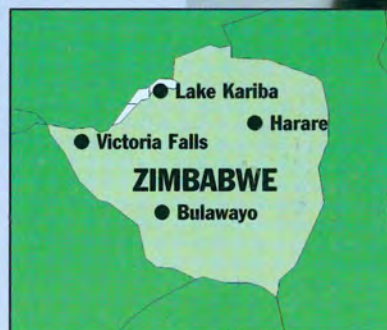
Area: 390,580 sq km

Population: 11,352,000 (1995)

Capital: Harare (pop. 1,316,000)

People groups: 94% Bantu origin.

Other minorities include Malawians, European, Coloured, Asian, and Mozambiquan refugees.





PATRICK FACE MOYO

Patrick Moyo was influential in bringing about the birth of the NBC in 1990, and has served as its President since its inception. He is in every sense a charismatic figure through whom God has chosen to work.

Patrick was born into a non-Christian home, one of six children. All the boys of the family were named after the white men his father had worked for, hence Solomon, Patrick and Pharaoh.

He was led to the Lord in June 1965 by a missionary who was starting a church next to his home. Almost immediately, though still at school, he started preaching and teaching the word of God to others. From school he went to work in the clothing industry as a general helper and was promoted to be a Trainee Manager. However he left this work in 1974 to go and prepare for the ministry at the Baptist College. Whilst he was training he pastored a small church in a rural area, and after he graduated, Patrick was called to the pastorate at Mkoba Baptist Church, Gweru. When he arrived at Mkoba it had less than 20 members; today it has more than 700.

Patrick has become a national and international figure in the Zimbabwean Baptist Church scene. He has conducted crusades and revivals across Zimbabwe, and leads seminars for young people on spiritual warfare, healing, the Holy Spirit, leadership and discipleship. He held a leadership post in the Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe before the parting of the ways in 1988.

The National Baptist Convention had four churches when Patrick Moyo

began his leadership of it, but today it has 30 churches all over Zimbabwe. He also manages to find the time to serve on the executive of the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ) and to chair Target 2000, described as "the spiritual arm of the EFZ" and part of the DAWN (Discipling a Whole Nation) vision concept whose main objectives are research and the planting of more than 10,000 churches in every small community in Zimbabwe before the year 2000.

Patrick is married and has four sons and two daughters, all of whom are involved in the work of the Lord in their local church.

FROM PATRICK MOYO

The National Baptist Churches of Zimbabwe have embarked seriously on a ministry of prayer. In fact almost every NBC church has someone who is responsible for leading the church to pray. We also practise fasting from time to time and sometimes this involves the whole church to fast for a week or so. As we have spent time in prayer and fasting we have found that revival has come to our churches; people who had been given up by doctors have been healed; demons have been cast out; others have been transformed and their Christian ministry has brought forth fruit; spiritual gifts have started to operate and revival has come to the churches.

SOME REAL LIFE TESTIMONIES FROM ZIMBABWE

Martha Mangisi was about 30 years old, and had a debilitating facial condition. She had sought help for this from many professionals, but to no avail. Late one night, around midnight, she was walking past the Baptist church near where she lived when she heard noises - in fact it was people at prayer. She decided to

see if these people could help her with her problem. When she got to the doors of the church they were locked, but she knocked, and knocked, and eventually someone opened them. When she went inside the church she

found the pastor and a few young men praying. She told them her plight. In reply they told her about the way of salvation and she surrendered her life to the Lord there and then. She was then prayed for and was healed instantly. The following Sunday she brought her three daughters to church, who later, gave their lives to the Lord.

Mrs Beatrice Warambwa was brought up in a family which was involved in ancestral worship, although they also knew a little about God.



Beatrice too got involved in the worship of ancestral spirits and was appointed a medium. One of her brothers became a Christian, and he then led Beatrice to the

Lord. She began a discipleship training programme and learned that Jesus has power over all evil spirits. Her response was to return home and burn all the trappings that belonged to her former life. Things were not easy for her as she then came under spiritual attack, but after prayer and deliverance she is now a happy Christian woman.

AIDS

AIDS has got Africa in its grip; already the hospitals in Zimbabwe record deaths daily from AIDS. It is reckoned by the year 2000 nearly two million people in Zimbabwe will be infected with the AIDS virus. Zimbabweans describe it as "the monster of the people".

As a response to this the churches are fighting for people to be disciplined in their sexual relationships.

The church is calling for God anointed people to stand and say "God send me to the shattered life, the life full of many problems." Zimbabwe needs people who can pray for such diseases as AIDS to vanish from a believer; people who can stand and rebuke the spirits of adultery and corruption; people who can teach the truth to others.



PROJECT 96: ARISE AND BUILD!

We hope we've whetted your appetite for what is happening in the church and country of Zimbabwe. If you would like to find out more AND be part of the vision of enabling all men, women and children to hear the gospel by the year 2000, send off for our project pack Arise and Build! Money raised by this project will go to help evangelism and church planting in Zimbabwe.

Write to Christine Neilson, Baptist Missionary Society, PO Box 49, 129 Broadway, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 8XA. Telephone: 01235 512077



Steve Seymour reflects on his role as a missionary in Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe is a country that stands out from the rest of the Sub-Saharan Africa. The economy and government are relatively stable and the infrastructure sound. This is perhaps why many multinational companies and Aid Agencies are leaving Lagos and Nairobi for the secure and attractive city of Harare.

Tourist images of Victoria Falls, safari parks and wild animals do not convey the daily struggle of many thousands in the high density suburbs and drought stricken areas. I doubt if the many tourists each year have any idea of what the living conditions are like of the hotel staff who serve them.

It is within these contrasts that I struggle to fit in with my role. Many of the churches and communities that we work with are on the margin of society both economically and socially. Most of what I have been doing revolves around the four different Baptist denominations as I encourage their members to make use of the many resources and structures that are available in Zimbabwe. For many reasons we do not seem to be utilising what is available and remain on the periphery of society in general. I have been told that the missionaries taught that 'you cannot be a businessman and a Christian'. Perhaps that explains part of the problem.

We are trying to build up the capacity of the various groups and individual members to play an active role in the economy and life of the community. This involves training in small business management and for others it involves training in drought mitigation. We have also focused on raising awareness of the youth in the churches regarding developmental issues.

Pam Seymour relates an incident in a church service

I'm in my element, in the back row, mostly hidden from view, doing my attempt at a Shona dance, singing lustily.... I was quite unprepared for the response I would receive after the service. "I've never seen a white woman dance in church!"

"She can speak Shona too!"

"She must be married to a Shona man."

This was the English service conducted at our church. Our Shona ladies group had been asked to partake for the first time. Sadly there is a distinct class division here in Zimbabwe, and this extends to the church with services in English and Shona being held at separate times - an offshoot from colonial days. In many churches the English service congregation is almost all white, whereas in ours the opposite is true, with middle class Shona people making up the majority. Shona nannies, maids and gardeners and other workers make up the afternoon congregation.

Apology

In last month's Country Focus on Brazil, our article Diary of a Visitor gave the impression that a Baptist church in São Paulo had been built by resident BMS missionary David Meikle and others. We should like to make it clear that the church was, in fact, built by the people of the São Paulo favela, supported by missionary Paul Holmes and funded by his home church, Broadwater Baptist in Worthing, a church in Brazil and the people of the favela. We apologise for the misunderstanding.

country in focus

ZIMBABWE

Walking with Jesus

IS THE AGE OF MISSION AT AN END? **DAVID POUNTAIN** ISSUES THE CHALLENGE TO RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO THE COMMISSION JESUS GAVE HIS DISCIPLES TWENTY CENTURIES AGO

Missionaries! Do we still need them? I'm surprised that the churches are still interested. Perhaps the greatest surprise is that our Lord's great commission is as important today as ever it was. In spite of the growth of the global church, particularly in Africa and Asia, we are not keeping up with the growth in world population. In fact the number of those who have not heard the gospel is increasing.

Look at the world as a whole. Yes, the wealth of some is increasing, but the poverty of many more is also growing and there is a widening gulf between rich and poor.

We have been free of global conflict for more than 50 years, yet vicious, violent local wars like those in Bosnia, Rwanda, Chechnya and Angola continue to take their toll on human life. Some think that our entry into the 21st century will herald a new age of intolerance and indifference to human suffering.

The importance of fulfilling the great commission is as important as ever. The world still needs to hear the good news and to experience the healing, reconciling love of Christ. So who are to be the new missionaries of the 21st century?

The call to mission is first of all a call to discipleship. "Come, leave your nets and follow me," says Jesus. It is a call not to march for Jesus but to walk, or to go on a pilgrimage, with him into the heart of the world's need. That walk with Jesus can be a journey into our own neighbourhoods and culture or it can be cross-cultural, which can mean moving into a run-down urban area of one of our large cities or even into another country or continent. But it is always in response to his call to follow him.

However, wherever Jesus calls us to walk with him, it is for all of us a call to discipleship. Disciples are pupils, students, learners and this calls for some humility. We can learn nothing unless first of all we are prepared to accept that we know little. It is so different from the arrogant view

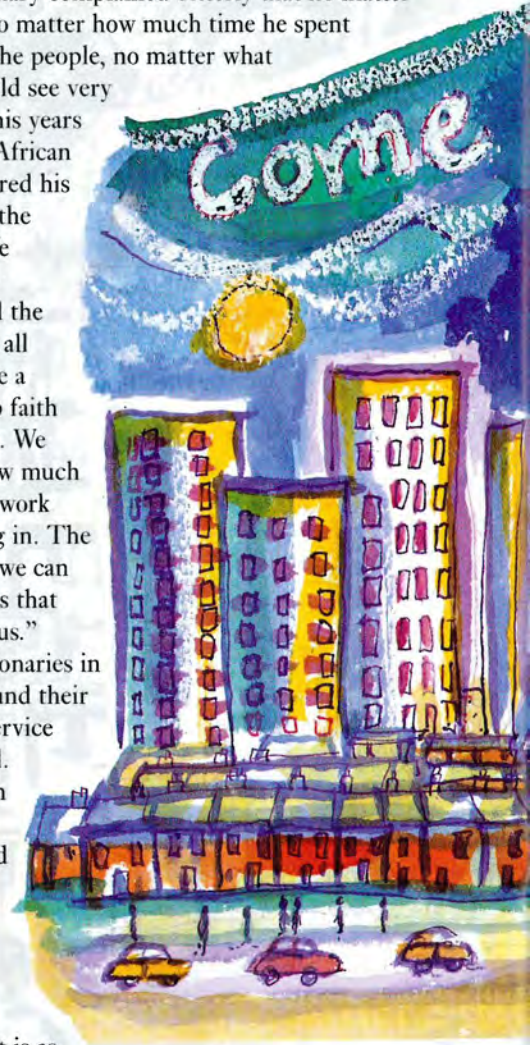
of those who set out believing that they and the Lord have "got it sorted." Those who soon find that they are getting nowhere, that their grand visions are theirs alone and not shared by those they work with.

One missionary complained bitterly that no matter what he did, no matter how much time he spent working with the people, no matter what he said, he could see very little fruit for his years of work in an African village. He shared his thoughts with the local chief. "We recognise your devotion," said the chief. "We can all see that you are a person of deep faith and conviction. We understand how much time and hard work you are putting in. The trouble is that we can see in your eyes that you don't like us."

Many missionaries in Africa have found their first term of service extremely hard. However, when they returned they discovered a different spirit, a greater acceptance of their presence and ministry. It is as though the African were saying: "Ah, you have come back to us. Now we know you care!"

At least 80 per cent of communication is non-verbal and our witness for Christ means not only preaching the word but living it. What does "God is love" mean if our eyes, if

The call to mission is first of all a call to discipleship. Jesus calls us to walk with him into the heart of the world's needs.



RESOURCES

our lives do not show that same love?

Our walk with Jesus, as the early disciples discovered and later bore witness to, is a walk with one who has a deep love and concern for people. The first disciples accompanied him into the homes of the poor. They watched him reach out in compassion to touch the leprosy sufferer. They were with him when he sat with publicans and sinners, the outcasts of society, listening to their problems and getting to know them.

So the modern missionaries are those who are prepared to be disciples, learners all of the time. They are those who realise that other cultures are rich with much to offer the rest of us. They are those who understand that the white, western way is not the only way to be Christian and that the gospel is entering into the cultures of Africa, Asia and Latin America, transforming them and bringing the gospel alive in new ways. They are those who know how important it is to belong to their adopted country and culture, learning the language and understanding the people, walking with Jesus in his

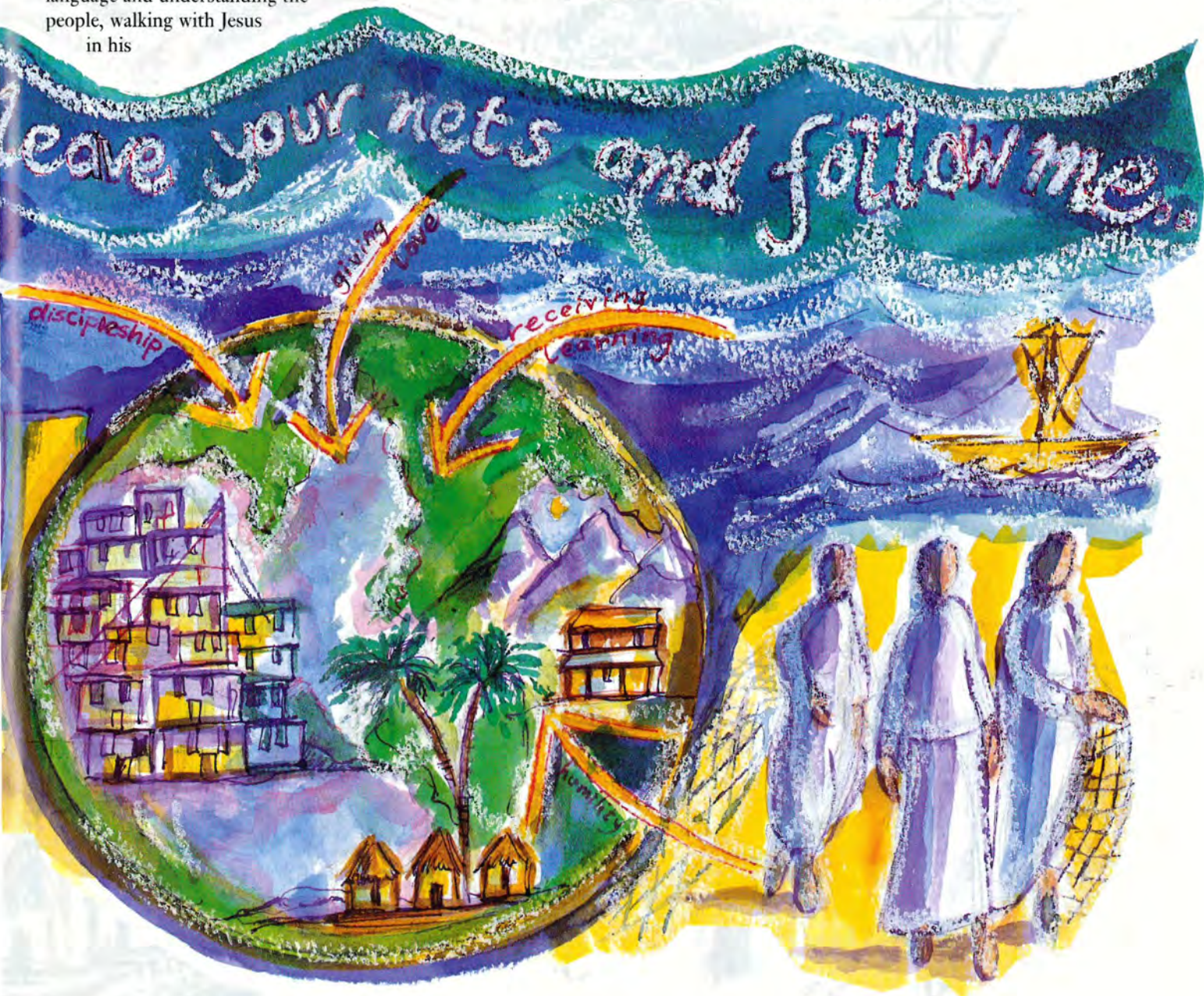
incarnational ministry.

Yes, the world still needs committed Christian people to be witnesses of the gospel. The great commission of Jesus in Matthew 28:19 is as valid as ever. He is calling you and me to follow him today and for some that means leaving home to work in another country and culture. But for all of us it means being prepared to learn, to be aware of the need to grow and respond to change. It is also about being open to people with all that means in terms of risk and vulnerability.

However, walking with Jesus, we have his promise that he will be with us, "until the end of time".



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



TAKE
2

A light hearted call to mission by Jan Kendall
Take a break to ask yourself:

ARE YOU CUT OUT TO BE A MISSIONARY?



Answer a, b, or c throughout.

1. What's your idea of a delicious meal?

- a) Prawn cocktail, steak and chips, lemon mousse
- b) Friendship is more important; I'll eat anything amongst those I love
- c) Freshly killed and plucked chicken, followed by yogurt - all eaten with my fingers, of course!



2. How easy would it be for you to learn another language?

- a) I have a good ear for sounds
- b) I rather hope that the people I work with will understand English
- c) Not at all easy, but I'd have the motivation to learn, wouldn't I?

3. Should a missionary be married or single?

- a) Definitely single; a spouse and children can really tie you down and prevent you getting on with God's work
- b) Definitely married; you need a partner working in cross-cultural situations
- c) Whichever God wants them to be

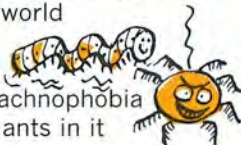
4. Do you think having a sense of humour is an important quality for a missionary to have?

- a) Yes; everyone needs to laugh at themselves sometimes
- b) Well, you're going to make mistakes, aren't you, so it's best not to mind being an object of fun
- c) No; it's not important at all. Salvation is a serious business wherever you are in the world

5. What about the creepy-crawlies?

Fortunately I don't suffer from arachnophobia

- b) I couldn't use the sugar if it had ants in it
- c) Well, they're just part of the culture, aren't they?



6. Do you think it essential that all missionaries receive theological and ministerial training?

- a) No, not if God has called them to work in another capacity
- b) Yes, I would think it absolutely essential
- c) Yes, they've got to be better educated than the people they are going to minister to

7. How are your practical and endurance skills?

- a) I enjoy 4WD driving off made-up roads
- b) I could paddle my own canoe if I had to
- c) The BMS would have to provide a mechanic for me

8. What would you most miss about home once on the mission field?

- a) The television
- b) My family and friends
- c) Marks and Spencer

9. Do you have a strong stomach?

- a) No, I have to be very careful about what I eat
- b) Yes, I can eat anything
- c) I just love curries, the hotter the better

10. What is the ideal age for a missionary?

- a) 18 - 30
- b) 30 - 45
- c) Who's counting?

11. How's your general knowledge?

- a) I know the difference between a yam and a yak
- b) I know the difference between a chapatti and a chipolata
- c) Lousy



12. How about your Christian commitment to date?

- a) I've been reading all the right books
- b) I haven't been that active as a Christian but everything will change when I get out in a missionary situation
- c) I believe I have been active doing exactly what God wants me to do

13. How important is health care to you especially as where you're going as a missionary won't have an NHS?

- a) Very - I jog regularly
- b) I know what my right hand's for!
- c) I hope BMS missionaries are covered by BUPA

14. How adaptable do you think you are?

- a) Very, but I would need to introduce a routine based on life in the UK so that everyone knows where they stand
- b) I'm always game to rise to new challenges
- c) I hope I'm a flexible person

15. Could you survive being alone in a strange country?

- a) Yes, I enjoy solitude
- b) It would be okay as long as there was a telephone in the house
- c) I am quite happy working on my own



16. And where does God fit in all this?

- a) Somewhere, I hope
- b) God has led me in every step of my life and I am open to where he may lead in the future
- c) God is calling me to consider working in a cross-cultural situation





TAKE
2

ACTION
card

WOMEN AND LITERACY

"No Society treats its women as well as its men" - UN Human Development Report 1995 - and yet as the Chinese say "women hold up half the sky."

The woman pictured on this month's Action Card with her basket of rice reminds us that, although the largest grain harvests in industrialised countries are gathered by machine, in developing countries most of the farming and harvesting is done by hand and by women. Although her family and even the national food security depend on women's work this woman is probably illiterate. In Bangladesh 76% of women are illiterate.

The tyranny of illiteracy is that it prevents access to wider knowledge and the skills to improve the situation in agriculture, health care and child care.

Nijera Shikhi, a Bangladesh People's Movement, started in October 1993, already has over 400,000 enrolled learners. The Movement asked for 1% of the literate population as organisers and helpers to wipe out illiteracy over ten years. The programme uses a fast learning method in small groups with voluntary helpers and has, so far, achieved its targets.

Many women from Asian villages who have joined husbands working in Britain are equally disadvantaged by not speaking or writing English. Similar volunteer schemes exist here to help them. One such is the Multicultural Centre in Derby, suffering funding cuts, restricted space and resources.

Please send your card either to Nijera Shikhi, PO Box 8049, Dhaka - 1216, Bangladesh (postage 35p) or to The Derby Multicultural Centre, Dairy House Road, Derby DE23 8HN, to encourage and support the organisation. You may wish to lobby your MP on aid for education.

How did you score?

● 32 - 48 Oh dear, you like your home comforts and life as it is don't you? However there's no discomfort involved with getting better acquainted with missionaries needs, praying for them and helping out in practical ways. And whilst stick-in-the-muds might be a barrier to missionary service for us, be warned, God has a habit of using people in spite of themselves!

● 49 - 64 You've made a good start and you already know something of what it takes to be a missionary. We're all of us in a learning situation for our entire lives, so don't stop now, but carry on finding out more of what God is doing in the world today and of the people he is using to accomplish his purposes. The big question for you is: are you willing for God to change you that bit more, and to be more flexible and adaptable? And you never know, you might discover God has done just that and he's calling you to stop learning about missionaries and to actually become one!

● 65 - 80 Well done! You certainly know what it takes to be a missionary! Don't let it end there though. Maybe God is speaking to you to ask you to become one! Take time out, perhaps consolidate this knowledge and along with your church and Christian friends ask God if he would have you make a change of direction to work cross-culturally for him?

8	16
7	15
6	14
5	13
4	12
3	11
2	10
1	9

Enter your scores here

16	a 2	b 5	c 5
15	a 5	b 2	c 5
14	a 2	b 5	c 5
13	a 2	b 5	c 2
12	a 2	b 2	c 5
11	a 5	b 5	c 2
10	a 2	b 2	c 5
9	a 2	b 5	c 5
8	a 2	b 5	c 2
7	a 5	b 5	c 2
6	a 5	b 2	c 5
5	a 5	b 2	c 5
4	a 5	b 5	c 2
3	a 2	b 2	c 5
2	a 5	b 2	c 5
1	a 2	b 5	c 5

Answers

HOW DID YOU SCORE?



To the beat of a different drum

FRESH BACK FROM THEIR SIX-MONTH TOUR AT THE SHARP END OF MISSION, FIVE BMS 28:19 ACTION TEAMS ARE REFLECTING ON THEIR LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCES.
SAM GIBSON
REPORTS

All change is the name of the game for the 28:19 Action Team members, who returned last month from their overseas assignments and are now touring Baptist churches, schools and youth groups across Britain.

Attitudes, team relations, personal relationships with God and even hairstyles have altered and developed in the six months the 22 young people have been overseas. And it is not just they who have changed; each team has made a mark on the people they have been working with, leaving behind something of themselves.

In Trinidad, Daryl Milford and Angela Richardson did such a good job with a remedial education class at the Baptist Fifth Company

Primary School in Chaguanas that the principal decided to continue the class when the team had gone.

Anna Wallace's drama classes at a local Baptist High School were so successful that she was asked to direct a short play for an

their families.

The India/Sri Lanka Team saw a similar success when seven young people made commitments after a youth service led by the team.

During their stay in Tirana, the Albania team saw the church youth group grow in size. The Sunday

School classes they took and the football team begun by Andy Third and Hugh Clements-Jewry are expected to continue with

Albanian leaders and

thanks to Gavin Carpenter's music lessons, several young people are now able to play guitar for praise and worship in the church.

BMS missionary Saverio Guarna praises God for the team: "They dedicated the maximum of their strength and vivacious energies to carry out a wonderful and



insurance company awards dinner. School assemblies taken by the team drew many students to lunchtime Youth for Christ meetings; at one meeting in February three Hindu girls took the bold step of making decisions for Christ, something that will certainly put them under pressure in



important ministry.”

Perhaps the greatest sight for the team however, was to see God transform the gipsy community in Ali Demi where they had been leading Bible studies. Melanie Fernandes says: “When we first arrived, this community had scarcely any idea of who Jesus was, and now we have been privileged to see them accept him as a true friend. Prayer times at the Bible studies were once awkward and rather nervous affairs but now they pray with eagerness and with determination. Many want to be baptised and classes for preparation will commence in early June.

“Although we have been working in the midst of this, it has often felt as though we were bystanders as we have watched the Holy Spirit work in people’s lives and draw them towards Jesus.”

It hasn’t all been success, of course, and the teams have had to work hard during their time overseas. The Trinidad team worked every weekend with evangelistic youth events and touring Baptist churches all over the island. They have been encouraged by the response, however, and the boys have even been asked to preach in some churches!

Team difficulties posed problems at the beginning of the year but with much prayer and the decision to

altering them subtly for the future and will continue to do so.

These young Christians are now leading their lives to the beat of a different drum – God’s drum. And their experiences on the BMS 28:19 Action Team scheme will surely be expressed in a new rhythm. ●

pull together, the team say they have “come through stronger than before and more understanding of each other’s differences”.

Daryl Milford in Trinidad and Nigel Cope in Sri Lanka both had to overcome a small identity crisis whilst overseas. A simple trip to the barber left Daryl with a bald head which he calls his Apostle Paul haircut. It did a great deal for team relations as it made every one else laugh! Nigel resorted to allowing Sarah Brown and Sarah Barker to cut his hair after an elderly woman spent an entire evening talking to him thinking he was a girl. On another occasion he was chased by a swimming attendant for not wearing a hat like all the other ladies!

Some changes are external – don’t worry if you are greeted by an Albania team member with a kiss on both cheeks or if John Condie walks around your church bare footed and in a skirt – but some will not be immediately apparent to those who do not know these young people well, or even to themselves.

God is and has been



28:19 28:19 28

19

prayer focus

A regular update from BMS colleagues around the world, compiled by **Sam Gibson**



David and Catherine Meikle

BRAZIL

Social and financial problems within the favelas of São Paulo are increasing and floods earlier this year have created the danger of landslides and made many areas uninhabitable. People are dying each day, buried below tons of earth and the loss of houses and all that these people possess is a tragic sight.

David's role as Co-ordinator for Mission and Evangelism for the ABC Association of 73 Baptist Churches and 29 congregations has meant he has travelled around this year visiting many churches working out strategies for outreach into the favelas. Projects in the pipeline include a part time school to be opened in Vila San Pedro for children who come down from the north of the country with little or no reading and writing skills. They have no hope of entering the local schools system which is expensive.

David is looking for ways to bring the pastors in his Association together to discuss the areas they would like to plant a church or support and develop an existing church or preaching point within their area. It is exciting to discover the varied opportunities and needs which exist within each area. The Association has also been offered a piece of land and some buildings from a local trust fund which it intends to be used for the recuperation of child drug addicts, alcoholics and prostitutes etc. If the Association accepts the offer, the local churches would be jointly responsible for the running of a project.

Please pray:

- for the people of the favelas who are forming their own groups and meeting with government officials and housing associations to deal with their problems. Pray for the people as they piece their lives together and for safety.
- for a suitable teacher/worker and funds to maintain the new part time school.
- for unity and wisdom among the pastors with whom David works.
- for the future of a project for needy children on trust property.

zaire



Brenda Earl

A new doctor has arrived at Pimu Hospital to take some responsibilities from the shoulders of Director Dr Nolemo. Dr Lilongo and his wife travelled for several days by plane, canoe and Land Rover to reach Pimu from Kinshasa, spending a night in the jungle when the Land Rover broke down. A boy of 18 died an hour after admission to the hospital; cause unknown. The family then beat a woman and accused her of putting a spell on the boy, something which often happens in a culture rife with witchcraft.

Please pray

- for Dr Lilongo as he settles in
- for Brenda as she prepares herself for retirement this summer



Peter and Susan Cousins

BRAZIL

Peter's book on science and religion has been accepted for publication and is now being edited. It is unlikely to appear in Brazilian bookshops until the latter half of the year but it's future now seems assured. He has been

asked to write another book but is hesitant at the moment and whilst he will most certainly write something over the next six months, he is not yet sure what.

In February, the Cousins and the children they take care of had a week off for

BRAZIL

the Carnival holiday. It is difficult to explain that Christians have nothing to do with this festival which is big business centring around sex, drugs, alcohol and spiritism – nothing like the Notting Hill Carnival! Most Christians make use of the holiday to leave town for spiritual retreats.

Please pray:

● Peter and Susan's Kombi was stolen in February; they have to rely on borrowed vehicles to take the five children in their care to school and to their various churches on Sunday mornings.

● Pam, one of the Cousins' charges, has to decide whether to continue her education in São Paulo, go to boarding school or friends in Britain, live with her parents and go to an American school in Salvador or stay with relatives in the USA. At just 15 years old, it's a daunting decision.



Keith and Barbara Hodges

BRAZIL

Keith who is Dean of the Parana Baptist Seminary and head of its Old Testament Department is also acting as interim pastor for a church in Piraquara.

The church has many internal problems which led to a split in February with the youth leader and his wife walking out and most of the young people following.

Conflicting worship services were scheduled for the next weekend but God

intervened.

Keith met with both sides and prayed with them and on the Sunday, the usual congregation appeared.

On the Sunday night, most of the groups that had left were present to hear Andrew North from BMS preach and the church was filled with confession of sin, cries for help and a moving of the Spirit which Keith says "did our hearts good to see and experience".

Keith and Barbara have officially accepted an invitation to work with the

Portuguese Baptist Convention from January 1997 where they hope to serve until their retirement.

There are many issue to bring into line between now and then for which Keith and Barbara would appreciate our prayers.

Please pray:

● that the right person be found to take over pastoral care of the congregation at Piraquara.

● for the work to be done now in healing the internal problems of the Piraquara church.

● for the youth leader and his wife who have not returned to the church since they walked out.

● for Keith and Barbara who are frightened of the implications of their move; they have been involved in church planting, and latterly theological education, in Brazil for 25 years.

africa - zaire

Steve and Elizabeth Allford

The Baptist Community of the River Zaire (CBFZ) held a service in the Protestant Cathedral in Kinshasa to commemorate the arrival of the first missionaries in Zaire in 1878 and to give out certificates to all the pastors in Kinshasa who have been consecrated over the years.

Widows and family members collected certificates on behalf of those pastors who had already died. It appears that the pastors have never had a proper certificate and the CBFZ hopes to make sure that all of their pastors across the country are in possession of certificates by the church meetings this month.

Choirs from the different churches sang and Dr. Marini of ECZ preached on Hebrews. The service lasted from 11am until 3.30pm! Guests included representatives from the other protestant church groups (Salvation Army, American Baptists, Swedish Baptists, Presbyterians etc) and local political leaders.



BAPTIST



europa



Saverio and Betsy Guarna

ALBANIA

The training of Albanian leaders is a high priority for the First Baptist Church of Tirana in view of its growth over the first year since its establishment.

Eight adults are currently attending bi-monthly seminars run by the Albanian Bible Institute and some of these young people are looking forward to full theological education.

The Albanian Association of Missionaries (AEP) believes in ten years time, there will be around 300,000 believers in Albania requiring the support of 2,500 pastors plus hundreds of church leaders, including church secretaries, youth ministers, worship leaders, Sunday School teachers, and so on.

Saverio and Betsy are thrilled with the progress of the Gospel in Albania and feel they are working to make history.

Please pray:

- for the continued spread of the Gospel in Albania.
- for the continued growth of the First Baptist Church of Tirana.
- for the training of young Albanian leaders in the Church; may God call more to full time service.



Mark and Claire Ord

ITALY

The Ords have begun a young people's Bible study group in their home which they are enjoying.

It is more of a discussion group as Mark is not able to speak as much as he does in English and he and Claire are not always able to understand the discussion.

The group is unused to praying together, particularly for personal needs, but they are making

progress.

Claire is expecting a baby at the end of July which the couple hope will be born at a small hospital which was originally set up by the evangelical churches in Genova.

They are in the UK on Home Assignment this month.

Please pray:

- for Mark and Claire's knowledge of Italian, that it will not cause a barrier in their work.
- for a safe pregnancy and birth.
- for a fulfilling Home Assignment and the opportunity for Claire to visit her dad who is very ill.



Ryder and Heather Rogers

ALBANIA

A road project supported by the Florida Baptist Men's Movement has been given the go-ahead to lay sewerage pipes and asphalt the road in

Bregu-I-Lumit.

The mayor would like to name one of the roads after Ryder but he said no.

For one thing in Albanian it would sound like rew-ger rude-er roggers and secondly he says the glory is God's not man's.

He suggested a name such as Friendship Road – Rruga Miqesia – would be nicer.

Please pray:

- that this project would go ahead with no problems.



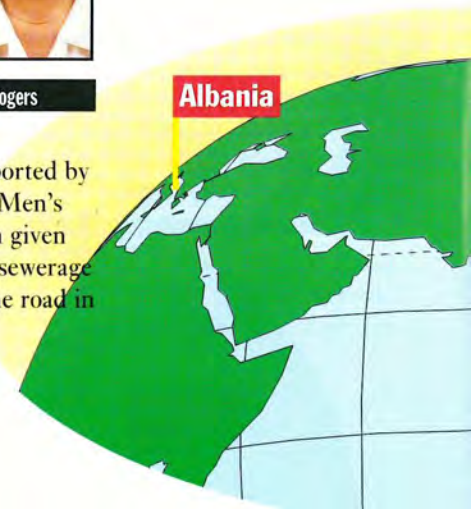
Yvonne Clark

HUNGARY

Short term volunteer worker Yvonne has settled quickly into teaching English at the International Baptist Lay Academy in Szigetszentmiklós, near Budapest.

Yvonne has four intermediate level students from Ukraine, Russia and Serbia who are learning English and Theology in her class.

EUROPE



They all have some kind of leadership role in their home churches although none are training for the ministry as yet.

When teaching English as a foreign language, it is very useful to be able to draw and one of Yvonne's colleagues, Paul who teaches New Testament to lower level students is very gifted in this area.

Even he struggled however when after one lesson, a student asked him what circumcision meant – fortunately another student in the class was able to explain and Paul was saved the embarrassment!

Please pray:

- thanking God that Yvonne has settled in so quickly and that her students are making good progress.
- that God will use these students on their return to their Eastern European countries.



Chris and Sarah Mattock

ITALY

Congratulations to Chris and Sarah on the birth of Judith Helen on 4 March.



Roger and Nikki Pearce

ALBANIA

Roger and Nikki have been based in Tirana in central Albania since January and are now in the midst of language study, a difficult

task as Shqip (Albanian) is a complex language.

The couple remain in Tirana until October or November when they intend to move on to Kruje in the north, beginning education and primary health care tasks.

Please pray:

- for language study.
- for the health and safety of the Pearce's and their eight month old baby, James.
- for easy adaptation to the culture.

nepal

Corinna Woods

Corinna has been on home assignment in the UK since September 1995. At the time of writing, she is due to return to Nepal on April 21 to begin work at a newly created sixth form in Dullu, sharing in the preparation of teenagers to become primary school teachers. The ultimate aim is to improve the low standard of education in village schools and in the status of primary school teaching in particular. Corinna will teach child development, methodology, supervise teaching practice, help with English language tuition for staff and students, and organise seminars and workshops.

Please pray:

- that Corinna will settle quickly into her new role and establish good relationships.
- for homesicknesses as she misses family and friends.
- for the month of language study Corinna undertakes on arrival in Nepal.

MAY 1996

Arrivals

Sheila Samuals from Delhi
Angus and Carol MacNeill from Sangklaburi

Departures

Ann Bothamley to Vellore
Saverio Guarna and Betsy Guarna-Moore to Tirana

Overseas Visits

John Passmore to North Africa
Sian Williams to Zaire
Derek Rumbol to Zaire

Anonymous gifts

October 1, 1995 to February 29, 1996

TOTAL £3,728.12

Legacies

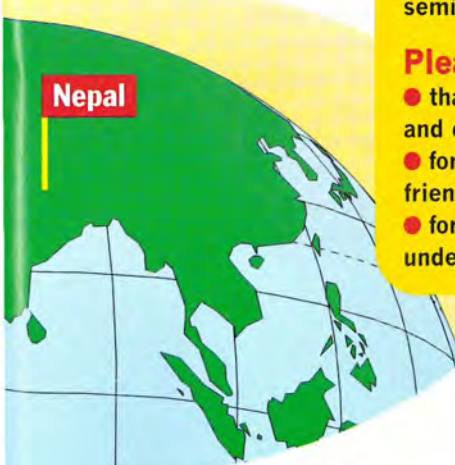
October 1, 1995 to February 29, 1996

We are grateful for the support of those who remember the work of the gospel in their wills and we give thanks to God for the following bequests.

Amos Revd James	£ 3,600.00	Lord Miss Dorothy	116.33
Bennett Mary E	100.00	Martin Miss Mary	2,058.00
Betteridge Mr Arthur J	1,221.28	Martin Miss V M	500.00
Blackburn Emmeline	500.00	Moses Mr Trevor	500.00
Bladwell Miss G	500.00	Mulhern Miss Gladys F	500.00
Blakey Mr Donald	10,000.00	Pellowe Mrs Ethel N	600.00
Brampton Mrs Lucy E	1,848.11	Petch Miss Emma P	1,276.34
Bryan Revd A K	61.45	Phelps Mrs Nellie M	1,000.00
Bryant Miss F A M L	41.12	Pitman Miss K M	49.93
Buchan Mr Peter	4,838.36	Plail Mrs Joan	10,000.00
Calder Mrs C M	46,000.00	Poynter Mrs M	10.00
Chivers Mr Edward C	100.00	Priest Mrs M E P	4,904.28
Colebrook Amy R	14,331.32	Pringle Miss G C	2,953.92
Coulson W E	8,000.00	Roberts M G D	15,000.00
Cracknell Miss H M	722.03	Rose Miss Freda M L	1,068.65
Cummings Mr John N	507.00	Rundle Miss A M	440.35
Cummings Mrs M P	1,000.00	Selby Mrs F P	33,000.00
Dart Miss K M	100.00	Smith Miss Violet O	250.00
Derges Mrs E M E	1,000.00	Smith Miss E M	11.25
Field Miss E	500.00	Springett Miss Marie	115,433.88
Glover Revd F	50.00	Stapley Mrs B J	1,000.00
Goodall Mr & Mrs	11,557.65	Stapley Revd H L	500.00
Godridge Miss Enid L	5,000.00	Stevens Miss Violet	421.75
Harvey Mary N	115.00	Stiles Miss B W	10,750.00
Haverly Ivy K	5,859.46	Stokes Louisa G	2,000.00
Hill Bertha M	500.00	Storer Miss E	500.00
Hunt Mr Ernest H	900.00	Terrell Revd Stuart	14.47
Hutchinson Mrs M	35.00	Thornton Mrs Janet	20,687.88
Isles Emily B	3,186.95	Tucker Miss S P	1,000.00
Knight Miss E M F	2,500.00	Turner Mrs Edna	3,347.79
Lees Clement	500.00	Turner Mrs Kathleen	500.00
Ling Mrs Marjorie	500.00	Yates J A	244,682.13
Lloyd Mr Cecil	205.60		£500,957.28

BMS projects

The totals raised to March 26, 1996:
Breaking Chains £24,657
Deka Bangladesh £16,235
Sawadee £10,951
Mighty Warrior £173



What they didn't tell you about the Rat-atouille

As a boy I had the reputation that I would eat anything! I still enjoy food which is just as well because as a missionary in Bangladesh and now as Regional Representative for Europe I ate and am still presented with some very special and 'interesting' meals. Eating and feasting are important parts of many religious and cultural festivals which is probably why missionaries often talk about food in prayer letters and when on home assignment.

In Bangladesh we enjoyed goat curry for our Christmas dinner and got used to eating rice pudding with our hands from the same banana leaf the curry had just been served on. Often when visiting villages a chicken or duck would be killed after we had arrived. (After all it would have been a shame

to kill it, if for some reason the guests from the town did not come.)

On one occasion at the equivalent of

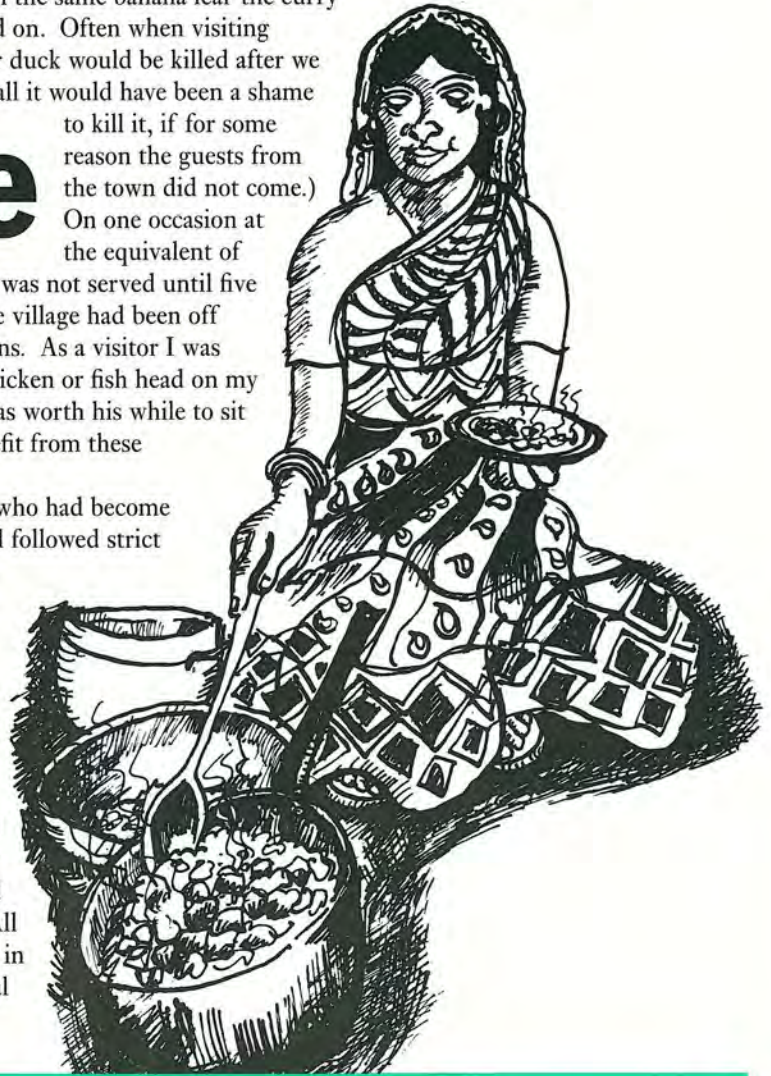
an Association Assembly I remember that lunch was not served until five o'clock because the pig had escaped and half the village had been off chasing it during the morning Bible study sessions. As a visitor I was often given the special privilege of having the chicken or fish head on my plate. My Area Secretary soon learned that it was worth his while to sit near me on such occasions as he could then benefit from these delicacies which I found difficult to eat.

I often wondered about the men and women who had become Christians leaving other religions where they had followed strict food rules for many years. They had been told what was clean or unclean and what they could and could not eat. I noticed that for some of them, even though they had left that religion, they still did not eat the particular meats which had previously been forbidden to them.

One day I was visiting a village where all the people belonged to a particular tribal group. They were very poor in a good year and this had been a bad one. It was a time of year when they had eaten all the rice from last year's harvest and were just beginning to plant for the next crop. All they had was some wheat which they had grown in the winter. We told them not to make any special arrangements as we did not want a large meal before going to sleep; a snack after the evening prayer meeting would be fine. During the meeting in the church, which started at 8pm and lasted two hours, I noticed that some of the young men were missing and wondered what they were doing. I found out once the meeting was over and we were back at the head man's house sitting on the mud veranda.

Because it would have cost money to have the wheat ground into flour for making chapattis, the women had prepared the meal in the same way they would have done with rice; only they were boiling the wheat as whole grains. They were also preparing the curry. We were told that the men had been busy hunting and that there was a special dish being cooked for us. I happened to look over to where the meal was being made and saw what the delicacy was. The thought of great blobs of sticky, boiled wheat was already diminishing my appetite. The curry should have helped it down but when I saw what they were cooking I didn't really feel like eating at all.

I began to realise something of how people felt about eating what they thought was unclean food and why they still found it difficult, if not impossible, to eat certain meats. Not that I had ever been forbidden to eat this meat, but then, I had never ever been offered rat curry before! ●



John Passmore takes a sideways view

John Passmore, the BMS Europe Representative, was a missionary in Bangladesh for 10 years

waves

FOLLOWING THE ANTIOCH EXAMPLE

“Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them” – Acts 13:2.

Who said it? I know the Holy Spirit did but WHO actually spoke these words? The Holy Spirit uses people to hear and articulate his messages to the church; so who said it at Antioch?

Tantalisingly, we don't know. Maybe that's intentional, to help us focus on the role of the church in the missionary call. This role is often neglected, even ignored, in an evangelical culture which has majored on the individual rather than the community.

Yet, as Antioch shows, the church has a crucial role in testing, confirming and implementing the call of God. The Lord may at times use individuals, acting alone, in a special way, but the encouragement and solidarity of a supportive church is the Biblical norm and cannot be over-estimated in mission.



Effective intercession, financial support, loving concern, felt participation all flow from partnership which is strengthened if the church is in the process from the very beginning – even if the testing of the call causes delay.

The church is called, too, as Antioch shows. Exceptional leaders were to go and added responsibilities would fall on those staying at home. Were they ready? Could they cope? Would Antioch ever have sent Barnabas and Saul without ALL of them being called by God?

The call came through the church, it was confirmed in the church and the pioneering mission that followed was owned by the church. In this way the Holy Spirit was at work and it seems to me this Antioch model is a good one to copy.

Individuals, churches and societies take note!

John Greenshields is pastor of Bridge of Don Baptist Church, Aberdeen. At the present time two missionary couples have been sent out from this church and are now serving with the BMS in Nepal.

“Set apart” for me



VOLUNTEERS TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP

*Administrative assistant
Bangladesh*

To help with administration and training in the central office of the Bangladesh Baptist Sangha. They seek someone to work with them in modifying technical systems and in training in management techniques and practicalities.

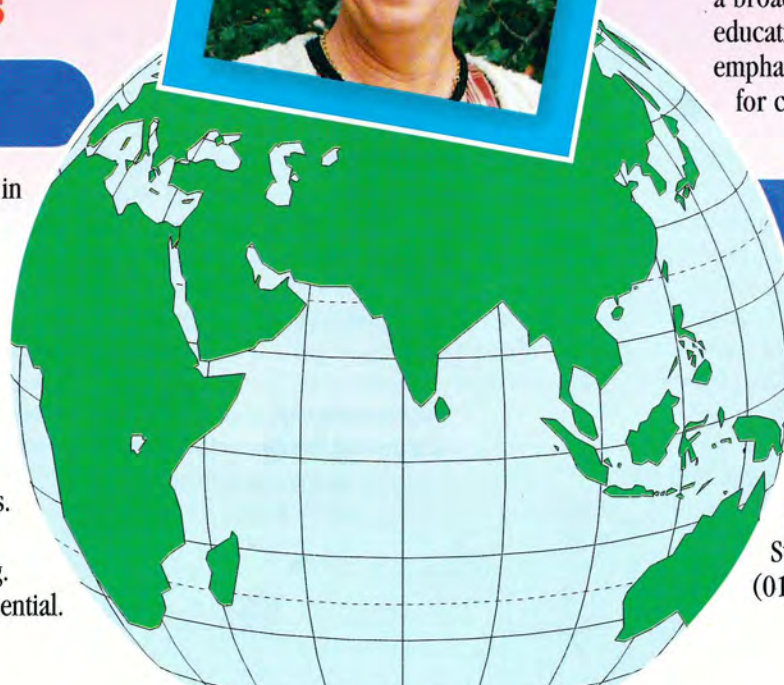
*Ministerial couples
Trinidad*

To serve small churches in isolated communities, working with people of largely African origin. The three-month assignment will involve working in partnership with local church leaders.

MISSIONARIES

*Experienced surgeon
Bangladesh*

The Christian Hospital in Chandraghona needs an experienced surgeon to work closely with the Bengali Medical Superintendent there, managing and supervising surgical treatment on inpatients. There will be an involvement in training. FRCS qualifications essential.



*Director of Nursing
Bangladesh*

The Christian Hospital in Chandraghona needs an experienced director of nursing to manage the nursing care of inpatients and outpatients. The post includes the supervision of ward work and an involvement in training. Wide work experience and RGN/RM qualifications are essential.

*Ministerial couple
Sri Lanka*

A minister with an educational background is being sought for this long-term commitment. A good working knowledge of the local language and a desire to build good long-term relationships are desirable. Among the aims of the post is to help formulate a broad-based Christian education policy with an emphasis on the call of God for church leadership.

*Andrew North
01235 512077*

If you are hearing the call of God to serve, please speak with Andrew North, the BMS Missionaries Support Manager on (01235) 512077.

