

RECEIVED
29-05-1996

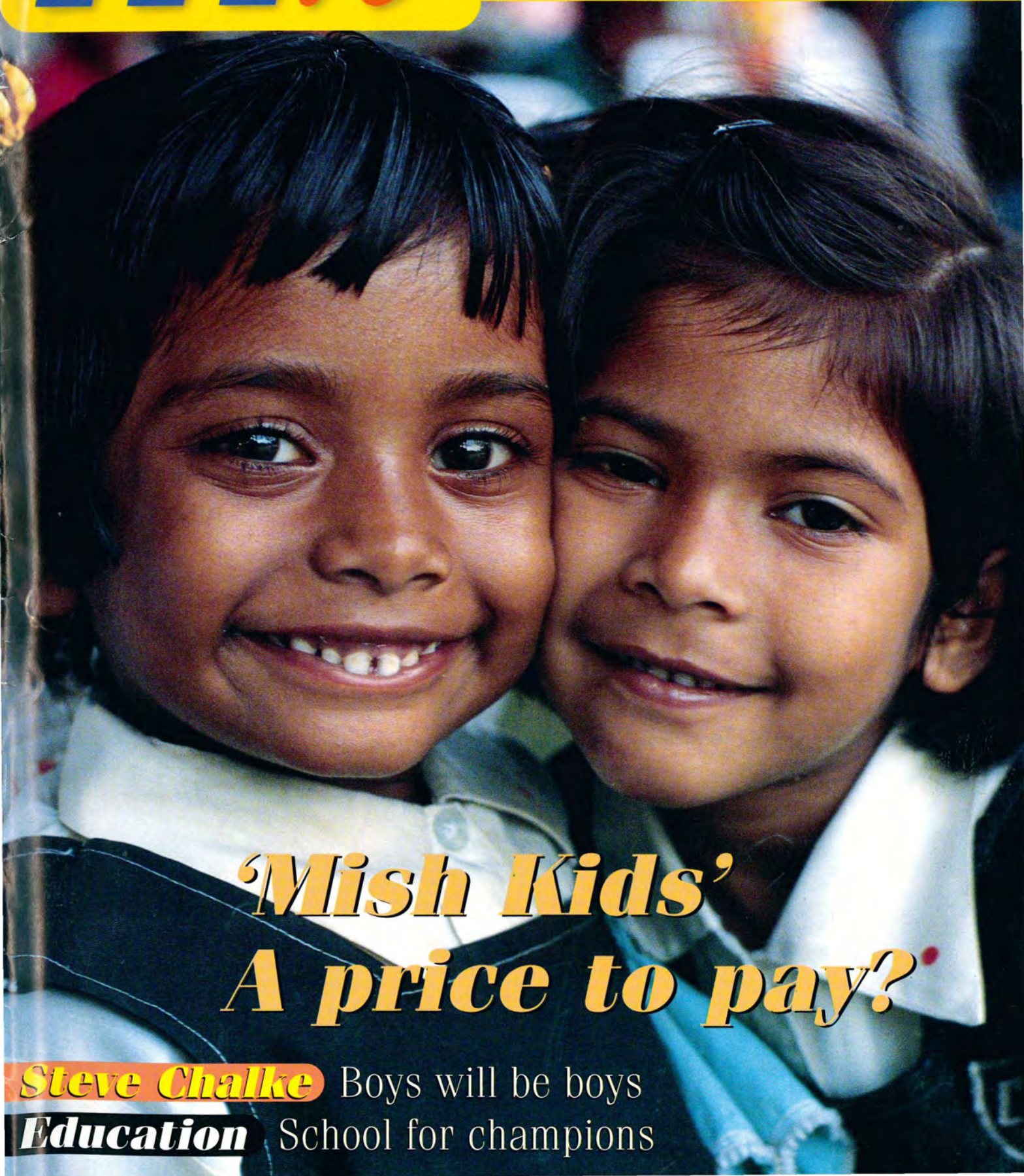
missionary Herald
mb
Baptist Theological
Seminary Library
Prague
Czech Republic

News around the world

Focus on Nepal

Action teams on the road

international



'Mish Kids' **A price to pay?**

Steve Chalke Boys will be boys

Education School for champions

ROOTS TO LIFE

When the crops keep failing and growers get discouraged they need someone to help. Here in Trapiá, Mike and Daveen Wilson have been helping to give the village hope for the future. Your support can make a difference.

Operation Agri supports projects like this and Telema project in Zaire, which BMS agriculturalist David Stockley has visited and helped.

Both these projects provide a focus for Roots to Life.



Mike Wilson and daughter Debbie, examine crops in Trapiá, Brazil.

Don't miss out on your resources pack!

- Full of ideas
- Packed with information
- A great resource for your harvest activities



**Operation AGRI BMM &
Baptist Missionary Society**
joint harvest appeal

**Telephone Christine Neilson, BMS Literature Secretary on: 01235 512077
for an order form for your resources pack, if you want to support Roots to Life.**



There's no place like home, whether it's going to be in Kingston-upon-Thames, Kathmandu, Karachi or

Kinshasa. But if home is to be in another country, the additional challenges facing families are not only cultural adaptation but also where the children go to school.

This has been one over which many have agonised; God's call on their lives to mission overseas seems to conflict with what is normally thought to be "best for the children".

Some choose boarding schools, some home education and others are able to send the children to mission tutor groups. But no matter how much they have thought and prayed, during low moments doubt and uncertainty can lead to the inevitable question: "Did we get it right?"

There is no doubt that both parents and children need our continued prayer support so we have invited some who were "mish kids", as they're affectionately known, and a missionary teacher, to share their thoughts and reflections with the aim of better equipping us for prayer support to those in their shoes today.

Richard Wells

Missionary Herald, the magazine of the Baptist Missionary Society,
PO Box 49, Baptist House, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 8XA.
Telephone: 01235 512077 Fax: 01235 511265
E-mail: 100626.1577@compuserve.com
Registered charity No. 233782

The views and opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the BMS

GENERAL DIRECTOR

Reg Harvey

MANAGING EDITOR

Richard Wells

CONSULTING EDITOR

David Pountain

REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS

Steve Chalke, Sandra Carter, Clive Doubleday
Sam Gibson, Jan Kendall, John Passmore
David Pountain, Richard Wells

DESIGNER

Anthony Viney

ILLUSTRATOR/DESIGNER

Sarah Prentice

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

Jan Kendall

Director for Missionaries

Sian Williams

(for inquiries about service overseas)

© Copyright 1996

Baptist Missionary Society

Printed by Stanley L Hunt Ltd

Rushden, Northamptonshire

Subscription for 1996

£5.40 through church mh distributors

£9.90 by direct mail (inc p&p)

Nine issues plus the BMS Annual Review.

Post and packing overseas at the rate applicable

Missionary Herald

CONTENTS

Cover story

NO PLACE FOR A FAREWELL

What was behind the "mish kid" stiff upper lip..... 4

Steve Chalke

BOYS WILL BE BOYS

Are missionary children any different?..... 9

News section

FOREIGN AND HOME NEWS

Taking a look at the news from a global perspective.... 10

Centre special

SCHOOL FOR CHAMPIONS

Educating the unsung heroes of the mission field..... 18

Country focus

mh LOOKS AT NEPAL

Jan Kendall's regular national overview 21

Mission file

IDEAS AND OPINIONS

Facts, figures and background resource material..... 26

Personal prayer

WHO AND WHAT TO PRAY FOR

News from the BMS 28:19 Action Teams 28

Prayer points from BMS colleagues around the world. 30

John Passmore

A SIDEWAYS LOOK

Almost the last word 34

Waves

AN INDEPENDENT VIEW

Andrew Green is this month's guest writer 35

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

YOUTH ... AND MISSION

Do we trust our young people with the gospel?

FOCUS ON THAILAND

Where Christians live in a strong Buddhist culture

FRONT COVER: School for these two young street children from India is Calcutta's Emmanuel School, run by the Christian organisation Emmanuel Ministries.

Picture: Richard Wells

No place for a proper farewell

WHILE PARENTS WERE ON THE MISSION FIELD, SCHOOL BECAME A LONELY PLACE TO MASTER THE ART OF PRETENCE. **ANDREW GREEN** REFLECTS ON HIS FORMATIVE YEARS

Boys at Eltham College do not cry," said my housemaster reproachfully, just in case I was tempted to indulge in such unmanliness. As though it were yesterday, I remember the autumn darkness and the soulful strains of the school organ – as melancholy as the season. I was 10, I had just said goodbye to my mum and I knew I wouldn't see her again for four more years. What frustrated me – and it sounds so pathetic now – is that in front of all my friends, I could say no proper farewell. We were marched out of chapel in crocodile, with no space to express the sense of emptiness and abandonment, no time for tenderness. I filed past my mother with stinging eyes.

A week later my school cap was pinched (which dates me!) and in the ensuing fight a few punches were

thrown. For me this was a significant first bloodying into the trivial brutality of an English public school – a rite of passage others thought I passed with flying colours. The macho persona was not difficult to adopt: fortunately from then on, most of the aggression was channelled into rugby. Without having to think about it, I became a master of pretence. My new identity was thoroughly pagan and largely unfeeling. Chameleon like, I had changed to match the surroundings.

Missionary kids are not unique in their development; many other children miss out on what is called "normal" family life. Like many others today there is no fully developed parent-child relationship.

So, for example, when my parents returned despite their faithfulness in letters and audio-tapes, we were comparative strangers! Moreover, as my son grows up, I find I have no model in adolescence of a father-son

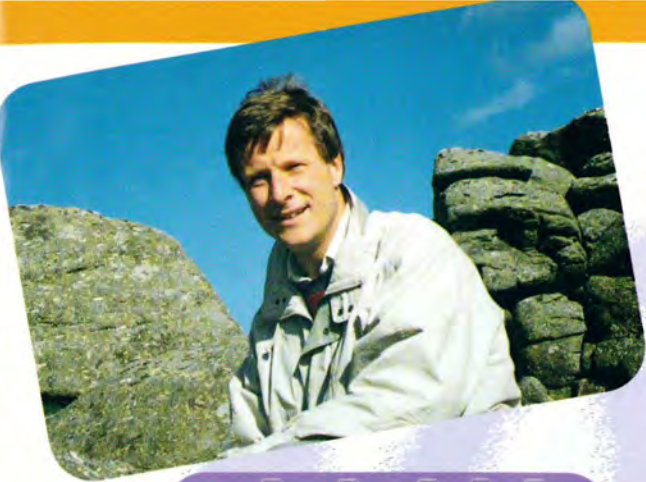
relationship. Deep down there is a sadness, which my parents must also feel, of a childhood irrevocably lost!

But these are just scars on the surface; there is a deeper damage. I have a horror of being left and having to say farewell. Even now I feel it hard to say goodbye to the children!

More seriously, there was an emotional repression. Like many others at the age of 10, I had to act as though my parents were dead, but no one recognised it as a form of bereavement. My coping mechanism was a sort of emotional shutdown: "I didn't feel, I didn't care". I had the belief that if you block out all pain and grit your teeth you will get through. I had no expectation of actually enjoying myself; my only aim was to survive! A generation later my children have had a carefree innocence, but for many "mish kids" there is a neurosis planted with those first hints of separation.

All this is in retrospect. As a young adult I was convinced that my "mish kid" experience was entirely





mish kids

I had the belief that if you block out all pain and grit your teeth you will get through. I had no expectation of actually enjoying myself; my only aim was to survive!

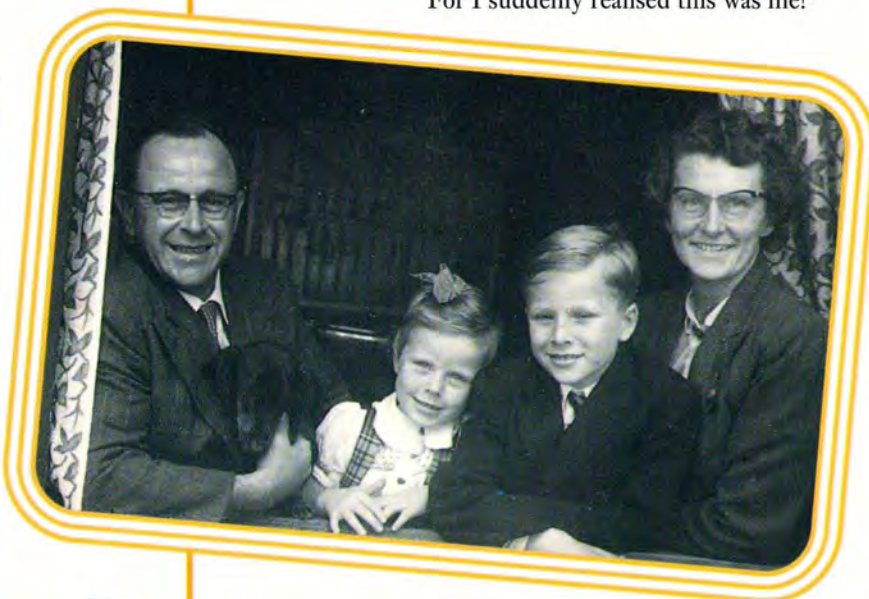
positive: I had had the advantage of world travel and a global perspective on life. My parents' love for me and their prayers formed a certain foundation. I had the advantage of a good education, and despite the school, became a Christian in the sixth form.

It was only after university, and heading for Christian ministry, that I had an unexpected insight. I was on holiday and bumped into a 17-year-old whose parents were missionaries with the OMF.

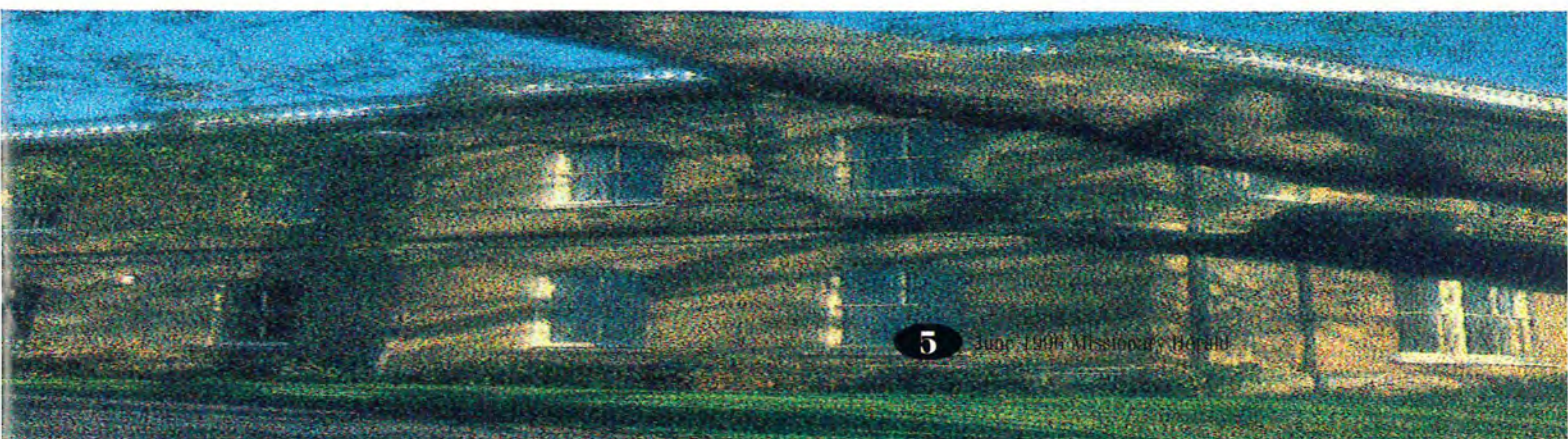
Like me he was mad on rugby and like me he seemed so full of confidence. He had all the advantages of knowledge and charm that come from such an education. But suddenly, I saw that in him it was all a mask. Underneath all the bravado there was a very vulnerable little boy.

For the first time in a decade I wept and wept. Uncontrollably the tears flowed.

For I suddenly realised this was me!



Andrew Green (TOP) minister at Upton Vale Baptist Church, Torquay; as a youngster (ABOVE) with his family; Eltham College (BELOW) and actor Ian Charleston, who played the role of Eltham's most famous student, Eric Liddell, in the film Chariots of Fire



Heart for youth

EVEN AT SCHOOL 'MISH KID' **ANDY KENNEDY** WANTED TO BE A MISSIONARY. HERE HE TELLS HOW THINGS WORKED OUT

As I look back on 14 years in full time youth work, I realise that I have always seen myself as a missionary. My twin brother, Douglas, myself and both my sisters, Alison and Jennifer, were born in Zaire. Mum and Dad had gone there in 1956 to teach and do tropical medicine with the BMS.

Being a "mish kid" – and a twin – has certainly added much colour to life and Africa, in particular, has been a challenging backdrop with which to grow up.

It is often hard to know with early childhood memories, how much is genuine recall and how much is family retell around the tea table. The truth is probably somewhere in the middle.

I do remember Dad waking us up for 12 consecutive mornings to give us rabies injections through the stomach; our pet monkey getting swallowed by a snake one night; the house being invaded by an army of soldier ants and my Dad and another missionary blow-torching them out!

I also remember playing in the local creek, wearing my unfashionable red trunks and the daily need to take "jiggers" out of toes with sterilised safety pins.

Seemingly, I could speak four languages by the time I was five –

English, French, Lingala and Dutch. When we returned to Scotland and settled in Aberdeen, our primary school teacher could get only a "Ja" out of us for a while!

Boarding school life figures high in the lives of many "mish kids" worldwide. Many experience enormous struggles as a result. I think eight-year-old Andy wanted to be a missionary on the field instead of at Eltham College, south-west London.

One of my first letters – which my parents have to this day – went like this:

*"Dear Mummy and Daddy,
My name is Andrew Kennedy.
I am eight years old.
I will be in this school until I am 18.
Where will you be then?"*

We were at Eltham College for three to four years and saw our parents for only one glorious summer.

But it was fun, too! Our aunts and uncles became close guardians, read

report cards and helped us to record messages on reel-to-reel tapes for sending to Africa.

I feel my parents were wise to reunited us all in Glasgow just before we hit adolescence. Douglas and I were 12, Alison 13 and Jennifer eight.

Our home became a meeting place for many young people from

Queen's Park Baptist Church. Mum and Dad were amazing examples to us of hospitality and patience.

For many a year on Sunday there would be 15 or 20 people at a meal time; Mum's chicken casserole always seemed to stretch to any amount!

My teenage years were busy; rugby, Crusaders (where I made my first real commitment to follow Jesus), youth fellowship, more rugby! Summer camps figured high during these years and I learned a lot about caring for urban kids through Scripture Union camps led by men like the Revd Jim Punton and Bob Johnston. This soon





Andy Kennedy: a fulfilling life in mission to young people

led to the setting up of Frontier Youth Trust in Scotland and, again, I learned much from being involved with this ministry.

The rest of the summers seem to have been spent running what my church called the "summer mission" which reached out to local families and children. It was during this time that many youth in the church were released into creative evangelism. It is significant that the pastor, himself, had been a missionary in Brazil.

Now I am the leader of the UK and Ireland ministry of King's Kids and regularly address young people on the subject of "Destiny". I have a strong conviction that God has a very special purpose for their generation, particularly in the area of world mission and getting the good news to all nations.

I feel so privileged to work with children, youth and families through the King's Kids ministry of Youth With A Mission (YWAM). God has given me a heart to see them empowered and mobilised. We actually – and prayerfully, I might add – take 10-year-olds on mission, whereas most missions start at 16.

Since being with King's Kids full time for five years, I have been privileged to visit 25 nations. Next

month, in Atlanta, USA, about 7,000 King's Kids from over 100 nations will gather in celebration prior to outreach to all the Americas. I shall be leading a team of excellent young people to Nova Scotia and Cape Breton. ●

mish kids



Prayer Points

- Wisdom in prioritising projects.
- Recruiting anointed staff to develop these projects.
- Strength as I travel frequently.
- Relationship with Queen's Park Baptist, my sending church, to be kept strong.

Andy Kennedy is full time leader of Youth With A Mission's King's Kids ministry

At home in a Class of *eight*

A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO SCHOOLING FOR MISSIONARIES' CHILDREN. **CORINNA WOODS** PROVIDES A TEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE

In earlier generations missionaries called to serve in remote places often sent their young children to boarding schools or home to Britain.

In response to the feelings expressed by many of these now adult children – that they had been sacrificed on the altar of their parents' service – the happier alternative of bringing a teacher to the families has grown up within the United Mission to Nepal (UMN). This teacher was to be a full missionary member of the team with a crucial role to play in enabling parents' work to continue.

My work in Jumla started with the creation of a school room in a mud-floored Nepali house. I air-freighted some cheap lino from Kathmandu, collected suitable locally-made furniture, invented ways of displaying children's work on walls plastered with mud and unpacked books and supplies I had brought from England.

We had no photocopier, no television or video, and no computer. But as it is important that the pupils can at any time return to their own countries and fit into mainstream education, it was important that course

books, reading materials and equipment were up to date and of high quality.

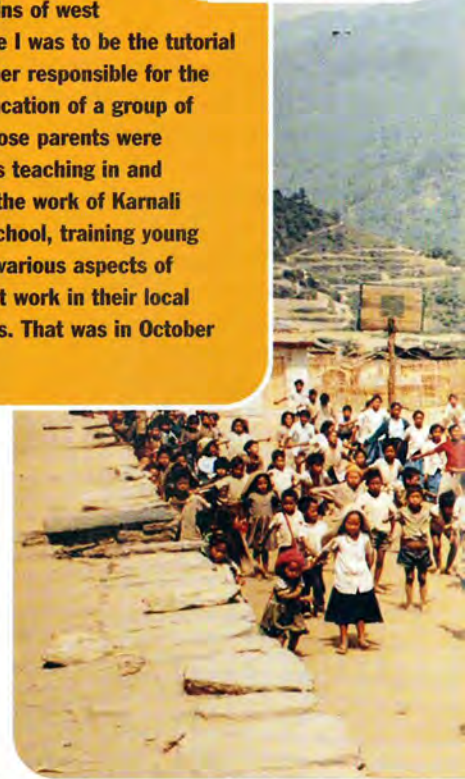
There are great delights in teaching in such a school. With numbers never exceeding eight, each pupil becomes an individual young friend whose needs can be monitored day by day and who can make real academic progress.

There is always "time" and one is not constrained by the more irritating aspects of imposed curriculum. There is daily contact with parents who also become a vital resource in filling gaps in the curriculum, for no teacher can be expert at everything nor aspire to be superwoman while living in a place like Jumla, where survival at a purely physical level is difficult.

I found that work which was unfinished when the sun dipped behind the mountains and the evening chill set in, had to be left so that I could spend my evenings cooking on my wood stove and doing chores around the home.

We were glad to enjoy the advantages of PE with parents,

In answer to my prayers about the direction of my life and teaching career, I found myself accepted by the BMS Candidate Board and en route to Jumla in the mountains of west Nepal. There I was to be the tutorial group teacher responsible for the primary education of a group of children whose parents were missionaries teaching in and supporting the work of Karnali Technical School, training young Nepalis for various aspects of development work in their local communities. That was in October 1990. ●



allowing me time to work with one end of the age range, and mothers regularly taught some of the routine lessons to the youngest children. Above all, Christian parents expected and valued the overtly Christian ethos of our school and I had the privilege of worshipping and praying with the children each morning.

Of course, there were times when difficulties arose. Some were minor

problems, like disposing of dead rats; finding the schoolroom infested with pigeon mites, causing us to scratch and wriggle as if we had St Vitus' dance; or arriving back from a break to find every surface and book generously crusted with mud after the installation of a new stovepipe.

Other problems arise from parents' varying expectations of the educational process and their wish to influence the curriculum to meet their own aspirations, both personal and based on differing national systems.

It is helpful to be an experienced and confident teacher, able to reassure parents and justify one's methods, but these situations can be stressful when there is no professional support, when there is no telephone to make possible a chat with a colleague, and when your friends are also your school parents.

Most missionaries are confident, competent professional people – they need to be to live in often quite hostile environments – and most of them recognise that their teacher is just the same, and with them in Nepal as an equal partner seeking to serve in the name and Spirit of Jesus Christ.

I look back on many joys; watching small children take their



first steps into literacy; delighting in the poetry that the children have created; watching school performances with nervous young actors and musicians entertaining proud parents. But mostly it has been recognising the privilege of spending the past four years in Nepal, knowing this was where God had called me and that my work has been part of UMN's effort to bring the light of the gospel of Jesus and his love into the lives of the people of Jumla, some of the world's most backward and needy people.

Corinna Woods is a BMS missionary working with the United Mission to Nepal. She has been seconded to the staff of a new Sixth Form in Dullu, in western Nepal

Steve Chalke



BOYS WILL BE BOYS

My wife, Cornelia, was once interviewed as part of a seminar designed to support the partners of Christian leaders, called Living With Leadership.

"Isn't it tough living with a Christian leader?" she was asked.

"I don't live with a Christian leader," she replied, "I live with Steve."

After almost 16 years of marriage, Cornelia is under no illusions – my workaholic tendencies and other irritating habits are not the result of my being a "professional Christian". They're all part of me! I would have been just as easy or difficult to live with if I had become a journalist, a bank manager or a plumber.

Missionary Kids (MKs) are, at heart, no different from any others. They have exactly the same needs for their parents' love and attention, the same problems with learning, and the same confusion about discovering who they are and what their place is in society. Every job has its own specific set of pressures and opportunities. We're looking in the wrong place if we try to see "being a missionary" as anything more than a convenient peg on which to hang excuses. The task of parenting is a tough one, no matter who you are.

The problems experienced by missionary families in Northern Italy, for example, are very different from those experiences by their counterparts in Zaire. In fact, they may well discover that they have more in common with the families of journalists or business people working in the same country than with other missionaries working elsewhere in the world.

At the end of the day, missionaries are faced with the same questions as the rest of us when it comes to their children; am I a good parent or not? Whereabouts do my children come in my list of priorities? Because the truth is, every mission field starts at home.

In my own work, I've found that it's easy to go to the ends of the earth with the good news about Jesus, but it's much harder to go home, where they know what I'm really like. Good relationships with your children don't just happen. They have to be carefully built up and constantly worked at. And the more your profession (whatever that might be), takes you away from your children, the harder you have to work at being a parent. The mistakes I make as a father are not the inevitable result of my being a Baptist minister. No matter how hard I've had to work during the day, I know that when I get home I can't afford just to relax. I have to work just as hard at being a dad as I do at anything else.

But don't mistake my words for gloom and despondency. I love being a father. If the responsibility of parenthood is enormous, so too are the opportunities. It's just that Missionary Kids (and Preacher's Kids, or PKs) aren't a breed apart. Like all other children, what they need most is the love, support, understanding and, above all, time of their parents. And like all other children, they need to be treated and respected as individuals.

The task of every parent is to prepare their children for independent living. Childhood is gone in a second, and it's every parent's primary task to establish good foundations on which their children can build the strong moral, spiritual and emotional framework they will need to get the best out of life.

Steve Chalke is General Director of the Oasis Trust

Childhood's

dream...

JOY MELLOR HAD THE FREEDOM OF A FAMOUS FIVE TOMBOY LIFE IN THE AFRICAN JUNGLE BUT FACED A CHALLENGE OF ACCEPTANCE BY OTHERS

You could say that mine was every child's dream childhood. It sounds such an adventure – born in an African village, speaking that language before English and having solely African friends for eight years.

Exploring forest tracks, escaping crocodiles and water snakes, swimming endlessly in the lake, canoeing, fishing, making camps . . .

Adventure, it was.

No girl could help but become a tomboy – and I was a strictly Famous Five and Nancy Drew girl!

However, growing up is not just about having plenty to do. It is also about mixing with people and getting on with them. This is where things grew tricky.

People who had not experienced the missionary life would respond in many ways but all of them felt you were something out of the ordinary – a little strange and to be treated with care.

The Africans gave me a Zairian name; I spent most of my first years with Africans so of course they were quite used to me. But I was white, with parents from the "great rich west". For this reason, I never did reach a feeling of oneness with any Zairian friend: I was privileged and they would never forget that.

In Britain people equally did not really know what living a missionary family's life was like. However, here I was looked on as somehow abnormally spiritual and uncomfortably poor. Instead of being put on an impossible pedestal of wealth and status, I seemed to find myself ushered into a little zoo cage and observed slightly warily, occasionally called upon to perform by teaching a little song in the African language or by giving a little talk about something spiritual.

Probably my most socially comfortable time was when I went to school in the Zairian capital, Kinshasa. I lived in an almost entirely expatriate community and went to an American expatriate school with people of such varied backgrounds that no one person could possibly stand out as being odder than anyone else. Everybody was just different and accepted as such.

Growing up a "mish kid", I learned through a few, admittedly, hard experiences that, on the whole, other people's opinions of me do not matter. Instead, I have grown up to really enjoy people and I feel that overcoming – or overlooking! –

cultural differences to reach a plane of friendship and acceptance is one of the most fulfilling aspects of life.

The missionary child's life was not an easy one but it opened up a whole world of enriching and good experiences. ●

Joy Mellor is the daughter of John and Rena Mellor, BMS missionaries in Zaire



news



Chandraghona weaver of the year award

Chandraghona Christian Hospital lies in the foothills of the Chittagong Tracts, in Bangladesh and close to the borders of India and Burma. It is the base for an income-generating weaving project. Financed initially by Operation Agri, the weaving centre is now fully self sufficient and employs 26 women from various local tribes. All the women are divorced, abandoned or at risk in the community.

Working on 10 looms and ten spinning wheels, the ladies produce cotton fabrics of a high quality and in a variety of colours and designs as well as creating ready-made clothes in the tailoring centre. Other items such as hand embroidered table cloths, napkins, tribal bags and woollen shawls are also available.

The profits the women make from the sale of their goods enables them to provide a well-balanced diet for their families. This results in fewer health problems and so acts as a successful community health project in its own right. Also linked to the project are literacy classes and a savings scheme enabling these women to take control of their own lives once more.

Nurse and BMS missionary Sue Headlam trains nurses and oversees the community health programme at Chandraghona Hospital. She says of the weaving project: "It has been a joy to see the women develop as people and, with the security of a job, return to being useful members of society."

Each year the project holds a ceremony to honour the best weaver and the best spinner of the year. The winners must not only be proficient in their work but must be regular attenders at the project and must display a pleasant and pleasing personality. Nancy Benham who runs the Chittagong sales outlet for the project was invited as guest

of honour to present the awards for 1995 and following the presentation, the weavers put on a small variety show including songs, dancing and a take-off of the foreign visitors! ●

Viva Network World Day of Prayer

FOR CHILDREN AT HIGH RISK
SATURDAY 1 JUNE 1996

The Viva Network is a young initiative aiming to create a channel for sharing resources, information and ideas between the world-wide Christian agencies involved in outreach to children at risk, especially street children.

BMS is sharing in the Viva Network's call to prayer for these children on June 1 and encourages all Baptist churches to lend their support to this day.

- By the year 2000, half of the population of the world will be children, two billion of these will live in extreme poverty or at risk.

- Today, 100 million street children roam the world's cities; the figure is set to rise to 800 million by 2020.

- Every year, one million children enter or are sold into child prostitution

- By the year 2000, 10 million children will be orphaned as a result of AIDS worldwide. A greater number will be orphaned by civil war.

- Death squads kill thousands of children every year in several Latin American countries. As a result, whole communities of children have sprung up in the sewers of Manaus and Bogota.

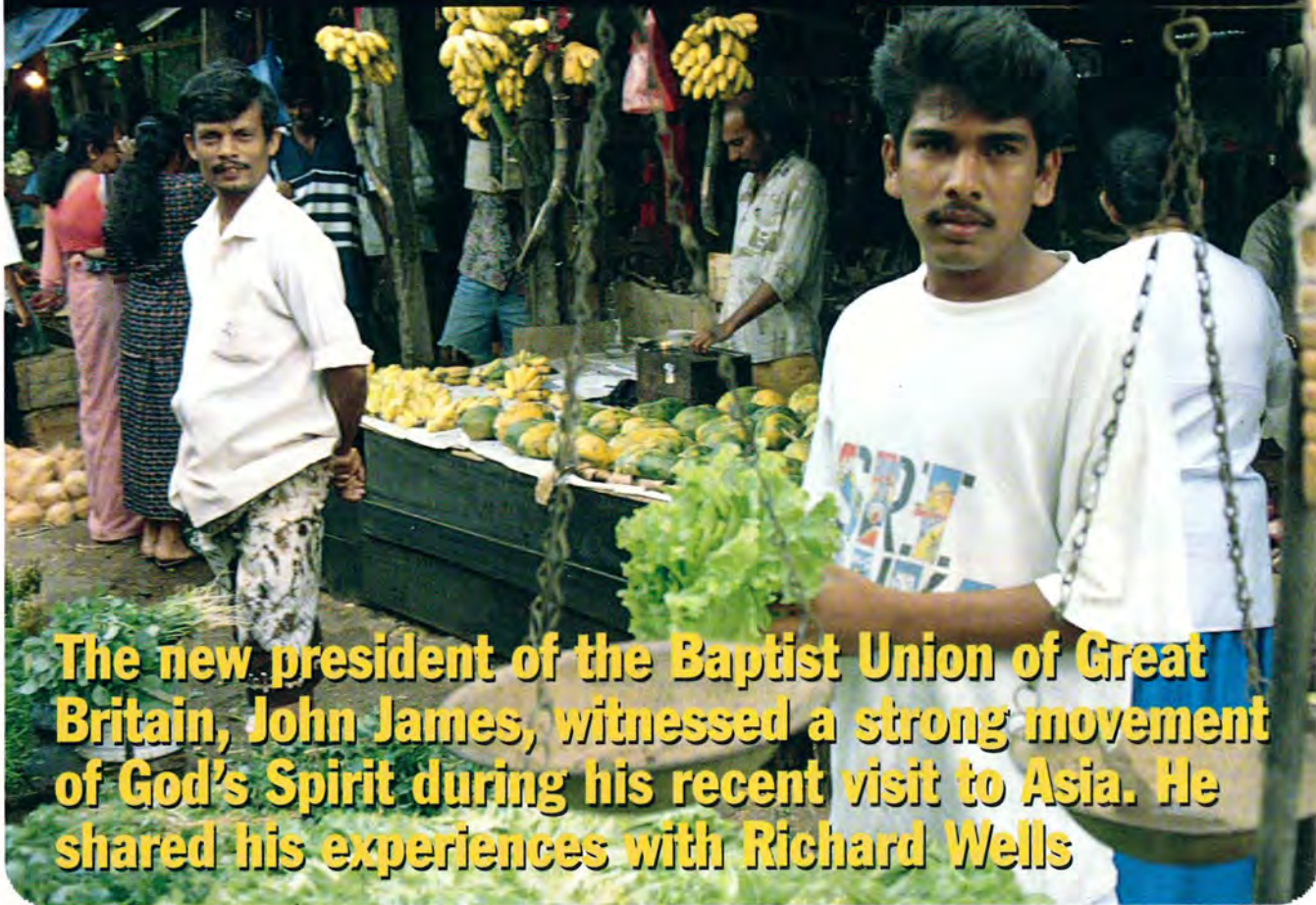
(Figures drawn from the Viva Network's statement of purpose)

You can join with more than 20,000 people across the globe who have already committed themselves to pray for vision of the way forward in the battle for children at risk. Viva will supply all prayer partners with free publicity material, a structured timetable for the day with suggestions for leaders and information on events being held around the world for the day of prayer. Please encourage as many people as possible to pray on June 1. ●

For further information contact: The Viva Network, PO Box 633, Oxford, OX4 2ED. Tel: 01865 773704

Please note: this day of prayer does not fall under the auspices of the World Day of Prayer organisation.

With signs following...



The new president of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, John James, witnessed a strong movement of God's Spirit during his recent visit to Asia. He shared his experiences with Richard Wells

John James has a passion for God's Kingdom. There is not a lot that excites him more than to see professions of faith after the gospel has been preached. A hallmark of his ministry has been the steady stream of people into the Kingdom of God through commitments to Jesus Christ made where he has preached.

In fact, he can remember that on the Sunday he preached "with a view" before becoming pastor at Penarth Baptist Tabernacle in 1982, two men found salvation. It was a sign that leaders at the church had been seeking as God's indication of his chosen man for the job. And that set the pattern for John's ministry there.

"There aren't many Sundays go by when we don't see some response," reflects John. "And we normally baptise about once every six or eight weeks. It's been a story of phenomenal growth, evangelism growth."

An average outsider might be forgiven for concluding that John has a kind of spiritual "Midas touch" when it comes to getting people into God's Kingdom; not an unreasonable conclusion to draw, considering the growth in numbers at Penarth – from 80 to 440 in 14 years – but with humility and a gentle enthusiastic smile John will always point to God as the source of his gifting and calling.

It is with the same enthusiasm that John talks animatedly of God as one who is full of surprises. Ask him about the

recent trip he made for the BMS to Sri Lanka, India and Nepal, where he led a missionaries' retreat in Kathmandu, and John will smile and relate in his gentle Welsh lilt, a series of supernatural interventions by God that are as breathtaking as they are surprising.

One of them happened in Sri Lanka, a land that has long had a place in John's heart; a friendship developed during the BMS bicentenary celebrations between John and Paul Korralage the president of the country's Baptist Sangamaya. Paul's daughter, Naomi, studying in Wales, has become part of the James family, sharing home with John and his wife, Tricia.

So it was not surprising to find John as a guest speaker at the Sangamaya half-yearly meeting in Colombo and leading a mission to further flung territory in Sri Lanka. "They asked me if I'd preach evangelistically at the Sangamaya meeting and so it was thrilling to see 24 profess faith for the first time and another dozen come forward publicly for baptism. During the two weeks I spent in Sri Lanka, we saw about 150 people profess faith."

If this wasn't encouragement enough for Baptist leaders praying for a new wave of God's Spirit through the nation, John says God burdened him with a series of messages on revival to give at a ministers' retreat in the beautiful Sri Lankan hill country. "A fire for revival was ignited in the

hearts of everyone there," says John. "And ministers and their wives were agonising with God as never before anywhere and when we left, we knew that something had happened."

This was to set the pattern for the remainder of his visit, a few days which were to be the most surprising.

Out of the city, in the rural villages and mountainous terrain are Baptist out-stations – small congregations planted by Baptist churches. Travel for the visiting evangelist can mean several hours squeezed into a minibus covering roads whose surfaces have not encountered a tarmacadam vehicle in 30 years, which combine to create a memorably slow journey that does its utmost to rearrange the body's vital organs.

Then he has to preach.

It was after just such a journey to Aglawatta, south of Colombo, that events took so dramatic a turn that John's memory of them is an indelible lithograph of dynamic spiritual activity. John had just addressed a meeting of about 20 church leaders when one of them, Pastor Imal who had planted five congregations in a year, called everyone to prayer.

John says: "They prayed with one voice, and I had a picture of them laying down a platform between earth and heaven which God in his sovereignty could come and move. And there was a prophetic word that there was power in that region to heal.

"I've never been to a prayer meeting like it; they all prayed and I saw the children agonising with God for him to come down!"

Later, a few muscle-toning kilometres further into Sri Lanka's Tamil hill country, and in a small crowded rubber plantation cottage in which a recently-planted church held its meetings, John began to see results. It was a simple children's story, mainly for the benefit of the 20 youngsters, but as soon as John had spoken, 12 people made commitments to Christ.

"Then I preached," says John. "There was great power in that meeting. When I'd finished, they sat me down, cleared a chair alongside me and one by one people came with the expectation that God was going to heal them.

"The first to come was a father with a little girl who hopped in. The interpreter told me she had palsy; her little hand was deformed and as we prayed in Jesus' name her hand took on normal shape and form. I find it almost unbelievable; they just shouted 'It's a miracle!'.

"Then her father said 'What about her leg?' So I told her to walk – and I was so moved, because she walked. Then they ran out shouting 'It's a miracle!' and there was a rush into that cottage like I've never seen! Everyone wanted miracles.

"For four hours everyone who came was healed."

John reflected: "I don't have a history of this kind of ministry but God did it! And I can't stop blinking – that small prophetic word at that prayer meeting in the afternoon was what God did for four hours!"

But this happened not only once; John experienced God's healing miracles again in Gonawalla, another village where he was invited to minister.

"I can't understand it," says John. "But I really do give glory to God."

It is significant that John's visit should have been sponsored by the BMS. Sri Lankan Baptists are proud of their BMS roots – a difficult start by James Chater in 1812, admittedly, but one that grew under his successor, Ebenezer Daniel, until at his death in 1844 the BMS had started 40 schools, 10 mission stations and almost 100 preaching centres.

However, stagnation set in. One of the reasons, says BMS historian Brian Stanley, was a lack of provision for training pastors and evangelists.

Baptist Sangamaya leaders today admit that similar circumstances beset their small community. But while they struggle to cope in these circumstances, making the most of visiting preachers from abroad, they remain expectant on the threshold of revival.

Paul Koralage, and the Sangamaya's general secretary, Nihal Pereira – both relatively recent incumbents – will have gained great encouragement from John's visit and are grateful to the BMS for making it possible.

It is, perhaps, a measure of their expectation of greater church growth, into which they have invested so much prayer, that they have invited John to return to lead a mission.

Says John: "They're really on fire. They want to build on that which they've seen God doing. Sri Lanka doesn't have a history of revivals or of great church growth, but they feel they're on the verge of something great and we must stand and pray with them, and trust their hopes are realised." ●



ABOVE: John James receives a welcome from Kanthi Koralage



LEFT: Power to heal – John prays in Jesus' name for one of the villagers at Aglawatte

Foreign News in brief

HAITI: Churches are busy contacting new Christians following a dramatic response to a Bible distribution programme. More than 1,100 commitments to Christ were recorded in three weeks when a visiting Youth With A Mission team helped take Creole versions of the Bible door-to-door in Terre Noire. Now church members aim to make a follow-up visit to every person who made a commitment during the outreach. (YWAM News)

EUROPE: Two new international churches have been accepted into membership of the European Baptist Convention (EBC) by its general committee. The addition of a church in Sofia, Bulgaria, where Baptists and other evangelicals have experienced persecution through the media and by local authorities, and another in Prague, Czech Republic, brings the total number of EBC-related churches to 66 in 21 countries. The two new churches were established last November. (EBPS)

ZAMBIA: After several unsuccessful attempts to relocate the All Africa Baptist Fellowship (AABF), general secretary Eleazar Ziherambere has gained legal status in Lusaka where he will establish the AABF office and a home for his family. Mr Ziherambere and his family had to flee Rwanda, headquarters of the AABF, two years ago when genocide began. They set up a temporary home in Kenya while one of the worst examples of ethnic cleansing this century raged in Rwanda. (EBPS)

BULGARIA: Further evidence of persecution against Christians has emerged in the refusal by Sofia airport police to allow James Duke, pastor of the city's International Baptist Church, to fly to a pastors' meeting in Germany. Evangelicals in Bulgaria continue to be the victims of malicious national media accusations of drug smuggling and destruction of the nation's culture, and the Bulgarian Evangelical Alliance has appealed for support from the World Council of Churches and the Conference of European Churches in its campaign for fair treatment. (EBPS)

Baptists aid school for AIDS children



Help for one of the House of Refuge school children

A home for abandoned children dying from AIDS has opened its own school because the youngsters have been barred from classes elsewhere. Local Baptists are paying to employ a teacher and provide classroom supplies.

Three five and six-year-olds are currently having lessons in the school founded at the House of Refuge in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, where HIV-infected street-children and their babies are taken in and cared for by Youth With A Mission workers.

The house was opened three years ago to care for street children who contract

AIDS through sex or drug abuse. A growing number of Brazil's estimated six million homeless children are believed to be carrying the HIV virus.

Moves to set up the school with the help of the Baptist church in the locality came after children from the refuge were turned away from other schools.

Jeanette Lukasse, who with her husband Johann directs YWAM's street children ministry, said: "The teachers told us they couldn't accept them. One teacher, a mother herself, said she would take her own kids out of school if we sent ours.

"The heads begged us not to send our children because they feared many more parents would keep their children away."

If the children remain

well, the House of Refuge school will grow with them. However, since the house was opened nine children have died, most recently an 18-month-old baby.

Oil of joy for Georgia

When the European Baptist Women's Union (EBWU) presented its Cooking Oil for Georgia project last September it was received with scepticism by European Baptist Federation Council members.

Few thought that a collection of the equivalent of a bottle of cooking oil from women would pay for an expensive oil press for Baptist farmers in the impoverished Republic of Georgia.

Today, in Tsnori, East Georgia, a new DM31,000 oil press waits to be commissioned, confounding the sceptics.

What is more, the money is still coming in, says EBWU president Hilda Sayers, who lives in Brighton, Sussex.

"Little did we know how God would touch people's hearts with this project," she says. "In less than four months the money came together and we could purchase the oil press."

The German Baptist Union organised the transport in April and the Co-operative Baptist Fellowship will pick up the transport bill, as well as pay for a generator to run the press. It will not only

provide oil for kitchens but create jobs and contribute towards pastors' salaries.

Hilda estimates that about DM4,000 has built up in the EBWU oil press German account since the equipment was bought and there is £3,700 (about DM8,200) in the British account. This money is expected to help farmers set up a factory for the oil press and buy seed so that they can extract oil; production should start in the summer.

The economic climate in the new Republic of Georgia, a former state of the USSR, is poor, yet the Baptist church there has grown in the past six years from 2,000 to 4,500 members. But the nation has had no fuel for heating, poor electricity supplies and 80 per cent unemployment.

A typical monthly pension of DM6 (about £2.75) will buy only 10 loaves of bread or just one small chicken

Hilda, who for the past 18 months has spent long periods living in Tbilisi, Georgia, speaks of a gruelling lifestyle. "Life is hard in many countries these days, yet it seems that Georgia is one of the hardest hit."

Update

Care of a carver

Joyti is a quiet little Nepali girl with a seriousness in her eyes that is quite out of keeping with her age. But then she has seen more suffering in her six years than many of us in the West will see in a lifetime. Today, Joyti is fit and well and is cared for by her adopting family. For Sitaram and his wife, to take Joyti in has not been without its cost. Joyti is now old enough to go to school and this is one pressure on him. Sitaram works hard to feed his family and this is yet another pressure on him. He is an ex-leprosy patient and has learned to carve wood. He works in a little co-operative with three other such patients in the western Nepal town of Butwal. They make crosses, candle holders and bread boards, all beautifully crafted.

A couple of months ago he came to our house with a handful of iron pieces; the co-operative chisels. Half were broken beyond repair. Now, if there are no chisels there can be no carving and with carving there is no money and no food. Those little pieces of metal were vital to Sitaram and his family. He had tried to get others in Butwal but the steel was not good enough. "Could your factory make us some chisels?"

"I'll see what can be done."

The factory blacksmith was very helpful and very willing to oblige but then he saw the chisels.

"I am sorry they are too small. I can make you bigger ones."

By now it was lunch time. We were all depressed. Wood carving had given Sitaram the ability to feed his family had given him back his self respect. If those broken chisels could not be replaced his only hope would have been to go back to the old life of begging. If it is lunch time in Nepal it is breakfast time in Britain and if we did not know what to do next there was one avenue open to us in Britain. I got to a phone and rang Jack Norwood, of Tools with a Mission. "Could TWAM send the chisels for wood carving?"

"Yes we can; how many do you want?"

It took two months for those chisels to arrive. The mixture of joy and relief in the woodcarver's faces is hard to express. Old tools given by their Christian brothers and sisters in Britain had given them new hope and confidence.

The story hasn't ended. Joyti still needs to go to school. For that little girl's education the woodcarvers will have sell 600 more pieces a year. It is not impossible but the market in Kathmandu is nearly saturated. We are praying that other markets will open up for them.

Bob Ellett





Harry makes it count

Harry Fisher made his 90th birthday really count for world mission. Instead of birthday presents, Harry, a member of Brighton Road Baptist Church, Horsham, for 72 years asked for gifts to be made to BMS – and more than £200 was given. At a party attended by 60 friends and family, his 12 great-grandchildren, the youngest of whom is pictured with him, were there to celebrate with him.

Dates for your diary

Presidential Tour

On June 1 BMS President Carolyn Green will be in the Oxfordshire and East Gloucester Association and the Eastern Area. At the Cutting Edge – A Celebration is on June 29 at Avenue Baptist Church, Southend.
Details: Jim Clarke, BMS Presidential Tour Co-ordinator
These events give an opportunity to hear about BMS TODAY – a world mission vision as we approach 2000, prayer needs, people needs, money needs.

8 June

Northern Association Family Day
Details: Margaret Barnett 01207 504023

12 June

Pembrokeshire Association Women's Event at Letterston
Details: Anna Williams 01239 820433

15 June

Rochdale BMS Event
Details: John Smithies 01706 48989

15 June

Joint BMS/Home Mission Secretaries Training Day, Sheffield Road, Barnsley
Details: Cath Mawson 01274 487341

22 June

Shropshire Missionary Council Summer Event, Bridgnorth
Details: Clive Challinor 01743 790377

Association assemblies

BMS presentations and workshops at Southern Assn. June 7, East Midlands Assn. June 8, West Midlands Assn. June 22.

June 96



World

Breakthrough at Bilston

The South Staffs District of the West Midlands Baptist Association took a step forward in its world mission activities by holding a BMS Prayer Concert at Bilston. About 90 people from many churches came together to worship, learn more about overseas mission in Nepal and Brazil, and to pray for their linked missionaries. Leslie Gregory, retired South-West region co-ordinator, and Theo Lambourne, Midlands co-ordinator, led the meeting and the music group Out of Darkness from Green Lane, Walsall, helped with the worship.

Splinters

Baptists in Barrow-in-Furness have formed a mission "splinter group". But this is no rebellion. Supporters of the BMS at Abbey Road Baptist Church in Barrow, Cumbria, are boosting their gifts to world mission through Splinter Giving – saving 1p and 5p coins, which they have nicknamed "splinters". And, as Laurie Whatley points out, everyone needs to get rid of splinters. People tend to be disdainful

of small change, he says, so Abbey Road members are grasping the opportunity to put it to work for God – making small change bring big change.

Slurp on...

Following the Big Slurp, the Christian Aid initiative in February to promote fairly traded tea and coffee, St Andrew's Street Baptist Church, Cambridge, has relaunched its coffee shop, Livingstones, in the city centre. It is offering a choice of Fairtrade Foundation-approved tea and coffee to drink on the premises or to take away. "Now you can have one big slurp day after day," says spokesman Kay Fenton.

Reunited

A Zaire reunion, organised by former BMS missionary Ruth Montacute at Egerton-Rothsay School, in Berkhamsted, Herts, attracted 189 visitors. Most had worked in Zaire either with the BMS or with British companies. Among those attending were the BMS 1995/6 President David Wilson and the 1996/7 President Carolyn Green, and Olive Woodham and Elizabeth Waters, past heads of the Zaire British Association School. Ruth,

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

Mission Link

who was head at the British school from 1978 until it closed in 1993, is now head of lower school at Egerton-Rothesay.

Researching

Author Joy Piper is researching a book on overseas mission aimed at inspiring church interest. Joy, of 183 Station Road, Crayford, Kent, DA1 3QE, wants to hear from any who undertook short-term service overseas or who have visited missionaries abroad to help with a section covering the impact of cross-cultural experiences on people's understanding of mission.

W M L Meet the Missionary

by Corinna Woods

"So you're the new missionary, are you? Well, they're all yours." This was the greeting I received in just one of the schools I've visited in Yorkshire, Humberside, Hampshire and Kent during Home Assignment.

Most schools know nothing about me, were curious, but had little understanding of the role of a missionary in today's world. My programme consisted of an assembly tailored to ages four to 11, in which I was able to include a little geography and slides explaining the life of people in the village of Jumla, Nepal, where I've lived for three and a half years, through the story of a little blind girl who was my neighbour. I've shown pictures of animistic

worship and talked of the freedom from fear that comes from knowing Jesus.

Assembly was usually followed during the remainder of the school day with classes or year groups for whom I dressed up in my very primitive women's clothes adding more information and answering children's endless

thoughtful questions.

"How do people know there are evil spirits?" came up over and over again, and I was able to talk of actual events that I had witnessed or been involved in when the power of Jesus was seen to be greater than local forces. There was never a need to curtail planned sessions, in fact the clock normally beat us and then it was time to be with interested staff, chatting over coffee with many who really wanted to know more, or who admitted that they had not found a way to respond to similar calls to serve overseas.

If I've done no more than dispel the outdated, unhelpful ideas that go with the word "missionary", it will have been worthwhile, but it's been far more: an opportunity to speak about Jesus to hundreds of children. I came away from many schools with positive invitations to return next home leave – Praise God! – and thanks to the missionary secretaries who arranged these opportunities. It's been a real "missionary" assignment.

There are lots of letters from the children at St Peter's Junior School, Broadstairs, Kent. Here is one retyped:

Dear Mrs Wood

Thank you for coming to our school. I had a fantastic time. It was sad, fun and exciting. I hope you come and visit again, perhaps one day you can take me there. The bits that I found interesting was the clothes and the jewellery and the pictures. The bit I thought was sad is the bit where you said if you want to get meat you have to chop off the goat's head and where you said you have to mix cow pat with water and mud. I thought that was sick. And where you have to buy sugar all dirty and oily. I felt really sorry for that girl who was blind because of the smoke. I don't like the idea of going to the loo in the water. ●

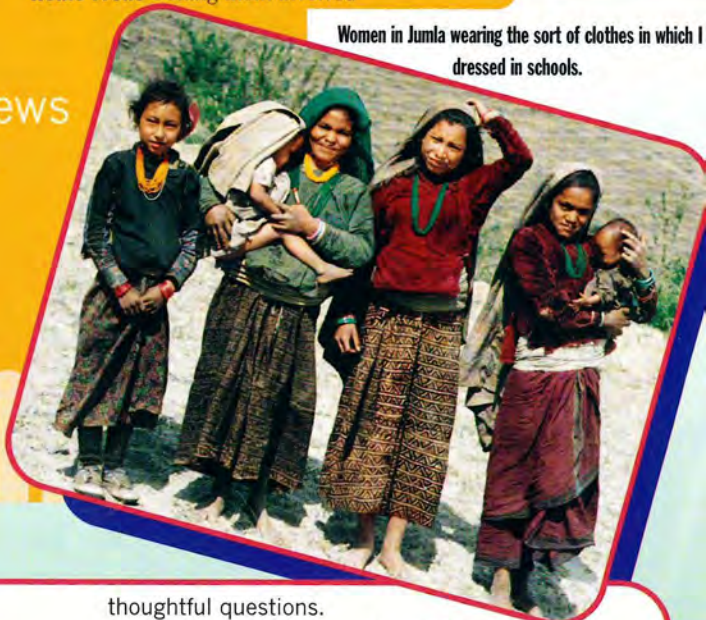
Dear Audrey...
I have just become the Missionary Secretary of our Baptist Church. We are linked to missionaries in Africa but don't have any information on them. It is very difficult to get people enthused without any photograph or news.

All churches in a Link-Up group receive a photograph of their Link-Up missionary, information about them and a certificate to say they are linked. If we can get missionaries to stand still long enough we also take fresh photographs for the churches every time they are on Home Assignment. We'd be delighted to send you one. News of your missionary comes in their prayer or news letters, which you should receive three times a year.

I'm sure you must have sent information to churches about World Mission Link but we don't seem to have received any.

There's a new information booklet on World Mission Link. Copies have been sent to ministers and mission secretaries but further copies are available.

● If you look in the BMS catalogue *Around the World in 132 Ways*, you'll find Page 5 lists all the World Mission Link material available. Your mission secretary should have a copy but further copies are available.



Women in Jumla wearing the sort of clothes in which I dressed in schools.

School for

champion

MISSION KIDS HAVE PAID A HIGH PRICE FOR THEIR PARENTS' CALL. **KAREN CARTER AND CLIVE PRICE** LOOK AT HOW SCHOOL HAS BEEN A VITAL SURROGATE HOME FOR THOSE UNSUNG HEROES OF THE MISSION FIELD.

Olympic champion Eric Liddell – whose story inspired the hit movie *Chariots of Fire* – was committed to the long haul from an early age. He was just six when his missionary parents in China sent him to Eltham College, in Mottingham, south-west London.

Liddell was one of Eltham's most famous old boys. And the school has attracted countless sons like him – whose parents have pioneered overseas work – since it was founded by the Baptist Missionary Society and the London Missionary Societies in 1842.

Daughters had a surrogate home at Eltham's sister school, Walthamstow Hall, in Sevenoaks, Kent, founded by people from non-conformist churches in 1838. Girls' education used to be limited to finishing schools where studies mainly comprised etiquette, social and domestic skills.

However, as missionary work boomed, so too did the number of mission kids flocking to Eltham and

Walthamstow Hall. Brothers and sisters, cousins and friends arrived at their adoptive homes from as young as four to spend, on average, a decade at school.

Earlier this century, most missionaries were away for seven years at a time. Travel was hazardous and slow. Fear of tropical disease, and a desire for English schooling persuaded most parents to live apart from their children. It was a tough decision.

To this day, Eltham College and Walthamstow Hall support such families with The Foundation Fund for the Children of Missionaries. A joint committee ensures that mission kids are educated on equal terms with all the other schoolchildren.

Much has changed in the closing years of the 20th century, not least the dramatic decrease in numbers of children from missionary families. Now,

most travel with their parents, returning to school in the run-up to final exams or joining at Sixth Form level.

When Eltham moved to its present Mottingham site in 1912, there were 81 boys on the roll. Numbers grew,

'It's radically changed but the ethos of the school stems from its missionary foundations.'



ms



particularly when day boys joined the boarders, but gradually the sons of missionaries were not the only ones to enjoy Eltham's extensive facilities.

"In 1951 the roll reached 500, of which 56 were sons of missionaries," explained head Malcolm Green. "Security and stability have always been important to missionary children."

"Of course, it's difficult to generalise. But I've found they tend to be very independent and able intellectually, sometimes rather unworldly, and generally keen to become involved in very worthwhile jobs and projects."

He has spoken to some old boys, now in their 80s and 90s, who recall those early years so clearly. "What amazes me is that very few seem to bear a grudge against their families for leaving them," said Malcolm.

Bringing things up to date, Eltham now has 580 senior and 180 junior pupils, a handful of whom are mission kids. And the college now operates as a fully-fledged London day school, though boarding is available for 10 boys.

"It's radically changed," said Malcolm. "But the ethos of the school stems from its missionary foundations. Pastorally, academically and emotionally, we seek to support all our pupils – whatever their faith may be –

in as effective a way as possible."

BMS veteran the Revd Robert Draycott is chaplain and a religious studies teacher at Eltham. He started at the school in September 1992 after working with BMS in Brazil since 1983.

Sunday services no longer take place in the college chapel. There are so few boarders – though there is a daily act of worship during term time. "We're trying to maintain the school's traditional standards," said Robert. "But maybe now in a slightly different way as we cultivate a more general awareness of the world and its needs."

At Walthamstow Hall in Sevenoaks, head Jacqueline Lang believes "a helpful climate for development" is offered to those whose parents work on the mission field. The trend for those children to have a strong sense of community has been repeated at what is fondly known as Wally Hall – and Jacqueline is in no doubt as to why that should be.

"They feel part of an ongoing tradition here," she said. "What their parents are doing is seen as important. And it's valued in an atmosphere that's very supportive of them."

"The whole 160-year history of the school is bound up with what their parents are doing. The work is endorsed and that, in turn, encourages

the children in their development and service and gives them a tremendous sense of belonging."

Today Walthamstow Hall has 500 pupils, of whom 50 are boarders. "We have very few missionary children now," said Jacqueline. "But there's no doubt they are still very important to us."

"In the early days of the school, when girls may have been separated from their families from the age of four or five, the girls almost transferred their family affections to their school."

"The headmistress even used to fill their Christmas stockings. We still have the tradition of the Boarders' Christmas Day. Thankfully the stocking-filling is no longer part of the head's duties!"

But many have paid a costly price for their parents' missionary call. One of Eltham College's most senior old boys tells the story of his elder brother's experience in the late 1800s.

His father was a missionary in Tahiti. At eight years old, the lad travelled by boat from the south seas to school in England. And he carried all his worldly possessions in a tiny "trunk" knocked together from communion wine crates.

Eltham College became his home. But the boy didn't see his natural family again until he was a young man.

Karen Carter and Clive Price are journalists based in West Sussex. They undertake freelance assignments for various organisations, companies and charities.

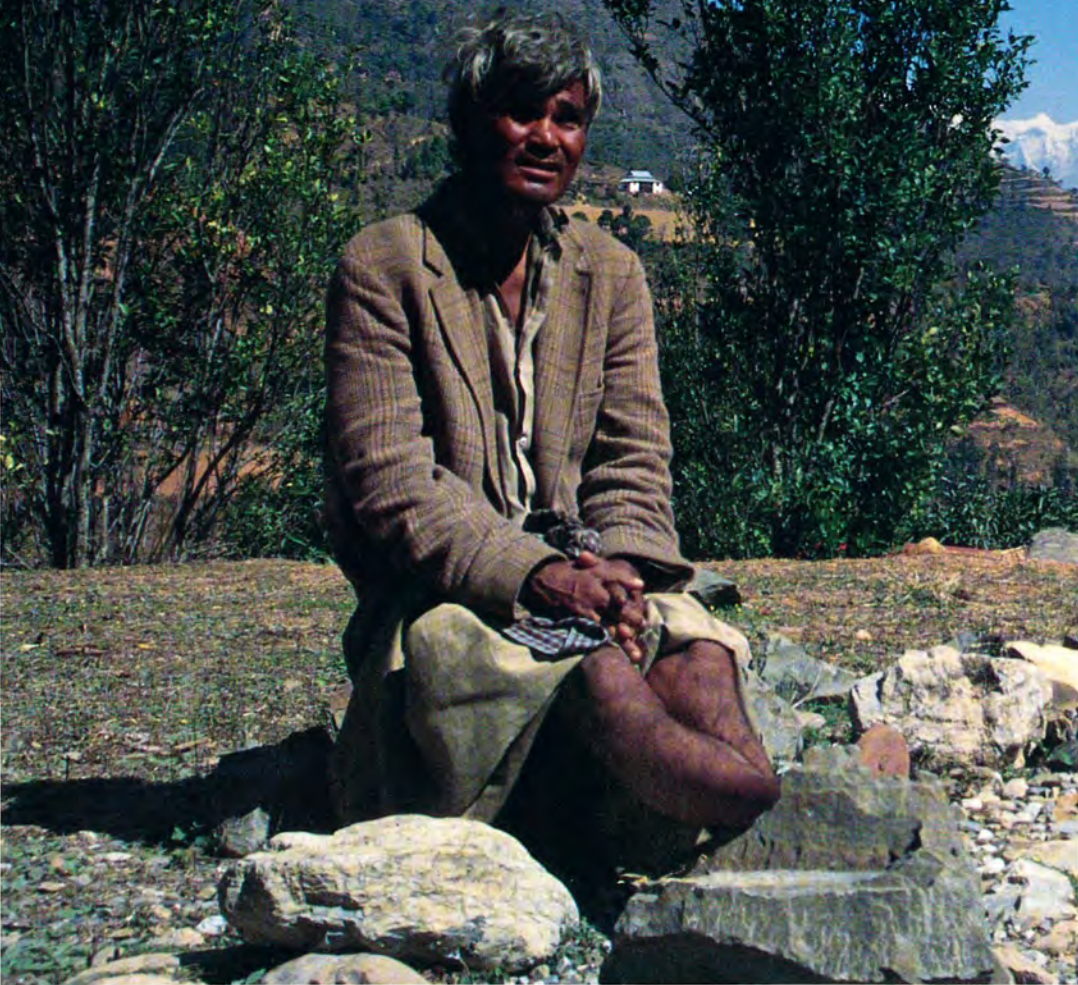
FAR LEFT: Images of Walthamstow Hall

ABOVE LEFT: Eltham College and its students

ABOVE: Actor Ian Charleston who immortalised old Eltham boy Eric Liddell in the film *Chariots of Fire* (Picture: British Film Institute)

Nepal

country in focus



A NATION CUT OFF FOR A CENTURY

From the mid 19th century until 1951 Nepal was cut off from the rest of the world in a showpiece Hindu state with few resources and wealth confined to the people in power. Then in a palace revolution King Tribhuvan broke the power of the Prime Ministers and began an experiment with democracy. In this time the borders began to open up, and from very small beginnings the

UMN (United Mission to Nepal) came into being in 1954. Open evangelism and proselytism was not allowed and some Christians were imprisoned. In 1962 political parties were outlawed, but massive civil unrest in 1990 brought about a change in the situation, with multi-party elections and an amnesty for political prisoners and dismissal of outstanding court cases. It is estimated that there were 25

Facts and figures

Area 140,800 sq km
Capital Kathimandu (pop. 500,000)
Population 20,188,000 (1995)
Annual population growth 2.1%
 Estimate for year 2000 24 million
Children per woman 5.6 (1991)

People groups

81% Indo-Aryan, 19% Tibeto-Burman
RELIGION Hinduism (official) 89%, Buddhism 7%, Muslim 3.5%, Christian 0.5% (growth 13.4%)
LANGUAGES Nepali (official) spoken by only half the population. Tibetan is the second most common language.

LITERACY 20%

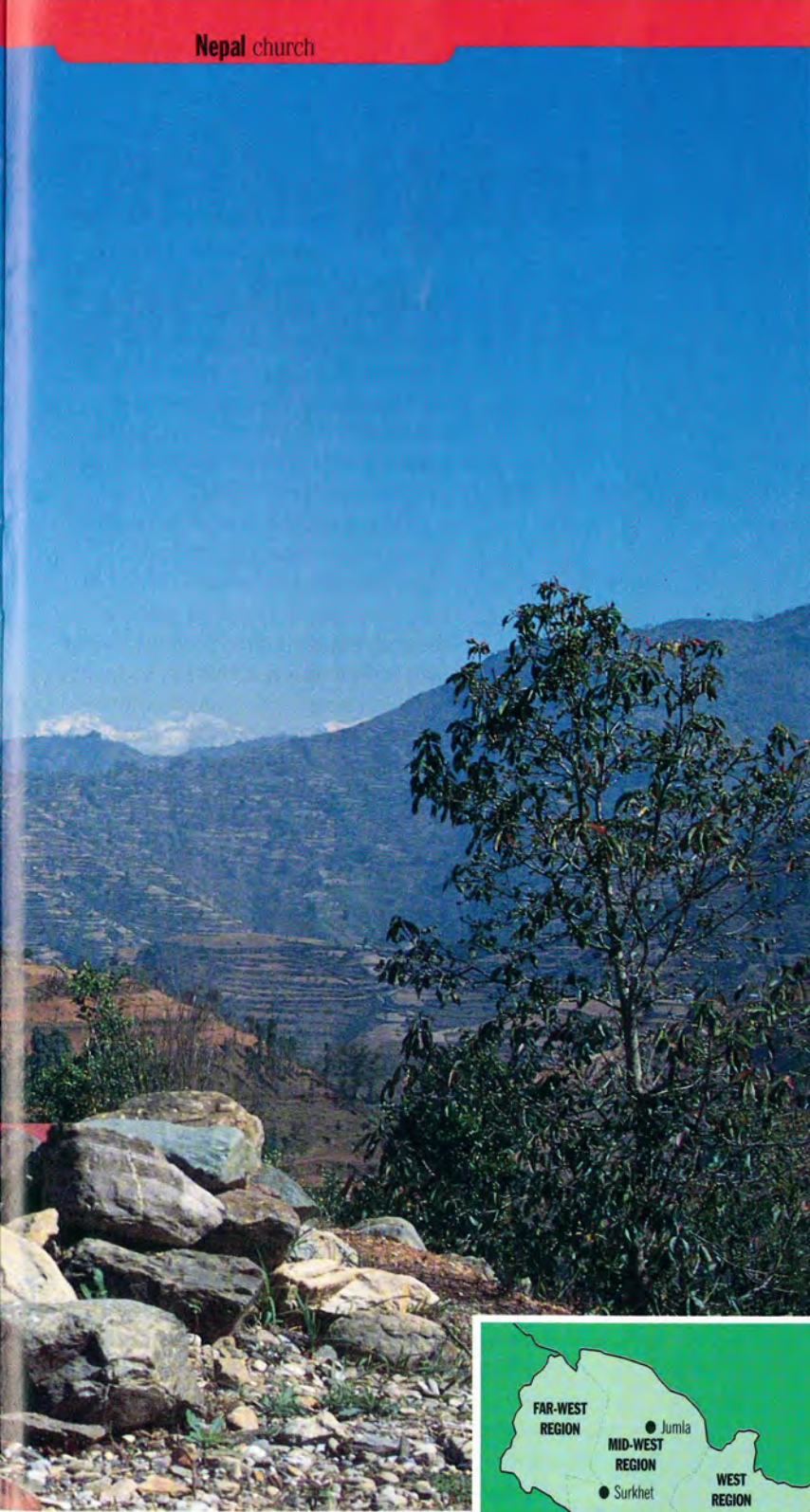
Health

One doctor for every 16,830 people (1990)
 Under five mortality 147 per 1000 (1991)
 Safe water 37% of the population has access

Communications

8 newspapers, 2 TV sets and 33 radio receivers per 1,000 people (1991)

Nepal is one of the five poorest nations in the world, on an economic level with Ethiopia.



The Church in Nepal

Paul Drinkwater views the growing Nepali church in Kathmandu

Cross the Bagamati bridge. Turn right by the little triangle in the road. Follow the road round and up a hill. Pass a pile of stones in the road. Turn right at the large tree by the tailor's shop. Pass two shrines and a school then take the second track on the left. The church is ahead of you on a bend. It is upstairs in a private house.

These were BMS education worker Joy Ransom's instructions for us to find her Nepali church, just under half an hour's walk from our temporary home in the United Mission to Nepal guest house. These were not directions along obscure country roads but right in the centre of the Patan/Kathmandu twin city complex. Teeming with life, traffic and buildings there are few road signs. The only notice in front of the church was a "Beware the dog" sign written in English and Nepali.

We had been in Nepal for five weeks and this was the fifth Nepali church that we had attended. In appearance they are different from British churches. Simple buildings, sometimes in homes or perhaps just a shed, they

believers in Nepal in 1960 and it is believed this number has risen to 50,000 or more by 1991. The situation is still a fragile one and local pressure and persecution continues.

The UMN is the largest missionary sending body with 300 missionaries from 40 agencies/18 countries. The INF (International Nepal Fellowship) has 121 missionaries in the west of Nepal.



Above: Hillside homes in the shadow of the Anapurna mountain range

UMN MISSIONARIES

- Kathmandu**
 Jenny Dorman
 Paul & Hilary Drinkwater
 Andrew & Michelle Furber
 Iain & Karen Gordon
 Neil & Rosalie Hall
 Peter & Valerie Harwood
 David & Catherine McLellan
 Grace Penney
 Christine Preston
 Joy Ransom
 Ian & Sally Smith
 Tim & Caroline Trimble
- Butwal**
 Bob & Ruth Ellett
 Tim Lehane & Alison Maclean
 Glyn & Frances Phillips

- Tansen**
 Paul & Jackie Wicks
- Jumla**
 Katie Norris
- Dullu**
 Corinna Woods

INF MISSIONARIES

- Birtuhang**
 Sue Frame
- Takum**
 Chris & Alison Rudall
- Pokhara**
 Colin & Denise Clark
- Sarket**
 Margaret Gibbs

are sparsely furnished. There might be a few chairs at the back for "bideshis" (foreigners) to sit on, but the Nepalis and some of the more adventurous bideshis sit cross-legged on the floor on a carpet or mats, men on one side →

← and women on the other.

There might be a small table at one end for the leader or preacher and perhaps a cross or an illustrated Bible text on the wall. Singing is usually accompanied by a drum and sometimes by an accordion, although in some of the bigger churches

guitars and electronic keyboards are used. Yet there is a warmth and vibrance among the worshippers often lacking in churches in the west. We may not understand all of what is being said

but we can surely feel the presence of the Holy Spirit among the people.

On this particular Sunday the passage is taken from 1 Corinthians 12. The pastor speaks about the body being made up of many parts, all important and vital for the correct functioning of his body, the church. The message is primarily for Nepali Christians but it is a message for the church universal. Paul writes that the parts that are unrepresentable are treated with special modesty. This strikes a chord. Some of those parts about which we are most modest are concerned with the reproductive process. The average church in Nepal is very modest compared with the glory and splendour of a European cathedral and yet Nepali churches are reproducing at a remarkable rate despite the law of the land which makes it illegal to persuade anyone to change their religion.

Saturday, the day of the week when government offices and many shops are closed, is the day Christians have to meet. There are about 15 churches in the capital, Kathmandu, with church plants increasing that number all the time. One of the largest we attended had about 600 present. It was a lively service and there was a separate class part way through for people who, although not Christians, were interested in finding out more.

One of the most refreshing observations is the lack of denominationalism. Because of the severe restrictions on Christian witness



in Nepal, foreign Christians have not been free to evangelise under their denominational banners. Christian witness by ex-patriots is demonstrated here by service to the community working with organisations such as the United Mission to Nepal and the

International Nepal Fellowship. In these, Christians from many denominations work together for the good of Nepal in general, supporting the local church by their attendance but not usually in leadership.

The Nepalis have been instrumental in church growth often in the face of persecution. When the country was opened up in 1954 after 200 years of isolation, Nepalis who had migrated to India and become Christians there brought back the gospel message.

Persecution comes in different ways. One Nepali pastor told how a few years ago police arrested the whole congregation one Saturday morning and marched them off to the police station. The leaders were held for three days, then freed with a warning.

But in these days of democracy there is much more freedom of worship now and as long as Christians are not openly browbeating people with their faith it appears that a blind eye is turned. However, the law is still on the statute book and from time to time extremist Hindu groups will try to enforce it. The result of this persecution is that the churches are enthusiastic and yet humble.

As yet we have come across little disunity among churches, and although there always will be problems when groups of people work together, I think we are unlikely to encounter a church in dispute over whether an organ or a guitar should lead the singing – there are no organs in Nepal!

Please pray for these churches that they will continue to grow and retain vitality and Spirit-led growth.

Paul and Hilary Drinkwater are BMS personnel on language training in Kathmandu after which Paul will be teaching electronics at Kathmandu University at Dhulikhel.

David and Sandra had returned to Nepal, this time to work in a hill village. David, a doctor, and Sandra, a nurse, have two children, Matthew a baby of three months and Hannah, just two. Before going to the hills, David has to learn the language. This means living in Kathmandu for five months. Sandra has been to Nepal previously and had a good knowledge of Nepali.

Their small flat contains a large sitting room/dining room, two bedrooms and a bathroom. Great. At first one expects disturbed nights with the children. It is a tremendous change with lots of different things to adjust to. Sure enough, the children did not sleep or settle well and that meant two very tired parents.

But this continued for three weeks and each night was the same. Something had to be done and Sandra and David knew what it was. They asked Frankie and me to visit the flat that night to pray the house through.

That evening we stood together in a circle holding hands and prayed, in each room, commanding in the name of Jesus evil spirits to leave the room and never to return. The whole flat became warmer and peaceful. That night for the first time since moving to Nepal the family slept all night.

A few weeks later the family moved again, upstairs to a bigger flat. This time, on the day they moved, we went into each room, anointing with oil the lintel of each room. Again, we felt the cold spirit leave the rooms.

Our God is great, and so caring.

While we were in Kathmandu, we lived in the United Mission to Nepal Salem guest house. In the house there were five rooms, one of which had only recently been made



country



On the spiritual battleground

THE WIND BLOWS, SOMETIMES STRONG, SOMETIMES GENTLY. WE CANNOT SEE IT, BUT WE CAN FEEL IT. **GLYN PHILLIPS** RELATES THESE REAL STORIES ABOUT THINGS YOU CANNOT SEE, BUT CAN FEEL

into a bedroom. It was downstairs; unfortunately, a cold, damp room.

Caroline and Tim from BMS had come to Nepal for the first time and were to stay for five months to learn

the language. One morning at breakfast they asked if we had heard any strange noises in the night. Of course, we replied, you know how quiet it is at

night! Dogs bark constantly, cows moo, cars honk

horns – Kathmandu is never quiet at night!

The next night we were both woken by the guest house cat screaming outside, obviously terrified. There was another noise, too, a loud groaning, swishing noise – eerie, unnerving and frightening. It seemed to circle the building, and with a scream disappear. We quietly prayed, then eventually went back to sleep.

Caroline and Tim had heard it even more clearly than we and were naturally upset and disturbed; it had stopped outside the door to their room. That night we prayed quietly in their room, again commanding the spirit to leave in the name of Jesus. It was a very cold room and remained so, but it never returned while they stayed there.

We have a lovely little house here in Butwal. We believe that

the Lord chose this house for us. On the weekend we came from Kathmandu to view it, the Nepali landlord had been to the house and performed puja, a form of worship to Hindu gods. Symbols had been placed over the main entrance to the house and a picture of a god. We noticed this when we arrived, and mentally made a note to remove them when we moved in.

Five weeks later we arrived to stay, delighted that the house was ready. We had to unpack quickly; friends were coming to stay within a week. Our priority was to remove the symbols from the doorway.

Opening a window in the bathroom one morning five days later, Frankie slipped and fell on a concrete step, landing in the

shower area, and injuring her back.

On the second night our friends were staying, we asked them to pray through the house with us,

commanding the evil spirits to leave. We especially prayed for safety in the bathroom. We went even up on to the roof. It was dark by then and the stars were out but we noticed with surprise three Hindu symbols. We took them down immediately and threw them away as far as we could.

While praying outside the house we found more worship symbols over another doorway, so we anointed with oil all the door lintels.

We all commented on how in certain rooms we felt a presence. Our house seemed to get warmer, and a feeling of real peace settled upon it that night. We were sad that we hadn't prayed over our house as soon as we moved in – we both felt Frankie had been "pushed" when she fell in the bathroom.

Jesus speaks clearly about the "evil ones". They do exist, we have proved it and felt their presence.

You can walk around certain streets and areas in Kathmandu and feel the evil spirits – a tingling in your spine – and the area is cold even in bright sunshine.

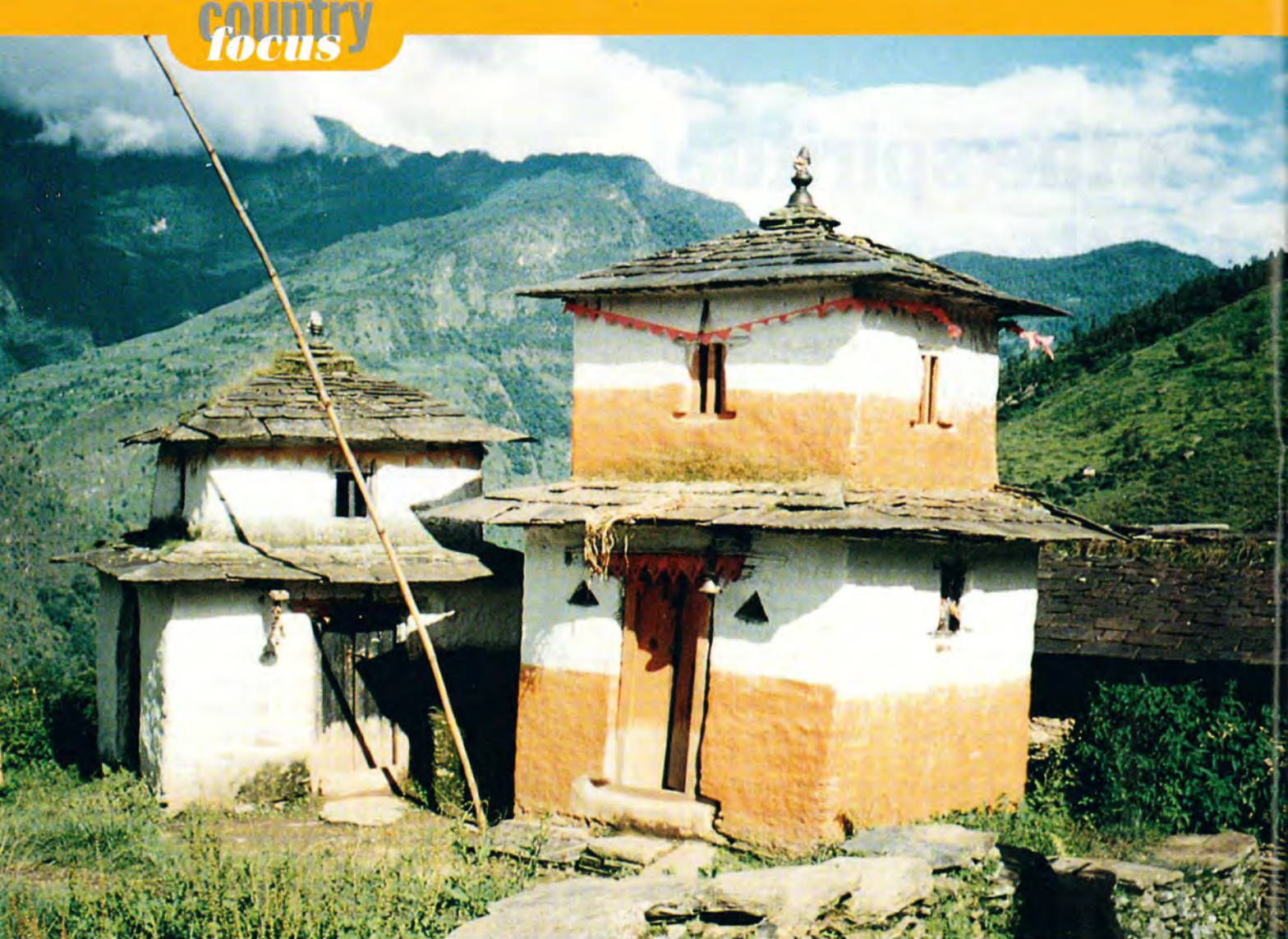
When you pray please cover each one of us in Nepal that we will be protected from these unseen powers. We all know that our God is mighty and strong in battle and he will overcome. He is our strength.

Glyn and his wife Frankie are serving with the BMS in Butwal.



in focus





Recently, the leaders of Phalyagaon, a village two hours' walk up the valley put a request to the Community Health Programme in which we are working. They had been renovating the Hindu temple below the village. Only one thing remained to complete the job to their satisfaction – a small pipeline and tapstand to supply water to the site for the resident priestess and for the regular festivals and sacrifices that take place.

Their request brought into focus an issue that is becoming increasingly significant for the Christian in development work – the tension existing between the objectives of the Christian development agency and the perceived needs of the communities with whom we work.

Three years ago when we first moved to Nepal I had a rather smug belief that the rural health project in which we were to engage would not only meet the needs of the people we serve, but also match my understanding of the gospel of Jesus. We joined a long tradition of missionaries involved in curative and, more recently, preventive healthcare. People need healing, and health services address that need, at the same time fitting neatly with one particular aspect of the gospel. Nowadays those of us who are missionaries in development work are finding that the gospel agenda may no longer fit so snugly with the development agenda.

Different

CHRIS RUDALL EXAMINES THE DILEMMA FACING CHRISTIAN WORKERS IN A DIFFERENT CULTURE

The reason for this is that current development thinking is moving away from a serving, giving approach, towards a self-help, self-determining model: the needs of the people as perceived by the people. The expert is making way for the change-agent and facilitator. Control is shifting away from the agency towards the people themselves.

What this may mean in practice is that whereas the Christian agency may see the priorities as, for example, improved health services, clean water, adult literacy, the priorities as far as the people are concerned may be quite different – for example a new high-school building; a new mill, or repairs to the local temple. All these activities may



Agendas

country in focus

be of value to the community, but the emphasis is different.

The situation is compounded by the fact that we have to take account of several agendas. Beside our understanding of the gospel and the perceived needs of the people, we must also consider the objectives of the Nepal government since without its approval we would not be able to work here. Then there are our supporters' expectations in the UK; what would you think if you found BMS personnel engaged in providing essential services for Hindu temples? And there are the views of donor agencies funding the work, all of whom have a claim on the direction it may take. So do we alter course each time there is a change in

government policy, or in the community's perception of its own needs? Do we try to conform to the shifting standard of politically correct development ideology? Or do we stick doggedly to our original five year plan? Where does our responsibility, our obligation lie? To whom are we answerable?

Firstly to the Lord, and to his teaching – but the Bible isn't always clear. Jesus' response to the needs of others was and is sometimes enigmatic and never as expected. He addressed people's needs but not always as they saw them, and often in ways that were beyond their wildest dreams.

The paralysed man in Mark 2 first of all had his sins forgiven, and only then did Jesus deal with his physical healing. In John 5, the sick man at the pool of Bethesda saw his need as someone to help him into the water, but Jesus healed him instantly.

As Christians we are not called to be men-pleasers, but by taking a Christ-centred view we open ourselves to accusations of having a "we know best" attitude. This may well be a danger, but there are also times when those on the outside of a situation have a better perspective than those directly involved. The poor and destitute are often unable to see beyond the next meal and may have neither the energy nor the will to begin to determine their own future.

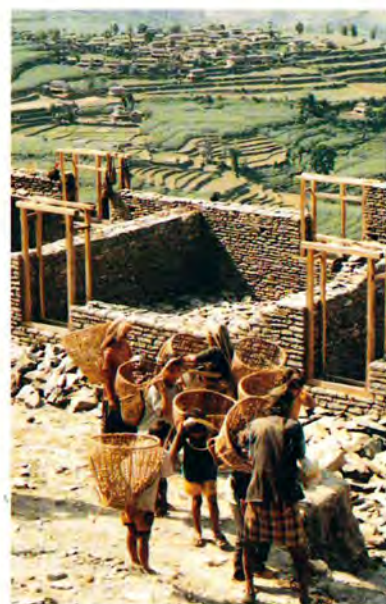
Another way of looking at the issue is to seek ways of maintaining our dialogue with the people among whom we are working. Building a tapstand at the temple is hardly advancing the cause of Hinduism, but if we turned down the request, we would put at risk the very relationships we are seeking to nurture. In Matthew 17 Jesus discusses with Peter the question of paying the temple taxes. Jesus' reason for paying is "that we may not offend them". And risk of offence is a real possibility here, too.

We have to find a way of working by which we can keep a clear conscience – not misleading donor agencies or supporters but also not trying to operate to an unattainable developmental ideal. In doing this we will probably never be satisfied or completely comfortable. It is perhaps a consequence of the way that we have chosen that we will always face conflicting demands on our time and resources. In the same way that those of us working abroad perch uncomfortably on the rough interface between cultures, so all of us who follow Jesus will never be totally at ease with the world around us.

My conviction remains that beyond the many excellent development activities that are going on here, the only way that the people of these mountains and valleys will enter fullness of life is through an encounter with Jesus himself.

Politically correct? No way! ●

Chris Rudall and his wife, Alison, serve with the BMS in the remote village of Takum, Nepal



TAKE 2

Some missionary kids were asked to write about suffering. This is a selection of what they came up with:

Lord, why did you bring me here to Nepal?
Just to make close friends that I would have to leave
and say goodbye to.
You know I hate to say goodbye and you know that you always
have to say goodbye when you're in Nepal.
So why did you bring me here?

It couldn't happen to us.
You're our protector.
But it came. Small. Unseen.
Don't know why, or where from.



She was stricken.
Attacking her body.
Why didn't you protect us?

She's weak.
Hours in the hospital.
She's gone.

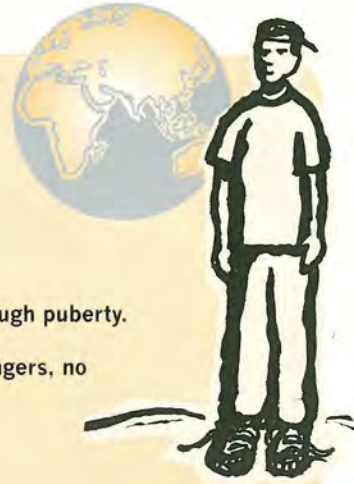
Why did you have to take her away?
Why is there cancer?
Why did Mom get it?
Why did...

God,
You say you love us but you still don't take care of us.
You say you love us but you let us get hurt physically and
emotionally.
You let us lose friends without a second thought.
You let hundreds of kids die without a second thought of
what they could have been.
But you still say you want the best for us.
You tell us to care about others
but it doesn't feel like you care about us.

Why do so many suffer?
Can someone be expected to live their life when they can't
walk,
but need to drag themselves along?
Why do some people have so much,
and others so little?
Why does war hurt so many innocent people?
A little girl watches her father get pumped with lead.
Why?
Why are families torn apart?
Why do people suffer unbelievably painful emotional stress?
What for?
Why?

Why must there B such discrimination and hate
4 innocent ones who can't decide their fate
Lord show them
Help them
That your love is always there
Show them that they must believe in U
2 let them know that U care
I know you're always in control
But still you let these things happen
There must be a reason Lord
Why is this so
And I just wanted to let U know
That in the midst of this I still luv U so

1st world
2nd world
3rd world
4th world
Wait a minute
Don't we live in 1 world?
God, can't you help?
I'm just a 15-year-old
immature boy, struggling through puberty.
What time is there?
I've just got two hands, ten fingers, no
knowledge.
I'm mortal.
You're the all-powerful.
You made us.



BOOK review

Bosshardt - A Biography by Jean Watson published by Monarch Publications

This book is an engaging testimony to a remarkable man whose commitment and example was an inspiration to many. He was a missionary to China from the 1920s to 1951 and then for 15 years in Pakse, Laos. You cannot help being struck by how God used Alfred and Rose, his wife, in so many ways.

When I was asked to review this book my heart sank; not another biography of a missionary. Details of these great missionary people of God make me feel so inadequate.

But I became absorbed and encouraged as well as challenged. In all circumstances Alfred Bosshardt rejoiced in God's goodness and grace. When detained by the Red Army in 1934 and accused of being a capitalist spy, Alfred spoke to one of the officials about God, but he countered: "Who is your God to let you fall into our hands?"

"Perhaps," replied Bosshardt, "he has sent me to bear witness for him so that you may know he is the living God."

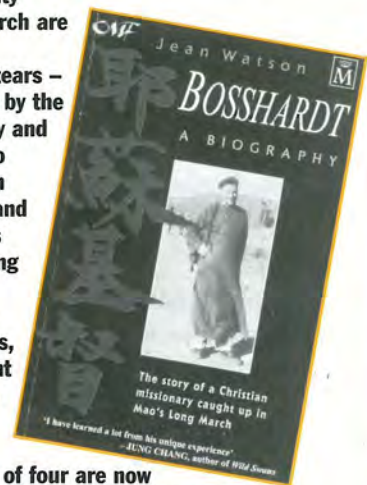
His spirit and determination is so evident through the book of which about half is given to an extensive description and detail of his involvement in Mao's Long March. The 560 days he spent in captivity enduring the 2,500-mile march are graphically told.

At times I was driven to tears – embarrassing on the train – by the cruelty, the poverty, brutality and pain, and yet on returning to China to the very province in which he was captured, he and Rose commented that it was simply a matter of continuing obedience.

In this book we see how God blessed that faithfulness, how he used the commitment and love to build his church in China. Today those pioneering churches have grown. Their congregations of four are now many thousands and many fellowships, such as God's grace been through many years of the church's oppression in that land.

Read this book, not for what it tells you about China or the Long March or the Church, but as an encouragement, a stimulation and a challenge to our own missionary calling today.

Andy Stockbridge



Focus on prayer for missionary families

Lord, we pray for parents who must agonise for weeks, months if not years as to how to do the best thing for their children. To keep them Or to send them away to school – but it's thousands of miles Lord – it might even be a different country – and they'll no longer be able to do the sort of everyday rough-and tumble things that families do together.

Lord, we pray for the children – some would say pawns in the game of "Call a Missionary to a Distant Land" – they didn't ask to have this particular set of parents, parents who flout convention and give up all for a Greater Good. Perhaps they don't feel called to India or China or Timbuktu. And they feel lonely, with few playmates, and those friends they have are only passing through - like their parents.

Lord, we pray for the wider family - aunts and uncles, nephews and nieces, grandparents and cousins, brothers and sisters, – all who miss participating in a family life when a part of that family is overseas. Perhaps they don't understand the reasons why they have gone to serve you, and indeed are hostile to their going. Or they're growing old, Lord, and they are afraid of what will happen to them, with no-one around to look after them.

Lord, we lift up to you all missionary parents and we ask that you will remove the throbbing anxiety from the decisions over their children's futures. We ask that you will lift the guilt and the weight of anguish from their shoulders. We pray against the forces of evil that would seek to compound the agony faced by parents in this situation. Remove the fear. Remove the guilt. Remove the torment. Breathe your peace. Breathe your compassion and your love.

Lord, we lift up to you all missionary children and we ask that they may grow up as mature, well-adjusted kids. For those who are bitter we pray that they may experience so much love that their pain melts away. For those who are naive and suffer culture-shock we ask that you will soften the blows. We pray against the forces of evil that would use the worry concerning missionary children to undermine the parents work for the Kingdom. Remove the hurt. Remove the feeling of abandonment. Remove the anger. Breathe your peace. Breathe your compassion and your love.

Lord, we lift up to you all who are in the wider missionary family and we ask that they may feel proud to be part of the purposes of a missionary sending God. And for those who resent you taking their children and grandchildren far away, we pray that they may have a vision of who you are, and why it is so important to obey your call. We pray against the forces of evil that would cause people to have unnecessary anxieties and guilt-trips over family

ACTION *card*

COMMUNITY HEALTH - WEST BANK

The work of the International Christian Committee, Jerusalem, one of Christian Aid's partners, remains crucial in bringing primary health care to Palestinian families in the remote villages of the West Bank, particularly as a result of the closure of the territories by Israel since 1993.

More recently, with the 'collective punishment' inflicted upon all Palestinian people by Israel since the Hamas bombings, the further sealing of the borders prevents any movement which has led to a dramatic rise in unemployment, especially among village wage-earners and the depletion of 8,000 people from four villages.

The centres operate as community centres with stress on active involvement of the village population and on preventative medicine. Babies are regularly weighed, immunisation programmes implemented, supplementary feeding and advice on family diet given especially at times when food shortages and deficiencies are experienced. Home visits by nurses are regularly made and support given to children who have to be hospitalised.

It is perhaps interesting to note that non-governmental organisations provide 60% of the primary health care services to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Since 1990, Israel has been spending 18.3 dollars per capita on health care in the occupied territories annually, compared with 600 dollars in Israel.

In support and encouragement of the work done in the Mother and Child Health Care Programmes in the West Bank, particularly at this time of extreme border closures.

Please send your Action Card to: Elias Khoury
International Christian Committee (ICC)
PO Box 19195
Jerusalem
Israel



members who are safe in your care. Remove the conflict. Remove the suffering. Remove the frustration. Breathe your peace. Breathe your compassion and your love.

We know, Lord, that your perfect will for the parent is not going to overlook the child, nor vice versa. We pray for us all as we struggle to come to terms with your will. Your good, pleasing and perfect will. May we know your peace, your compassion and your love.

TAKE 2



Helen Coles and Melanie Fernandes part of the Albanian Action Team

Of carnivorous mosquitoes and Albanian bakers

ONCE MET, NEVER FORGOTTEN ARE THE 28:19 ACTION TEAMS. WRITES SAM GIBSON – 22 ENTHUSIASTIC YOUNG PEOPLE, WHO HAVE DEVELOPED A PASSION FOR WORLD MISSION



DURING SIX MONTHS OVERSEAS. NOW THEY HAVE BEEN LET LOOSE IN BRITAIN ARMED WITH MULTI-MEDIA PRESENTATIONS, DRAMA, MUSIC, AND MUCH MORE. THEIR TOUR BEGAN LAST MONTH BUT THERE IS STILL TIME TO HEAR THEIR STORIES...

Every member of the BMS 28:19 Action Teams will readily confess that their time overseas was nothing like they expected.

Challenges and surprises, sights and sounds they could never dream of have conspired to radically alter these young people. They have learned by experience that you can never be fully prepared for what God is going to do.

Melanie Fernandes was amazed at the generosity of the impoverished Albanian people.

“Buying bread was a daily event we enjoyed. One night however, our usual baker was all sold out so a hunt began. First to one shop and then to another, only to find the same response – that all the bread was sold out. One shopkeeper gave directions to another shop and lent us his bike, so the journey could be made more quickly. However, we returned unsuccessful (our bearings around Tirana still weren’t

up to scratch).

“The shopkeeper however, was intent on helping his friends out so closing up his store, he went off on the bike in search of a loaf and returned with one steaming hot and fresh in his hands. This was an incident which typifies the generosity and warm care we received whilst in Albania and was a challenge to us to always ‘go the extra mile’ whenever required.”

Hugh Clements-Jewery agreed. “We thought we were going to Albania to give but we have received far more than we ever hoped. It is impossible to describe all of our experiences, to explain all that we have learned but we look back over our six months in Albania with much joy. It was a privilege to live, love and work with the Albanian people as we learnt to value community living in the wider family of the church.”

For the Trinidad team, the post played an important role in their time overseas – along with stifling temperatures... carnivorous

28:19 28:19 28:19

mosquitoes... kamikaze drivers... ice-cold coconuts... beaches... three hour services... powerful worship... ladies covering their heads... three Hindu girls being converted... 6am wake ups and much, much more.

Angela Richardson says, "It's strange where opportunities can arise. Receiving mail was an essential part of team morale and each day we would wait for the post, our life-line to home. A friendship with our postman developed through which we learnt that he was a pastor of a small local church. An invitation followed for us to lead a service, which God greatly used and a valuable friendship was established. Thank God for opportunities."

Oliver Campbell Smith says that working in France changed his attitude to World Mission. "Imagine a town that is made up just of houses and a small church... you've just imagined Morsang-sur-Orge, near Paris! It wasn't quite what we had expected. Supporting a small struggling church in a Western society isn't exactly the same as meeting Mother Theresa in India or basking in the Trinidadian sun.

"However, France is also a mission field and although at times the work was frustrating and difficult, we genuinely feel that we made a significant contribution to the church there. One highlight was an evangelistic Christmas meal we held. It is difficult for many people

in France to enter a protestant church as all non Roman Catholic churches are considered to be sects. Despite this, we were thrilled to see forty non-Christians come and join us for the meal and leave with a positive attitude towards the Gospel."

Anna Willott greatly enjoyed her time in France. She says: "So many good things have happened during our time in Bordeaux. One event which was particularly successful was a youth weekend in Albi which we helped to lead. We had lots of encouraging feedback from the people there. Our time overseas has been very rewarding and fulfilling. We were greatly blessed although the work was not always easy. We have learned a lot and feel we have been an encouragement to the churches we have visited."

Jo Pillinger tells how the India/Sri Lanka Team also learned valuable lessons while overseas. "One of the most remarkable times for us was when we were asked to put together a youth service at very short notice. With a lack of preparation and enthusiasm we managed to get through it without too much pain.

"Afterwards however, much to our surprise, we were asked to pray with a group of seven young people who had decided to commit their lives to Christ that night. We realised how God had worked through us to help those seven make that step without us having any idea that these people

would make this crucial decision. God used us in ways we never dreamed of."

Every team member has expressed a big thank you to all those who upheld them with continual prayer support. They say that without doubt, it empowered and aided all they did. God challenged them in ways they never imagined and they will never be the same again.

Look out for these tour dates still to come:

3 - 9 June

Paris Team in Scotland
Bordeaux Team in Central and East
Trinidad Team in North and Mid Wales
Albania Team in North
India/Sri Lanka Team in South Wales

10 - 16 June

Paris Team in North
Bordeaux Team in Midlands
Trinidad Team in Central and East
Albania Team in South and West
India/Sri Lanka Team in London and South East

For details of the venues the teams will be stopping at in your region, please contact your BMS co-ordinator.



The Morsang Action Team, France



The Bordeaux Action Team, France



prayer focus



EUROPE



GLYN AND GILL JONES

ALBANIA

Based in Tirana, Glyn is involved in all aspects of EBF (European Baptist Federation) agricultural work and Gill in general administration and running the Albanian Language School. After Christmas they helped to begin a new fellowship group along with three Americans and another Briton. At the moment, they outnumber the Albanians in the tiny fellowship group but this is because they have discouraged Albanians who worship at the First Baptist Church, Tirana from transferring their allegiance. They recently had their first conversion.

Glyn has been busy distributing vegetable and flower seeds which came from the UK courtesy of "Feed The Children". Four usually unemployed Albanians sort the packets at the Baptist Centre for distribution to farmers in the mountains and on the plain. Each pack also includes two Christian booklets and the distribution is funded by

Operation Agri. One of the four packers, Berti, lives in a tiny 5' x 10' dark, lean-to hut which he built illegally against one of the walls of the Baptist Centre. The church had to stop him breaking a window through the wall but did not have the heart to move him on. After help, he and his wife began to go to church where first she and then he were converted. The four seed sorters have had no job for five years and there are thousands like them in Tirana alone.

Please pray

- that the new fellowship will grow and thrive with many more Albanians coming
- for Berti and his wife that their relationship with God continues to develop and that there be some hope for a different financial future
- for the language courses, computer courses, seed distribution and all the other activities the church runs involving friendship evangelism, may God continue to change lives through these activities



CHRIS AND SARAH MATTOCK

ITALY

Chris spends much of

his time preparing study material for various purposes in English and Italian but finds swapping between the two languages very tiring. He has agreed to do some simultaneous translation (Italian into English) for a conference of African churches in North Western Italy. This is beyond his language ability so he hopes the participants are as good humoured as his mistakes will demand! He has also begun a Christian discipleship/discovery group with three

Philippino women. One of the group comes from a background of animist religion and has made a commitment to follow Christ. For her, discovering God who loves and cares for her is like coming out of the dark and into the light.

Sarah builds relationships with everyone she meets regularly: neighbours, stall holders at the local market, teachers at the nursery and other mothers. They have become open and welcoming and are

BANGLADESH



VALERIE HAMILTON

Valerie was forced to keep a very low profile for several weeks in the north of the country, due to the strike action. In the midst of this volatile situation, she was unable to communicate with home. She has now returned to Dhaka.

Please pray

- for Valerie's continued safety
- for a successor as she prepares to leave Bangladesh in June

EUROPE

interested in what the Mattock's are doing in Italy, some asking questions about Sarah's faith compared with their own cultural background.

Please pray:

- thanks for the safe arrival and continuing good health of new baby Judith
- for those attending the discipleship/discovery class, that they grow in their faith and understanding of Christ
- for continued improvement in language study, especially with the conference coming soon



STUART AND JOYCE FILBY

BELGIUM

The Filby's have begun a new language study course at Antwerp University to improve their Flemish. The course runs three evenings per week and on a Saturday morning and the return journey is over 200 miles each day. Returning home

after midnight, exhausted and unsure in which language they are thinking is hard work. On the two spare days, they attend a language class in Bruges which is just a few miles up the coast.

Stuart and Joyce have decreased their involvement with the church in Middlekerk where Stuart was one of the pastors. They still attend the meetings and Stuart preaches there but he no longer has any responsibility for the church. The congregation are getting used to the idea that the Filby's will be beginning a new church from their home in September. Another group which the Filby's established at the end of last year in Ostend continues. Due to their need to study, the Filby's had to discontinue with this group too although they continue to visit and hope to become involved with them again in September.

Please pray:

- for good progress in language study
- for physical energy to cope with the travelling

and late nights

- for the church in Middlekerk, that it will grow and develop
- for God's blessing on the group in Ostend
- for people to be raised up to take part in the planned plant at the Filby's home, people with gifts such as music

BRAZIL



GERRY AND JOHAN MYHILL

BRAZIL

In recent months there have been violent electrical storms in southern Brazil with a high occurrence of people struck by lightning. In March, 21 year old Marileia, a church member from Ilha Rasa was killed by a lightning strike. Her husband Verci and their 18 month old child Samuel were badly burned but are now recovering. Marileia was the church treasurer, being one of few people in the church able to read and

write. Gerry and Johan have felt the loss deeply as they were involved in the couple's initial courtship and marriage. One of the consequences of the tragedy has been that four of Verci's relatives who had been excluded from the church have since asked to be reconciled.

Please pray:

- for Verci and his young son as they look to a future without Marileia
- for Marileia's mother who is devastated by the loss
- for those who have been reconciled to the church through this tragedy
- for all at the church as they attempt to absorb what has happened

EUROPE



ROGER AND NIKKI PEARCE

ALBANIA

Roger and Nikki have been in Albania since the middle of January and continue to grapple with the language. Language training is both formal and informal with individual teaching and shared conversations with Albanian people. There is still much novelty for the people to speak to foreigners as this was forbidden during Communist times.

Please pray

- for continued progress with the language
- for friendships to develop with local people
- for guidance on church involvement

ASIA - SRI LANKA

PETER AND MARGARET GOODALL

The North East monsoon failed this year and there is very little rain in the catchment areas leaving many reservoirs at a very low level. As most of the electricity for the hill country comes from hydro schemes, there is an emergency situation now. There have been daily power cuts of four or five hours although at the beginning of May, these had dropped to two hours per day but the heavy rains had still not come. If the water level in the reservoirs continues to fall, all electricity could go off. Long power cuts mean cooking, faxing, doing the laundry, using the computer etc at very strange hours and some evening church services have had to be changed around as it gets dark at 6.30pm.

Please pray:

- for the monsoon to come before all power is lost, water is also needed to supply the people as temperatures reach 98° indoors.



Europe

Sri Lanka

MISSIONARIES

prayer

asia and africa

ASIA



MARGARET GIBBS

Nepal

Margaret teaches children whose parents work in the TB and Leprosy Project based in Surkhet but which operates throughout mid-western Nepal. The project aims to control these diseases as well as cure them with long term treatment, but the course of treatment must be completed. It is difficult to find patients in remote areas and then ensure they complete their medication despite feeling better in the early stages. If they break off their medication and then the illness recurs, they cannot then be cured and can pass on a drug resistant form of the illness. In March, the project rented a large building in Nepalganj to be a new leprosy and TB clinic taking in and out patients. It will save many patients long journeys and perhaps encourage those who would not otherwise, to go for treatment.

The churches in Surkhet are thriving and Margaret has been asked to teach music to interested

young people who want to lead worship. Every Thursday evening she has four or five playing guitars Nepali style, drums and harmonium. Everyone is very keen and practices hard. The singing in church services has considerably improved!

Please pray

- for the search for TB and leprosy patients and for the completion of their medication
- thank God that patients are flocking to the new clinic and pray for extra staff to take some of the pressure
- thank God for the enthusiasm of those wishing to lead worship, pray it doesn't wear off!



SUE HEADLAM

Bangladesh

In mid February, most programmes at Chandraghona Christian Hospital had to be stopped due to a general strike. During a lull, Sue and her companion Authoi set out in the jeep for nearby Chittagong to see friends and do some shopping. However, a riot began prompted by the arrest of the mayor, and bombs, gunfire, looting and rioting erupted all over the city.

Sue and Authoi fled to the nearest friend's house where they stayed for three days whilst the rioting continued.

On the third day, the violence was relaxed for two hours to allow Moslems to go to pray. Whilst other expatriates were evacuated to Dhaka, Sue and Authoi made a break for home in their jeep. Chittagong was a blackened war zone and almost all government offices, banks, factories, the GPO and airline office were burnt to the ground but an hour later they were in Chandraghona and very relieved. As the strike continued non-stop, Sue remained confined to the house where she was very frustrated and bored. Tension in the country has now eased somewhat and a new general election has been called.

Please pray

- for peace and stability to return to Bangladesh
- thank God for Sue's safekeeping and pray it continues
- that the hospital's community health programmes quickly return to normal
- the weaving project continues to do well and is looking for a new sales outlet in Dhaka

● a senior general surgeon and director of nursing are desperately needed for the hospital

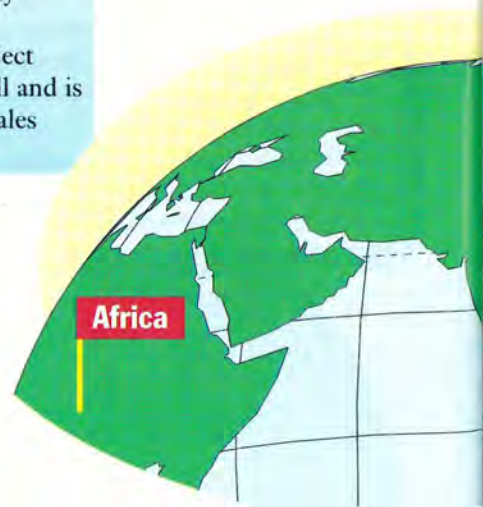


TIM AND CAROLINE TRIMBLE

Nepal

Tim and Caroline's roles in the UMN (United Mission to Nepal) have evolved so that Tim is now UMN Financial Controller and Caroline is UMN Internal Auditor. Caroline has been working on one emergency after another recently setting up a new accounting system for a Nursing Campus in Kathmandu. Her task of restoring data and accounts which were lost due to a computer crash, has been further complicated by a problem with a password.

Tim and Caroline are slowly becoming more integrated into their Nepali church. Their reading skills are improving continually and they can now keep up with the singing. Caroline teaches in the Sunday School (which is held on a Saturday!) one month in every three. She is teaching the oldest class in a mixture of Nepali and English.



JUNE 1996

Arrivals

Phil and Rosemary Halliday from Massy
 Ian and Pauline Thomas from
 Carcassonne
 David and Ann MacFarlane from Altamura
 John and Norma Clark from Fortaleza
 Rena Mellor from Kinshasa

Departures

None

Overseas Visits

Revd David Martin to Hong Kong
 Revd John Passmore to Italy

Anonymous gifts

For March 1996
TOTAL £884

Legacies

March 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.

	£
Coulson Mr Walter E	16,500.00
Cullimore Miss Annie E M	676.00
Field Mr John G	7,160.90
Iliff Mr Edgar	500.00
Livingston Mrs Christine	500.00
Miles Mr D T	200.00
Spendlove Mrs Ivy A	120.00
Taylor Mrs Winifred E	2,500.00
West Miss Lillian B	2,000.00
TOTAL	£30,156.00

BMS Projects

The totals raised to May 9, 1996 are:

Breaking Chains	£32,246
Mighty Warrior	£326
By His Stripes	£285

More financial details are outlined in the BMS Review of 1995, (free with this issue of MH), additional copies of which are available from Christine Neilson at BMS.

Please pray

- for development in language skills freeing the Trimbles to be more involved in church life
- poor health since January has been wearing Tim and Caroline down, pray for energy and an increased resistancy to stomach bugs in particular

consists of small micro-buses into which up to 20 people are crammed or, the Emergency Taxis (ET's). ET's are usually estate cars and carry 10 people – four stuffed in the boot! Despite enjoying the experience, they were not too upset when their own vehicle finally made it into the country.

Please pray

- thank God for providing the Igoes with a house, there are very few to rent
- pray for a breakthrough in the language training
- that Jill and Philip soon know the work they will be involved in

AFRICA



PHILIP AND JILL IGOE

Africa

The Igoes have been undergoing language study since their arrival in Zimbabwe in February. They've mastered the greetings in Shona and the incredibly positive response they get from people is sufficient encouragement to persevere with the task. They settled into a house in Gweru and will soon begin work with Jill hoping to teach in a local school and Philip engaged in some kind of training with the National Baptist Convention.

One of the ways the Igoes have discovered of getting close to the local population is by using public transport. This

nepal



BOB AND RUTH ELLETT

An accident involving a friend of the Ellett's earlier this year brought home just how dangerous illness can be in Nepal. When Tom, an American forester with UMN was knocked off his motorbike just outside Butwal, the nearest hospital could offer an X-ray highlighting a broken knee cap, shoulder and hand but little more. The decision was made to transport Tom to Tansen. An hour later, a van was found but the seats had to be removed. Twenty minutes later they began the journey with Tom on a drip and his broken bones splinted. By this time it was getting dark so a torch was found so that the drip could be checked and they began travelling up a treacherous road full of potholes on a painfully slow journey to Tansen. The journey took nearly four hours as every movement was agony to Tom. Six doctors were waiting at Tansen as Bob and Ruth had travelled on ahead to warn them. After discovering a blood clot on the brain he was helicoptered to Kathmandu. Despite all of this, Tom is miraculously well on the way to recovery. Bob says, "My friend had a very close brush with death. It is not only true to say he could have died, but on the evidence he should have died." The Ellett's believe it was prayer which pulled Tom through, from the moment word spread of his accident, Christian Nepali's were praying fervently.

Please pray:

- praise God for his miraculous intervention in saving this man's life
- pray for the health and safety of all Christian workers in Nepal and other countries, may they never need to test the 'health service'
- thank God for all those involved in medical work overseas, may he bless their work as they teach and train nationals to continue the work themselves

Nepal



It brings tears to the eyes

Sitting in the dark I couldn't believe what I was sure was about to happen. To escape from essays and books, a group of theological students had decided to see the latest box office attraction at the local cinema. As the film drew towards its close, sobs could be heard from all around. The atmosphere was charged with emotion and the thing I could not believe was that one of the colleagues with whom I had gone, was taking his handkerchief from his pocket in preparation for the flood of tears which the scene demanded.

It's funny what moves people to tears. Sometimes we cry for others and sometimes for ourselves. At times it's for joy or in pain or in sadness. That particular film didn't open the flood gates for me but there was a distinct moistness in the eyes as I stood in a mission hospital delivery room looking at our first child.

The journey from north west Bangladesh to Chandraghona in the South East had been long, bumpy and tiring. Then the waiting seemed interminable and at least swatting the mosquitoes during the labour had given me something to do although it was not in any of the antenatal books we had read! Then there he was, in my arms, amazing.

Not long after that, a mobile team came from the local district hospital to hold a family planning camp in the council offices next door to our house.

The building had neither electricity nor water so we ran an electric cable from our house and fixed a couple of light bulbs up. We also passed buckets of water over the wall from our well and filled a 45 gallon drum from which water could be ladled when necessary. There was a constant stream of women arriving for tubal ligations, leaving a day later clutching the cash and wearing the new sari which were the rewards for not having more children.

There were not many men on the last day when it was their turn. Not even the promise of money and a lungi could persuade them! We were holding Bible classes for our lay leaders during the days of the family planning camp and eventually after a long discussion some of the men decided that for them to have a vasectomy would be the best thing for their family. As their pastor and teacher I had to go and "hold their hand". That in itself was enough to make the eyes water but there was worse to follow!

It was getting dark when the electricity went off half way through the last operation. There were no spare hands so I had to hold the "Tilley" lamp for the surgeon to complete his task. That meant being very close to the action and I will never know if it was the heat from the lamp or what was happening on the table but I definitely began to feel decidedly wobbly and was glad when it was all over and we could get back to the course on John's gospel I was teaching!

I was moved tremendously more recently, celebrating the Lord's Supper with a congregation of new believers in Albania. The service was simple and I didn't understand a word although I knew that we all affirmed "He is risen indeed, Hallelujah" after the pastor had said "Christ is risen".

A week before I had stood with 50 or so others on top of the highest tor on Dartmoor as the sun rose and shouted with joy, the same exclamation. In Albania, on the day the orthodox church celebrates Easter, it was brilliant to celebrate with those young Christians and as we went forward to receive bread and wine the emotions welled up as again I was faced with the realisation of what Christ had done for me and what the risen Christ meant to me and to these people.

The last time I visited that church they were meeting in the open air and the vines which were heavy with grapes offered shade to the congregation. Now we were drinking the wine which had been pressed from those same grapes.

Back in the cinema, my friend fooled us all, in the silence, just as Ali Macgraw died, he raised his handkerchief and . . . blew his nose loudly!●



John Passmore takes a sideways view

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

waves

OPEN TO HURT . . .

I may be making waves when I say that in our culture we have an unhealthy “self-love”. This complex is seen in all sorts of ways, not least in our interest in psychological analysis. Not only do we want to look good but we want to feel good about ourselves – and analysts are laughing all the way to the bank.

Nevertheless, the human psyche is just as vulnerable and open to hurt as the human body. Emotional damage, however, is not so obvious to the eye. We can pretend that such hurt does not exist; indeed as Christians we are particularly good at ignoring painful parts of life. So, the issue of Mish Kids must not be ignored, for many today are scarred by their sense of abandonment in the past.



If we are to pray intelligently for missionaries we must recognise that the issue of Mish Kids is probably the single most difficult problem missionaries have to face. But it is not just the parents who feel hurt; it is the children as well.

Peter Schellenbaum comments: “People who were abandoned early and unloved are isolated and lack partners. They do to themselves what others have done to them. They leave themselves in the lurch. Having rejected themselves, they no longer see anyone who could love them.” (“The world of the unloved.”)

Maybe this is making waves but I believe Schellenbaum describes many Mish Kids. A generation of children felt abandoned – and abandoned themselves.

Look out for these kids, many are still hurting.

Andrew Green is minister at Upton Vale Baptist Church, Torquay.



AVAILABLE NOW!



Support Project 96 by buying this full colour postcard. Available from Christine Neilson at BMS. 25p each or 6 postcards for £1

Join with Christians in Zimbabwe, Africa, in their vision for church planting and evangelism. Help to raise **£36,500** to support BMS work in ZIMBABWE.

ZIMBABWE



AVAILABLE NOW!

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 June '96.