

missionary herald  
**mb**

**News** around the world

**Focus** on France

**Action teams** in France

**international**

*On the  
road to  
fruitful  
lives*

SPECIAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
ISSUE

**Steve Chalke** Danger of over-spiritualising

**Technology** One man's 'Mission Impossible'

BMS CHRISTMAS  
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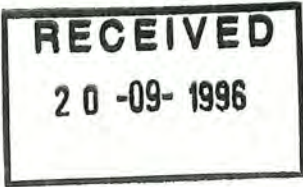
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When is aid mission? And when is mission aid? No doubt this will have often challenged Christians considering what kind of support

to give to whom. It's a question that comes into focus at this time of year when aid agencies and mission organisations cast around for donations to finance a myriad development projects worldwide.

Talk to Christians about supporting such projects and many will want assurance that there is also a heart for sharing the gospel; organisations which satisfy the physical requirements without feeding the spiritual need are doing only half the job, they'll say.

It's not always that simple, missionaries will tell you. Which should come first, the physical or spiritual? BMS engineer David Wheeler has hit on a good formula in Albania – build much-needed roads to allow isolated villages better access to markets, hospitals, and so on, and at the same time make it easier for missionaries to take in the gospel.

And Steve Chalke has some food for thought . . .

**Richard Wells**

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# Missionary Herald

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Where Baptists are thought of as being another sect

FRONT COVER: Marie Helena works on the Multifort project in Fortaleza, Brazil.

Feature on Page 11. PICTURE: Tandem TV & Video.



THEY'RE TRYING  
TO END A DEARTH  
AT THE DINNER  
TABLE IN ALBANIA.  
**GLYN JONES**  
EXPLAINS HOW



**MAIN:** Albanian woman collecting cabbage leaves.  
**TOP INSET:** Trainee agriculturists sowing flower seeds supplied by Baptists.  
**BOTTOM INSET:** A sight for sore Albanian eyes: yes, these really are bananas!



# Sowing for a Richer Diet

**W**hich vegetables do you like most for Sunday dinner? Fresh peas, maybe, or sweetcorn; parsnips or asparagus, or broccoli?

You could enjoy these in most European countries, but in Albania Albanians eat only dried peas – not fresh – and as for the other vegetables on the list, forget it. They are virtually unknown in Albania.

Even cauliflower, beetroot, endive, courgette, globe artichoke, radish and strawberry – except wild gathered ones – are rare in Albanian markets, though common in other Mediterranean countries, and I have yet to see runner beans, chicory, kohlrabi, mangetout or sugar peas, canteloup, red or black currants, raspberries and gooseberries.

Albanians simply do not know about these wonderful vegetables and fruit.

Worse, they have no seed or nursery plant stock from which to produce them.

This extraordinary poverty of vegetables and soft fruit in Albania contrasts strongly with the huge diversity available in Italian markets just across the Adriatic sea, or even what is sold in Greece just to the south. Albania's favourable and diverse climate means its farmers, too, could produce all these vegetables and fruit – and others which we cannot grow in Britain because we lack the summer heat and frost free winters of Albania's coastal zone.

But they don't.

Instead, in winter, Albanians eat a monotonous diet of potatoes, dried peas and haricots, leeks and cabbage, with bread – always with bread – while in summer their main vegetables are lettuce, tomato, aubergine, lady's finger and sweet pepper.

The impoverished diet of Albanians is the result of two things: half a millennium of cultural isolation during Turkish occupation, followed by half a century of a command economy under the isolationist communist regime of dictator Enver Hoxha, when the state decided which crops should be produced.

Far from being an instant solution, the collapse of communism created an agricultural vacuum. For several years farmers could scarcely buy seed or plants since the state institutes and farms responsible for producing them no longer functioned; and the free market had not developed so there was no alternative source.

Into this vacuum stepped a group of Britons – The Friends of Albania – who responded to farmers' needs by sending date-expired vegetable seed

from the UK. Later, Feed the Children sent more seed and the BMS, whose agricultural missionary had become involved in the earlier Seed of Hope distribution, organised its distribution with the financial help of Operation Agri.

A small team of local workers was employed at the Baptist Centre in the capital, Tirana, to sort more than a ton of mixed seed packets from the UK, separating flowers from the vegetables, peas

and beans, and herbs. Small bags containing a selection of vegetable and herb seed packets were made up for distribution to farming families . . . along with some attractive Christian literature.

Most British vegetable varieties out-yield the local varieties, perhaps

**Albanians simply do not know about these wonderful vegetables and fruit.**



*Continues*



*Continued*

# Sowing for a richer diet

because the local seed stock is so run down. Often we have been shown vegetables which have been grown from our seed and have discussed which were best and for what purpose. But there are still reservations.

One farmer told us he loved English tomatoes – “those tiny ones are so sweet!” he said – but he wasn’t going to eat “those eggs; it isn’t natural for plants to produce eggs”.

The “eggs” to which he referred are produced by a variety of aubergine whose white fruit are egg-shaped and sized – which is how the name “egg plant” came to be used for the more usual purple variety.

The Germans love to pickle these eggs for winter use but they can also be fried in slices. The same farmer had also grown some large-fruited purple aubergines, again from British seed, and some Albanian types with elongated fruits. Try, as we did, to explain that they are really the same, nothing we did would persuade the farmer or his wife to change their minds.

But what should happen to the hundreds of flower seed packets left after the vegetables have been bagged? When people are short of food they won’t want to bother growing flowers, will they?

How wrong you can be!

Last year we began to include some flower seeds. And they have been esteemed equally – and sometimes more greatly – than vegetable seed. Just how welcome we discovered when we were in the mountains delivering seed.

We stopped to ask a middle-aged road mender the way to a remote village which had specifically asked us for seed.

“You’ll not get there in that,” he said, pointing to our old Land Rover. “The road is broken. You’ll have to go on foot.”

There was no time to hand-carry the two large sacks of seed up the steep donkey-track to the village so I thanked the road-mender for his advice and offered him a bag of seed packets in appreciation.

I made to remove the packets of flower seed because I imagined a man

living alone in a mountain village would not want to grow flowers. I was wrong. He wanted them especially because, as he explained, there is more to life than food. Seed from which to raise beautiful flowers were to him a true luxury; during the years of communism no one could buy such things. Aesthetic values, like spiritual ones, are alive and well after the long Marxist period.

Albania is recovering and can now contemplate simple luxuries like real, live flowers, instead of the huge quantities of imported plastic and silk varieties which are on sale at every street corner. Food for thought, if not for table.

So, this harvest, enjoy your vegetables and fresh flowers too, but remember to thank God for both of them. Neither should be taken for granted.

**Glyn and Gill Jones serve with the BMS in Tirana, Albania, Gill in administration and Glyn as an agricultural consultant.**

**L**ooking up in Nepal at the houses, and looking around at the craftsmen in their workshops, you can see a wealth of architectural heritage, contemporary improvisation and skill in the buildings of this Himalayan kingdom. From historically carved lintels, hand-woven thatch roofs and sensible timber-framed structures, to beaten oil-drum doors, cement-bag walling and roof collages of tins, tiles and car tyres: in Nepal “bricks and mortar” comprise a vast array of materials to act as shelter for people.

To the vast majority of Nepalis, seeking to build their own shelter to meet a most basic human need, the growing urban trend of questionable concrete and brick house construction is an unaffordable option.

An alternative was needed to the modern high volume manufactured building materials of largely foreign import – something that would complement or, at times, substitute the effective traditional building materials and practices that have been tried and tested for centuries.

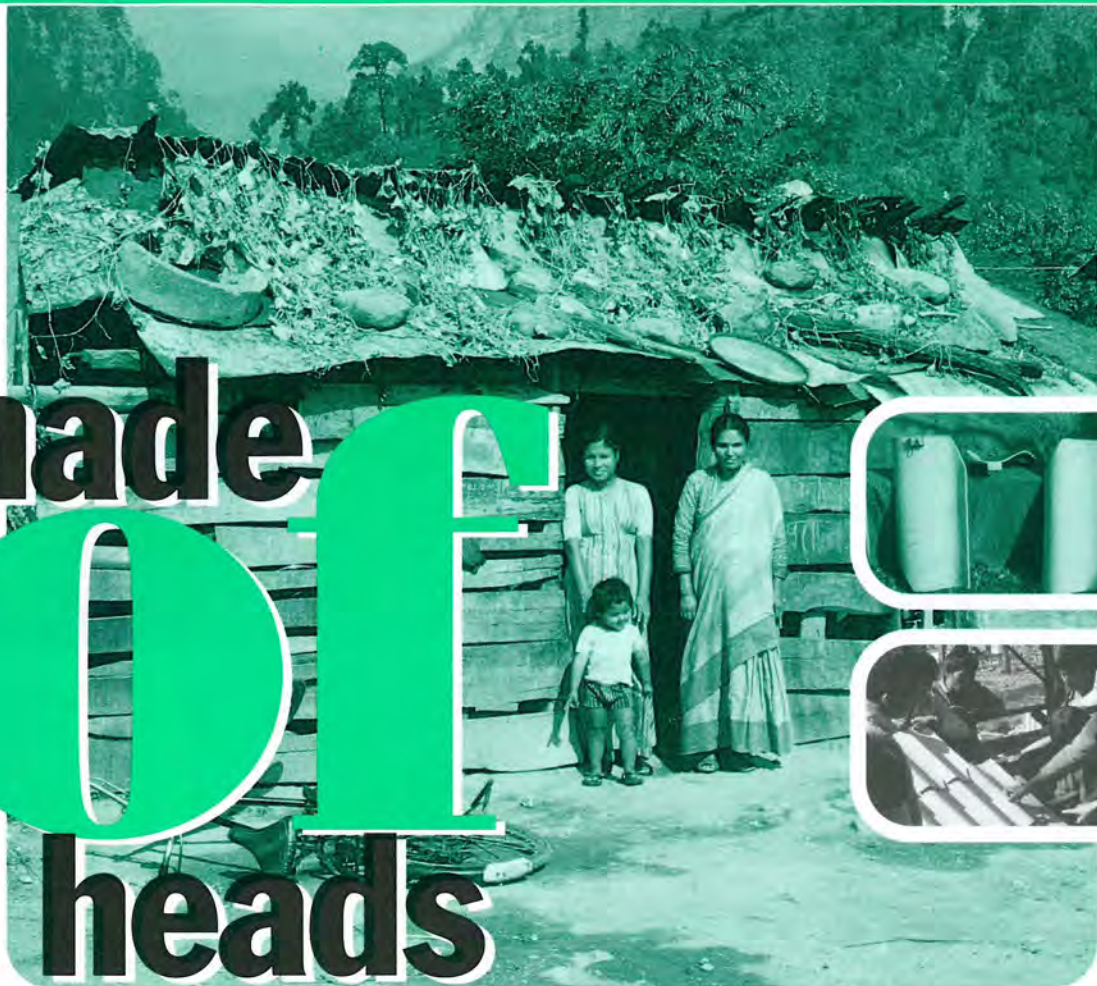
# A home more over

## DAVID PAYNE EXPLAINS HOW THE NEED FOR SHELTER GENERATED A COTTAGE INDUSTRY

**Nepal is emerging into a technologically advanced world from more than a century of isolation. Its people are beginning to see what technology is on offer and want it. But most of it has to be imported – and it doesn’t come cheap. This touches even the basics in life, like housing. How does the Nepali create shelter for his family, using modern materials – and using methods over which he has control? That’s where the expertise of Christians serving with BMS made all the difference.**



# Home-made OOD their heads



I was asked to join with a group of Nepali technicians to address this issue. And so a local development programme was born. Today, in more than 150 towns along the south of Nepal, small independent workshops are adding to the available house-building materials by producing concrete roof tiles. Since 1984 a considerable number of village entrepreneurs have received training from the United Mission to Nepal's (UMN) appropriate technology work in Butwal. They have bought their own tile-making equipment and, in workplaces employing three to four people, they are meeting local demand for a durable roofing material in situations where thatch, clay tiles or tin are not viable.

At the outset, considerable time was given to understand the situation and resources available. Prem Singh, a rural development worker, visited and surveyed a number of widespread rural locations to ascertain the need and potential for building materials. Kamal Man and I studied comparable situations in other countries to identify

and use existing experience.

Sponsors of the programme, pushing for a "quick fix" solution, were placated!

We first needed to learn.

A need for durable roofing, the availability of Nepali cement and aggregate, and an approach used in Kenya came together to suggest that local workshops making cement-based roofing tiles might meet the need. Technical and economic feasibility was examined, locally manufactured equipment was tested, and the technology applied in pilot trials.

By this stage we hardly needed to promote or market the technology – word of mouth and discriminating passers-by had fuelled a growing demand for it. Although the programme had established the tile's feasibility, we were cautious about the mixed benefits of releasing the technology into the market place, so we transformed from a research and development programme into a training service to allow people access to the process.

We had to let go of control.

The story of this roof tile technology development has hinged on people's commitment – Nepali and expatriate, of whom the late Tom Moncrieff should be particularly remembered. Its growth may be due to the fact that it generates income and provides shelter but its significance is probably more to do with the time and participation allowed for people and their opportunity to have a voice.

For a struggling Nepali, recognising his need and then gaining a creative understanding and ownership of the solution, brings a tremendous sense of dignity and fulfilment. But any participation in such work involves facing up to the issues and pain along with the gain.

For the missionary serving in development assistance, it's a case of allowing the best of God-given sensitive hearts and thinking minds to be available locally, seeking and sharing Christ's kingdom in the nuts and bolts of life on earth. ●

David Payne returns to Nepal as Adviser in Engineering & Industrial Development with the UMN in Kathmandu.

MAIN:  
Contemporary  
improvisation in  
Nepali housing  
TOP INSET:  
Cement Based Roof  
Tiles  
BOTTOM INSET:  
Participating in  
Development

All pictures:  
David Payne





# Highway for our God



ALBANIAN MOUNTAIN TRACKS ARE OFTEN IMPASSABLE .  
**DAVID WHEELER** REVEALS HOW ROADS CAN BENEFIT THE RURAL  
ECONOMY... AND PROVIDE A WAY INTO THE VILLAGES FOR THE GOSPEL



David Wheeler  
discusses the  
Shkrete project  
with an Albanian  
colleague.

**T**he still largely unreached people of Albania live in the central swathe of mountain villages which runs from north to south of the country. The European Baptist Fellowship has a holistic development project in nine mountain villages north of Tirana. If it is to go well, missionaries need to travel between the villages, so the first phase must be road improvement.

The most distant and difficult to get to is the village of Shkrete, via a track 12km (7.5 miles) into the mountains. The track, formed by local logging companies for hauling timber out of the mountains, is treacherous for five months of the year and on a good day takes an hour and a half to cover.

Last September I started to plan the construction of the road to act as a lifeline to village people, enabling them to take their produce to market, bring out their sick to a doctor or to hospital, have contact with the outside world and... allow the good news of Jesus to be taken in.

Work started in November with a gang of 11 village men, a digger and two lorries. But we still had to deal with the challenge of those in a position of authority. Each village has a head man in a hierarchy established in the old communist days. Any action, especially from outside, is seen as an effort to undermine this power structure and anything, like a road, which will mean more freedom for the people, is seen

immediately as dangerous.

Things became so difficult that the team retreated from Shkrete and started at the other end of the road while still holding to the original strategy of using village folk to do the work. After consultation with the district MP and with an older, respected workman it was decided to employ one man from each family living along the route of the road. This way each family would get some income and have a sense of ownership.

One family could not provide a man to work because, two months before, the father had gone blind. But the family had a 14-year-old boy and they agreed that he should be employed for a man's wages. He is now learning how to build stone retaining walls and lay road surfaces – and the income is lifesaving for the family.

The day work started it was snowing and there was ice on the ground. But these mountain folk are hardy and while one kept the fire going the others started digging.

Keeping water away from construction was essential. If the water in the mountain streams can cross the line of the road without entering its construction, the road will stay in position, so 40 culverts were placed at strategic points along with stone retaining walls to hold the road up. Then the good stone surface was laid.

The further into the mountains we went and the higher we got the more difficult conditions became. When it rained, it rained hard and the forest



track turned into a fast flowing river. When it was cold the ground froze and the men needed to protect their eyes from flying fragments of rock and ice. A gift of goggles has been much appreciated and each workman has been issued with a pair of Wellington boots.

Work stopped at the end of December because of slippery muddy conditions, with about 3km of the road complete.

In the spring an inspection showed the work so far had stood up to the winter very well and, from a fresh start in April, work has been going apace and is expected to be finished in October.

Not all has gone according to plan. As the road builders approached the summit of the track they realised it wasn't just the gradient that would be too steep; so would the cost. So they left the path and went around the mountain, dynamiting a new route through virgin rock.

The benefit was not only a cost saving. The deviation cut 3km off the route and kept the road below the snowline so that it would be open all year.

Construction could not have carried on without Tools With A Mission, which provided a vibrating roller, a concrete mixer, a low head, high volume pump together with shovels, pick axes, club hammers and chisels. The team have bought a metal kiosk-type shed which has served as a store for cement and fuel.

With the end of the difficult Shkrete road in sight, the challenge is now the construction of roads to the other eight villages, for which an estimated \$42,000 is needed.

BMS colleagues David and Yvonne Wheeler serve with the EBF in Albania, David as a civil engineer and Yvonne as head nurse in the clinic in Tirana.



# Steve Chalke



## EITHER/OR

Three years ago, when Oasis opened the Elizabeth Baxter health centre, a reporter from a well-known radio asked me what we hoped to achieve. I replied that our aim was to provide quality, primary health care for central London's homeless population. He seemed unconvinced. "After all," he told me, "you're an evangelical Christian. You people never do anything that's not really aimed at notching up converts."

One of the biggest problems that has dogged the church this century – and one which is, sadly, entirely of our own making – is the dominant view that social action either detracts from or adds to (depending on your perspective) the real task of preaching the gospel.

For some, the urgency of giving everyone on earth the chance to respond to Jesus before his return has effectively put paid to all other activity: "What really counts is getting people saved. Leave the rest to the social workers." Others see it differently, arguing that social action is a complement to the task of evangelism: "The gospel is like a pair of scissors, with twin blades; evangelism and social action. Though the evangelism blade is sharp enough to cut on its own, the social action blade increases its effectiveness."

But popular as these two views are, they both fall a long way short of Jesus' own approach. For him, social action was just as much an evangelistic task as anything else. It was part of the gospel, not an addition to or subtraction from it.

When Jesus began his ministry, he set out his game plan publicly in a kind of manifesto, or job description, taken from the book of Isaiah:

**THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS ON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS APPOINTED ME TO PREACH GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM FREEDOM FOR THE PRISONERS AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT FOR THE BLIND, TO RELEASE THE OPPRESSED, TO PROCLAIM THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOUR.** Luke 4:18-19

Tragically, Christians have made various mistakes with this passage over the years. Some have over-spiritualised its message. When he says poor, they tell us, Jesus is primarily, even exclusively, referring to those who are spiritually poor. Others, by contrast, have despiritualised it. When he says, poor, they argue, he's really talking about those who are financially, politically and socially marginalised.

But the truth is that this false division between body and spirit just wouldn't have occurred to Jesus. It didn't exist in the holistic, Hebrew thinking that he grew up with. In fact, rather than coming from the Old Testament, or Jesus himself, our compartmentalising tendency belongs to pagan Greek philosophy! By poor, Jesus would have meant those impoverished by any kind of hardship in any area of life: spiritual, social, political, emotional, physical, psychological, educational, financial, etc.

When we separate bodily and spiritual concerns, we devalue Jesus' message. Either we deny or downgrade the validity of offering people a personal relationship with Jesus, or we attach such importance to it that everything else gets shunted into a very poor second place, with development work being seen as nothing more than a kind of necessary foreplay to the real task of evangelism – a device by which we earn the right to "preach Christ crucified".

Instead, our task must be to respond to the whole gamut of people's needs as they arise: for spiritual fulfilment and, just as readily, for clean water, safe and sanitary housing, good medical services, creative jobs and an empowering education.

Why? Because our word evangelism, which literally means to preach good news, is the word Jesus used when he quoted from the scroll of Isaiah. In doing so, he made it clear that he saw his mission of evangelising the poor, not in terms of targeting them for conversion, but of responding to all the needs of whole people. Healing, forgiveness, inspiration, direction, friendship, challenge, self-confidence, self-esteem, acceptance and new life were all on offer.

All this must be part of the real good news for us too. If our evangelism offers people anything less, then we preach something less than Jesus' gospel.

**STEVE CHALKE** IS GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE OASIS TRUST



# Food from a load of rubbish



OLD EGGSHELLS, LEAVES AND SEEDS ARE AT THE HEART OF GOOD COMPOST HEAPS BUT IN FORTALEZA, BRAZIL, THEY FORM THE KEY TO A BETTER DIET – AND PROVIDE JOBS.

## MARK AND SUZANA GREENWOOD REPORT

**T**wo great needs of the population on the periphery of Brazil's cities are community-based employment and a richer diet at low cost.

Many families in communities like Genibau, on the edge of Fortaleza, live disrupted lives owing to the long distances travelled to reach their places of work, and many children are left to fend for themselves while parents

struggle to earn the daily crust.

The traditional diet of these families does not always provide their daily nutritional requirements. What is more, the internationalisation of eating habits has combined to devalue further the nutritional value of their diet.

They are laying aside cheap, local products for the cultivation of expensive foreign-style food products; the Co-operativa Multifort aims to provide some sort of answer to these problems.

Instead of discarding everyday food by-products, the co-operative makes use of leaves (manioc), seeds (pumpkin, melon, sesame, millet) and eggshells, together with wheat bran to produce flour rich in essential nutrients, especially vitamins and minerals.

The recipe is recommended by a national campaign known as Alternatives Versus Hunger.

Through their work in the production area, provided by BMS funding, and sales of the mix, the members of the co-operative are able to boost the monthly family income, work close to home – evening bring the children along – and move towards improving the diet of their friends and neighbours.

The enthusiasm with which the ladies brought along utensils and furniture from home at the start of the project, and the efficiency in production, have been great to witness.

People in the community and the

city are beginning to see the value of the project; a Christian advertising agency put together a marketing package and a regular clientele is beginning to take shape.

Of the five ladies working in the so-operative at the beginning of the year, three are now on maternity leave, which left a gap in the team.

This gap has been filled by two new members but those away looking after their babies still benefit from the mix.

Multifort is not just a useful vitamin supplement for all the family, it helps to encourage breast feeding, too, in a society where powdered milk is the norm. Mothers using the flour in their own food while breast feeding have noticed a clear increase in their milk production.

Looking to the future, the co-operative needs to find its own sales and administrative personnel. Up to now, the bulk of this work has fallen on our shoulders.

While the current members are excelled at production, no-one has natural sales of organisational skills. If such people can be found and integrated into the co-operative, its future as a community-based income generator will be secure and more people will benefit from a richer diet. ●

Mark and Suzana Greenwood serve with the BMS in Fortaleza, Brazil, doing community and church work



# news

MISSION NEWS FROM HOME AND ABROAD

## Strong support for president's tour

As the next major engagement approaches on BMS president Carolyn Green's nationwide tour, organisers are hoping for a similar response to the enthusiasm which greeted the first celebration.

The first of 21 regional mission celebrations throughout Britain drew 400 people to Avenue Baptist Church, Southend, at the end of June. The next celebration is at Brighton Road Baptist Church, Horsham, West Sussex on Saturday evening September 14, at which the keynote speaker is Sussex

Association Missioner David Hall.

Carolyn, who aims to put world mission high on every Baptist church agenda, is devoting her year in office to meeting church leaders at working breakfasts around the country and to encouraging churches in mission through regional celebration meetings with guest keynote speakers.

BMS Constituency Support Director Andy Stockbridge clearly saw the response to the first celebration as an endorsement of the current

direction of the society's work.

"It's a great encouragement to all involved and particularly to Carolyn to get this level of support for both the celebration and the reception. There was a very real and positive sense of enthusiasm and encouragement for the work of cross-cultural mission and the role of BMS today."

The celebration at Southend was hosted by a local team headed by worship leader Colin Waller and Cross Talk, which provided drama.

A Live-Link telephone interview with BMS worker Mary Parsons in Fortaleza, Brazil, was complemented by keynote speaker Martin Hewitt, who is about to move on from the BMS to take up a lecturing post at St John's, Nottingham.

Using the Hebrew prophet Jonah's experiences in hostile, distant Nineveh, Martin challenged people's parochial vision to face up to God's call to care for the people of the world by taking his word to them.

Later, BMS Europe Representative John Passmore spoke of the growing opportunities for mission in former communist countries and in muslim areas.

**Carolyn, who aims to put world mission high on every Baptist church agenda, is devoting her year in office to meeting church leaders**



PRESIDENT'S TOUR 1996/97 NEWS

*Continues on page 12*



**President's tour venues**

**Saturday 29 June 1996**  
Avenue, Southend for Eastern Area.  
*Keynote speakers: John Passmore and Martin Hewitt*

**Saturday 14 September 1996**  
Southeast Area: Horsham:  
*Keynote speaker: David Hall*

**Friday 11 October 1996**  
Metropolitan Area: Haven Green  
Ealing:  
*Keynote speaker to be announced*

**Saturday 19 October 1996:**  
Metropolitan Area, Trinity Baptist  
Church Bexleyheath:  
*Keynote speakers: Sammy Verhaeghe  
and David Martin*

**Thursday 7 November 1996**  
Bristol for Western Area:  
Westbury on Trym  
*Keynote speaker: Alistair Brown*

**Saturday 16 November 1996**  
Cardiff, Albany Road,  
*Keynote speaker: Alistair Brown*

**Tuesday 19 November 1996**  
Carmarthen: with Welsh input:  
*Keynote speaker: John Lewis*

**Friday 22 November 1996**  
Bangor, Penuel:  
*Keynote speaker: Peter Dewi Richards*

**Saturday 23 November 1996**  
Wrexham:  
*Keynote speaker: Geraint Morse*

**Friday 29 November 1996**  
Lancs and Cheshire Association,  
Liverpool:  
*Keynote speaker: John James*

**Friday 10 January 1997**  
South Parade Leeds for Yorkshire  
Association.  
*Keynote speaker: Alistair Brown*

**Sunday 12 January 1997**  
Sunday evening for Northern  
Association at South Bank Baptist  
Church, Middlesborough:  
*Keynote speaker: Alan Pain*

**Friday 17 January 1997**  
Cambridge, Histon Baptist Church:  
*Keynote speaker: Michael Quicke*

**Saturday 18 January 1997**  
Buckinghamshire, Union High  
Wycombe:  
*Keynote speaker: Steve Gaukroger*

**Friday 7 February 1997**  
Nottingham: Watnall Road Hucknall  
*Keynote speaker: David Coffey:*

**Saturday 8 February 1997**  
Leicester: Central Baptist Church  
*Keynote speaker: John Lewis (Skipton)*

**Friday 7 March 1997**  
South Street Exeter for the Southwest.  
*Keynote speaker: Ian Coffey*

**Thursday 13 March 1997**  
Newtown, Powys  
*Keynote speaker: Andrew Green*

**Friday 14 March 1997**  
Sutton Coldfield Baptist Church:  
*Keynote speaker: Andrew Green:*

**Friday 11 April 1997**  
Celebration in Scotland  
*Keynote speaker: Alistair Brown*

**Saturday 12 April 1997**  
Celebration in Scotland  
*Keynote speaker: Bill Slack*

**Sunday 13 April 1997**  
Celebration in Scotland  
*Keynote speaker: Bill Slack*

# Strong support for president's tour

*Continued from page 11*

In tandem with the celebration, a presidential buffet reception allowed Carolyn to pay tribute to the efforts of local volunteer BMS workers.

Some 140 mission secretaries, birthday scheme co-ordinators, church leaders and Missionary Herald local distributors met Carolyn and senior BMS staff, along with Avenue Baptist Church minister Alan Griggs.

Carolyn stressed the evangelistic nature of the BMS which, she said, was constantly at the cutting edge of mission.

The current series of leaders' breakfasts is in south-east England. Next month Carolyn's tour moves to the London area with celebrations at Haven Green, Ealing and Trinity Baptist Church, Bexleyheath.

In November, she will be in the Bristol area, Cardiff, Carmarthen, Bangor, Wrexham and Liverpool. ●



Southend Baptists relax together after hearing Carolyn Green speaking 'at the cutting edge' of mission.

**BMS 10 DAYS**

**PRESIDENT'S TOUR VENUES**



## Tributes to Mama Molingo

Tributes have been coming in to the life and work of retired missionary Audrey Weller, who died on June 6 at the age of 91. Audrey, who served in Zaire from 1946 until her retirement in 1970, was head of the girls' primary school and boys' primary school in Bolobo and founder of an Educational School of Apprenticeship (EAP) for training



teachers in Bolobo. She became teacher and then head of Bolobo Secondary School. Besides teaching, Audrey was also director of an orphanage at Bolobo and in charge of Christian education.

The Revd Koli Mandole Molimba, General Secretary of the Baptist Church of the River

Zaire (CBFZ) said: "In all of these posts of responsibility, she was recognised as a very hard-working woman and very well-liked by all, to the point of being christened locally as Mama Molingo (a woman's necklace made in ivory) and Mama Leki (Aunty).

"Today, a number of her pupils occupy high positions in administration and in government. God has really blessed the work of Mama Molingo. The CBFZ and Zaire has harvested a lot of fruit from her tremendous work."

Audrey's funeral was held on 17 June in Chichester, Sussex. ●

## Indian pastor on tour

The Vice President of the Baptist Union of North India, the Revd Rajinder Mashi, is to travel to Britain in the autumn as a BMS Fellowship Visitor.

Rajinder, who pastors the 200-strong Shahdara Baptist Church, is expected to tour Baptist churches in Britain during his month-long visit. ●



## President signs satellite deal

President Carolyn Green has signed an agreement taking BMS into corporate partnership with SAT-7, a new satellite television service for Christians in the Middle East.

The service will carry a range of public service, family-oriented and positive Christian programmes produced mostly within the region.

Since April it has been broadcasting up to three hours a week in Arabic but is still seeking "launch partners" willing to pledge \$10,000 (about £6,700) a year for three years.

Next year SAT-7 intends to increase transmissions to three hours a day in Arabic and other languages and, by 1999, wants to be on air 24 hours a day via a digital channel in multiple languages.

SAT-7 controllers say the channel will provide a unique form of witness, taking the gospel into millions of homes where the good news of Jesus Christ has never been heard before.

Programming will aim to be culturally sensitive, match the religious ethos of the region and provide an attractive alternative to local broadcasts and materialistic western channels.

BMS's involvement, approved by General Committee, will allow the society access to the TV station's partnership council so that it can be actively involved in its ministry.

Director of Operations David Martin told General Committee members that support for SAT-7 matched the priority areas in the BMS Strategy – mission to the unreached and increased use of the media. ●



## 01235 512077 OFF THE SHELF

You'll see that in the 1996 BMS Christmas catalogue, in the centre of this issue, a number of new products are available. Like the 1997 calendar – large, easy-to-read and in traditional style with superb pictures from around the world, taken by BMS staff. It's good value at only £4.50 (post free)

and if you order 10 or more, you get a 10% discount. Other items not in the catalogue include BMS bookmarks. There's one for every country with which BMS has links. And in response to questions from those who want to support BMS work financially, we have produced

a reader-friendly Ways of Giving guide, supported by a resource pack containing helpful information on the many ways of giving. Please give us a call if we can help with your BMS publicity requirements. ●

**Christine Neilson – Telephone 01235 512077 – Christine Neilson**

**BMS**

116453



**NEW YEAR HOUSE PARTY**

If you're aged 18+ why not celebrate 'Hogmanay' in style at our New Year House Party. Phil Marsden and Derek Clark will be hosting this special three day event with wacky games, powerful prayer, a ceilidh and the midnight bells! The event takes place at the Atholl Centre, Pitlochry in Scotland from 31 December 1996 to 2 January 1997. The cost is £48 full board and all bookings should be made via Helen Hamilton at the BU office in Scotland (Tel: 0141 423 6169).



**READY TO STEP SOWN**

**Veteran missionary Betty Marsh**, who retired from the BMS last year and promptly returned to her post at the Christian Hospital for Women and Children, in Orissa, India, under her own steam, has said she will probably step down within a year.

Betty, who has been there since 1960, told BMS General Committee, meeting at her home church in Loughborough: "It's getting to the stage where I feel it's time to clear out."

She reported that the hospital's specialist surgeon had now completed post graduate studies in hospital administration. However, she said, there was still a need for leaders in nursing.

**ON THE MOVE**

**Newlyweds Simon and Karen Collins**, who were married in April, are expected to leave for Angola later this year following language study in Portugal. Simon is a doctor and Karen a teacher.

Paul and Linda Ellis have moved to Yorkshire. The couple are taking a church planting course before moving to serve with BMS in Belgium.

John Furnage, the former minister at Fishergate Baptist Church, Preston, and his wife, Valerie, were flying to South West Parana, Brazil, at the end of August to take up pastoral work. They returned to Britain from Brazil in 1990 after 19 years service.

**PIPS UNDER REVIEW**

Fresh life needs to be breathed into PIPs - the BMS Partners in Projects scheme which allows churches to adopt and finance individual mission projects. Launched in 1992, PIPs grew steadily until in 1994-95 130 churches took part, raising £106,500 for vital BMS projects abroad.

In the current year however only half that number has adopted projects to support.

The BMS PIPs Review Group, which met earlier this year, says there is a need for more and better information for churches and more feedback from churches.

A full PIPs report is expected later this year.

**News in brief**

**Honour for Helen**



For former BMS missionary Helen Drysdale, 1996 is a year to remember. She was named the Marie Curie Cancer Care Nurse of the Year. Helen has spent the past two years providing free care to cancer patients in their homes.

Helen, a member of Viewfield Baptist Church, Dunfermline, was chosen from 1,200 nurses who work with the charity across the country. Ten years ago Helen and her husband, Douglas, returned from six years service with the BMS in Zaire. There, he played a role in building new headquarters for the Baptist Community of the River Zaire (CBFZ) in Kinshasa. Now she works two nights a

week in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Edinburgh, and is always on standby call for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

When she is not nursing, Helen is missionary secretary for the Fife Baptist Association and convenor of the Overseas Christian Mission.

Of the honour she is modest and says the best way she can glorify God is by doing her job and giving her patients the best care. She says: "There are many people in this kind of job who aren't Christians. Having a Christian faith gives me deep spiritual resources that I can take into people's homes." ●

PICTURE: Dunfermline Press

**Partnership dissolved**

The eight-year partnership between BMS and the El Salvador Baptist Association (ABES) has been dissolved by the General Committee. The decision follows a breakdown in relationship two years ago.

"We have written to ABES but we've had no

response," BMS Operations Director David Martin told General Committee.

The BMS and ABES partnership dates from 1988 but in 1993, as the civil war there subsided, there was a change in Baptist association leadership.

"These were leaders with



# Flight from the rebels

SPECIAL REPORT: **SAM GIBSON** SPEAKS TO BMS COLLEAGUES **ADRIAN** AND **SYLVIA HOPKINS** AIRLIFTED FROM TROUBLE-TORN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

different ideas and approaches to those who had signed the partnership agreement," said David. "They dissociated themselves from all expatriate missions."

Churches which were excluded by ABES in its shake-up formed the Baptist Federation of El Salvador and it is with this body that BMS colleagues David and Rachel Quinney-Mee have been working.

David Martin said: "It is with great sadness and regret that we break this relationship." ●

## BMS creates a winning combination

A drive to get more BMS supporters praying for people involved in world mission sees the society's popular prayer guide go free next year in a move which links it more closely to the *mh* (Missionary Herald).

The annual BMS Prayer Guide has a 10,000 distribution, of which 4,500 copies are paid for. The new-look guide will be published every four months and be distributed free with *mh*, which has an 18,000 circulation.

At the same time, the publication frequency of *mh* will be moved to two-monthly.

Managing editor Richard Wells said: "Our research showed people would rather have *mh* monthly or bi-monthly, not nine times a year. Monthly publication would be too costly and overstretch our staff resources; six times a year will give us scope for further development and build on what readers tell us is an excellent publication." ●

Home Assignment came three months earlier than expected for BMS workers Adrian and Sylvia Hopkins when they were forced to flee the Central African Republic (CAR) at the beginning of June.

On 25 May, after a short-lived mutiny apparently over unpaid wages, civil war erupted in the capital, Bangui, between the Presidential Guard and the Guard of the previous President. Killing, looting and burning of businesses in the city centre followed and rebel soldiers began to move to other areas of the country.

Adrian and Sylvia, at home in Bossangoa, 300km north of Bangui, heard of these events the following day. While their town was mostly calm, Adrian began travelling on foot to safeguard his car after rebels commandeered a colleague's vehicle.

Fighting around Bangui intensified and the French Army Rapid Reaction Force moved in to protect the lives of more than 3,000 expatriates in the city. Evacuation began three days later.

On the same day, the government requested the intervention of the French military but this sparked anti-French and European feeling among ordinary people, who, up to that point, had not taken sides. Angry rebel forces advised expatriates to leave the country, regarding all foreigners as the enemy.

The next day, aid workers in Bossangoa, including Adrian and Sylvia, received word from their organisations to stand by to be removed.

Sylvia says: "One of the most difficult things was going around the house and thinking what were your priorities if you could only take so much. What were the things that you would take that you didn't want other people going through or destroying? We both had different priorities."

The French descended upon Bossangoa on Sunday

afternoon. Soldiers fanned out around the plane threatening people standing close by. Within minutes, the plane was loaded with the 60 or so expatriates from the town and was taking off again to the military base at Bangui for the night.

At the base, the evacuees were fed military battle rations. Adrian says: "French rations are not quite what you imagine them to be. We had paté and chocolate biscuits and all sorts of wonderful things that we couldn't finish eating!"

From Bangui they reached the Gabon and flew home to Britain on Monday 3 June, nine days after fighting had broken out.

The country remains tense and the underlying issues which caused the mutiny have not been resolved but Adrian and Sylvia have since returned to the Central African Republic and will be back in Britain this month for their "real" home assignment.

Their work continues although the breakdown of much of the country's infrastructure will make life difficult. Government funds are exhausted and many civil servants have not been paid for several months. It seems likely there will be no school this year for the third time since 1990.

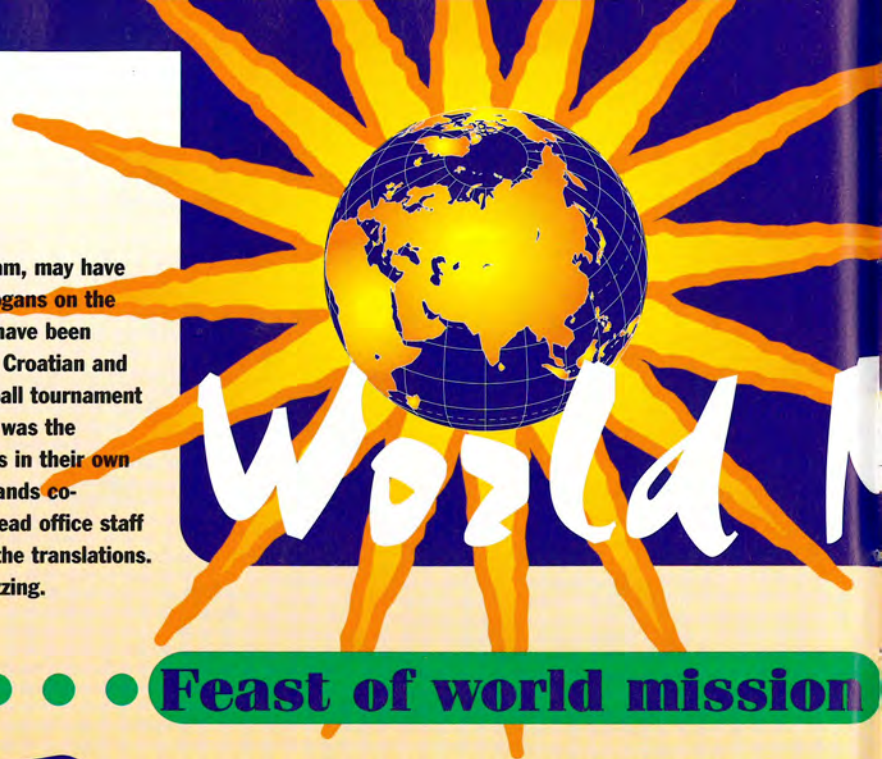
An injection of money from the IMF, planned for June, would have helped to pay salary arrears but it appears that the mutiny was timed to prevent this and so undermine the government.

**Adrian and Sylvia are BMS personnel seconded to the Christoffel Blinden Mission, an international and inter-denominational fellowship dedicated to serving blind and otherwise disabled people in developing countries. Adrian works on the Central African Republic's river blindness control and prevention project and is a medical consultant for the central African region. Sylvia teaches the children of expatriate workers too young to be sent away for education.●**



## Slogan for the soccer crowds

Passers by at Daybrook Baptist Church, Nottingham, may have been bemused by an array of foreign language slogans on the notice board outside. But they would have been understood by Portuguese, Turkish, Croatian and Danish visitors to the Euro 96 football tournament matches being played in the city. It was the church's way of reaching the crowds in their own languages but not before BMS Midlands co-ordinator Theo Lambourne and BMS head office staff Mandy Ponting and Breda Smith had researched the translations. They certainly set the church office telephone buzzing.

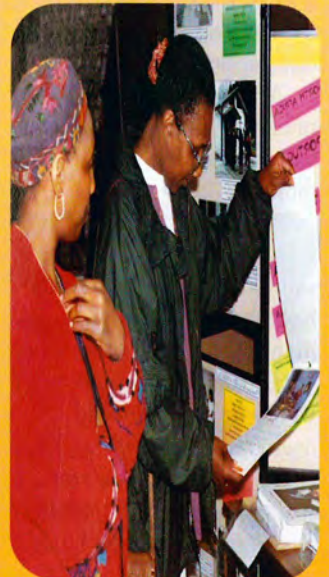


## Feast of world mission

BAPTIST CHURCHES THROUGHOUT BRITAIN HAVE BEEN CELEBRATING THE WORK OF WORLD MISSION, AND *mb* DROPPED IN ON A FEW OF THEM

Whether it was an anniversary, assembly or family weekend, the work of the BMS in making Jesus known worldwide was high on the agendas of many Baptist churches this summer.

Mission events, involving BMS General Director Reg Harvey, BUGB President John James, BMS head office staff and missionaries from around the world, kept people informed with up-to-date presentations.



### Dates for your diary

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

#### Presidential tour

In September and October Carolyn Green will continue her national tour in the South Eastern and London Area. At the Cutting Edge - Celebration of Mission  
**Saturday 14 September at Brighton Road Baptist Church, Horsham, West Sussex. Friday 11 October at Haven Green Baptist Church, Ealing, west London. Saturday 19 October at Trinity Baptist Church, Bexleyheath, south-east London.**  
 Details: Derek Mucklow 0181 393 6017

#### Other dates

- 10 September Tuesday**  
Worcester Women's Rally at Sansome Walk  
Details: Lavinia Hand 01527 520136
- 14 September Saturday**  
Lancashire and Cheshire Autumn Family Day, Wrexham  
Details: Cath Mawson 01274 487341
- 10-13 September**  
WMA Bilingual Conference at Swansea University Conference Centre. Theme - God's Secret Plan  
Details: Delyth Wyn Davies 01766 512957
- 21 September Saturday**  
Shropshire Women's Auxiliary Rally at Ludlow  
Details: Ivy Jones 01952 506933
- 27-29 September**  
Nottingham BMS Support Group Children's Weekend "WOW be a Globetrotter", at Mansfield Road, Nottingham  
Details: Joan Manicom 0115 962 3235
- 12-13 October**  
Hull District Mission Weekend, focus on Zimbabwe  
Details: Cath Mawson 01274 487341

Sept 96

World Mission for Churches



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

# Mission Link



Scenes from mission events around the churches

Not only that, they served to strengthen links with church work overseas and to challenge church members in the UK about the importance of sharing the gospel with other nations.

At Gateshead, in the north of England, the focus of a Northern Association family day was on the Fellowship of British Baptists – the body comprising representatives of the BMS and the three Baptist unions in Great Britain.

John James and Reg Harvey were joined by Jackie Sheppard (BUGB), Cath Mawson (BMS Co-ordinator for the North), Peter Price (BUGB), BMS missionary Chris Spencer and a team from Alnwick who led seminars, while Phil Marsden, BMS Youth and Children's Co-ordinator, and the Albania 28:19 BMS Action Team ran an all-day youth programme.

Margaret Barnett, Northern BMS Auxiliary secretary said: "They brought a challenge to all of us about the importance of mission at home and abroad."

Bexhill-on-Sea Baptist Church, East Sussex, used its centenary year to hold an exhibition with neighbouring congregations from Sidley and Pevensey Bay, demonstrating their links with the church overseas.



Using videos, displays, young people's activities and drama the 200 visitors saw how the power of the gospel is breaking the bonds of poverty, disease and spiritual darkness.

The work of BMS link missionaries Colin and Marcia Pavitt, in Brazil, and Prema Tennekoon, in Albania, was presented along with displays of



activity in the Middle East and Kampuchea (Cambodia), and links between the Sidley congregation and a Baptist family in France were celebrated when visitors sampled fare in a "French restaurant".

In Shropshire, Baptists converged on Bridgnorth for a programme led by BMS church planter Kevin Donaghy, back from Toledo, Brazil, BMS Midlands Co-ordinator Theo Lambourne and BMS World Mission Link Organiser Audrey Rowland.

Hosted by Bridgnorth pastor Ray Gill, the programme gave visitors the choice of a presentation on Brazil from Kevin, a video news report from Nepal made by **mb** Managing Editor Richard Wells and a recorded satellite link with a girl in Zaire.

Problem-solving sessions challenged visitors to motivate people for mission, to get them to pray and to give. A quiz was won by Marie Instone, of Madeley Baptist Church.

The West Midlands summer assembly, at Acocks Green,

Birmingham, heard an address on Body and Soul – the Wholeness of Mission, by the new president, Glen Gordon.

Seminars involved BMS colleague Mike Wilson, who heads development work in Trapia, Brazil, and the association's Asian missionary, Jay Chauhan, who explored the character of the

British Asian community, while reporting sessions were held on a partnership mission to Birmingham, Alabama, and Shirley Baptist Church members' links with Romania.

At Oxlow Lane Baptist Church, Dagenham, east London, Phil Marsden again took the stage with a WOW programme for 50 children at the Havering and Dagenham Baptist Missionary Fellowship family weekend.

Meanwhile the 11 churches in the fellowship each set up a garden party stall.

It was one of three events this year highlighting Nepal to raise £1,000 towards a PIPs project to support BMS missionaries David and Catherine McLellan. So far £955 has been raised. ●

## Dear Audrey...

Is your church in a Link-Up group? Are you enjoying being Linked? Is it a good experience? Here is what some of the letters in my postbag have said about Link-Up

I am happy to say that the Link-Up Scheme has been a resounding success so far as our church is concerned - and I dare to think that our missionaries have felt its real benefits too. Yes, it was good to meet our Link-Up missionaries but we also feel that something very positive has been achieved by the four churches working together.

The Church Leaders Lunch was especially helpful in allowing for an interchange of ideas. It was really encouraging to receive positive feedback from the missionaries about our efforts. We also appreciated their concern for us and how they could support us in the future.

Having an on-going relationship with a missionary has been really helpful to the small churches in our group.

We've found the scheme so much better than the old hit and miss' missionary weekends.

Link-Up is, of course, only one part of the World Mission Link programme. The programme is there to help churches and individuals, small groups and large groups, to get involved in world mission. If you want to know more do contact us. ●



**EUROPE** Western European countries are seeing an alarming growth in the number of dangerous cults on the approach to the new millennium, say evangelical observers. For several years, they say, cults in eastern European countries have thrived where religious traditions are weak. Researchers now say that as many as 15 cults dedicated to Satanic worship exist in Italy. Elsewhere in Europe, there has been a sharp rise, in the number of cults sprouting up around right-wing or extreme political leaders. The Vatican has instructed clergy to become more familiar with signs of alienation and delusion which often lead people to join cults as a cure for their problems. (EBPS)

**MEXICO** Church workers in the Mexican village of Bachajon endured weeks of terror following a riot in which six people were killed. It started when residents, protesting against abuse of power by the paramilitary group Chinchulines, were prevented from returning to their village following a meeting in May. Violence erupted and the Chinchulines leader was killed. Houses were torched, a Catholic church firebombed and rampagers stormed a Jesuit home. In the weeks that followed, Chinchulines ransacked the houses of people who had fled in fear. Church workers say they have been closely watched and several have been threatened. Reports say that the government is refusing to intervene. (LAP)

**AMERICA** A team of five evangelists from the USA and South Africa took advantage of Olympic fever to share the gospel as they cycled to the site of the 1996 games. They completed a cross-country style marathon from California to Atlanta, cycling an average of 85 miles a day and stopping to share their faith at churches and youth groups along the way. On arrival in Atlanta, several members joined in the Youth With a Mission international Olympics outreach bringing together thousands of Christians from around the world for three weeks of prayer, evangelism and community service projects around the games. (YWAM News)

**LIBERIA** Twelve international aid agencies spent summer limiting their work in war-torn Liberia to life-saving interventions following massive looting of aid material by factions tearing the country apart. They estimate that agencies in Liberia lost more than 400 vehicles, equipment and resources worth US\$35 million as well as thousands of tonnes of material aid. Looting and abuse has been rife since 1991 but the situation rapidly deteriorated in April when faction leaders encouraged young people to rob international aid agencies as well as their own families and neighbours. (ENI)

News in brief

Sea of declaration

Seven new Christians made a declaration of their faith in the sea off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, in a baptismal service led by missionary Josia Tambunan. His work in Medan is part of the evangelistic thrust by the Kerapatan Gereja Baptis Indonesia (Convention of Indonesian Baptist Churches) which is being supported financially by BMS. Funds from Britain help to keep missionaries in Medan, Kabanjahe and Bandar Lampung, as well as five theological students in seminaries. The convention's vision is to evangelise all of Indonesia's 13,000 islands, which have a population of 180 million. The 2,000-member convention has started work to plant a church in every district of the nation's 27 provinces.●

Holiday from the fallout



Children from the nuclear fallout blackspots around Chernobyl are fostering fond memories of healthy holidays with Baptists across Europe.

For the past few years, the European Baptist Federation has sponsored a children's health improvement programme called Children of Chernobyl. Groups of up to 30 from areas most affected by radiation are hosted for up to a month by Baptist churches and members.

Studies have shown that even a few weeks away from the Chernobyl area has a beneficial effect on the health of the children.

The first group of 1996 – children aged between nine and 17 – arrived bewildered in Hamburg, Germany, at the end of May to stay with Christian hosts, few of whom were able to speak any Russian or Belarussian.

Even fewer children spoke German or English but by the end of their month-long stay, firm relationships had been formed which will continue, at least by correspondence, for many years.

Children of Chernobyl is an on-going programme. It is said the radiation will continue for decades, perhaps for centuries.● (EBPS)

FOREIGN NEWS



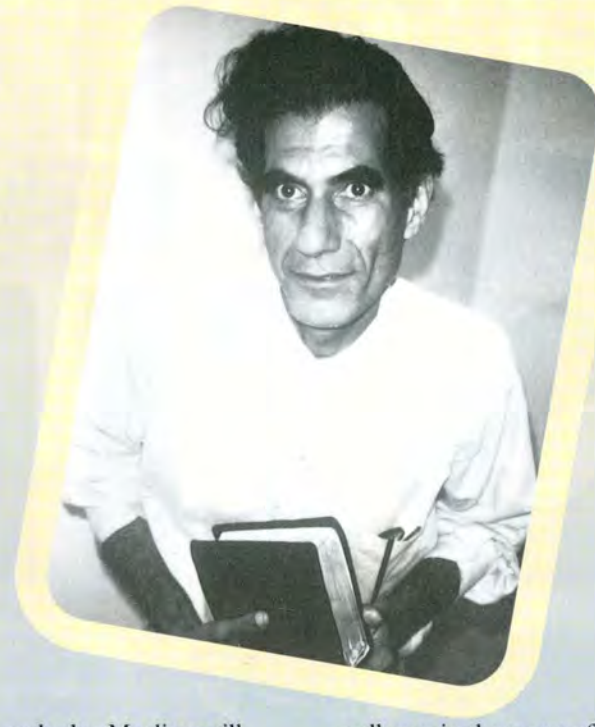
## Christian faces death for Christ

Christians across Britain have been mobilised to action to help save the life of a Kuwaiti believer facing death for his faith.

Hussein Qambar Ali (44) now called Robert Hussein, became a Christian after obeying a commandment in the Koran which urges Muslims to read the Bible. After publicly announcing his conversion in December 1995, his wife filed for divorce and Islamic lawyers opened a case to have him officially declared apostate from Islam (one who has turned from his beliefs).

Quoting Islamic religious law, the Shari'a family court ruled that apostates should be killed: "the Imam [supreme Muslim ruler] should kill him without chance to repent." After the hearing, a member of Parliament and an Islamic leader both demanded Robert's death.

Legally, the Shari'a court has no authority to issue the death penalty. A spokesman for the Kuwait embassy said "Changing one's religion in Kuwait is not a crime. Under Kuwaiti constitution, Mr Hussein – or any citizen of any religion – is entitled to the full protection of the law and the Kuwaiti authorities against any threat or danger." However, many



orthodox Muslims still consider apostasy a capital offence. Following the hearing, Robert said, "This gives the green light for any one to kill me in the street."

Robert has lost his building business, is unable to see his children and is in hiding for fear of his life. Reports, denied by the Kuwait embassy, say that his passport has been taken from him although he says he has no wish to flee the country. Robert has been granted leave to appeal against his conviction on the basis that apostasy is not a civil offence. His hearing will be heard on 15 September but even if his claim is upheld, he could

well remain the target of Islamic fundamentalists. Support for Robert has come from a number of areas thanks to Christian groups publicising his story and individual Christians acting on his behalf. An Internet page set up by an anonymous group to provide up to date information on the case, received more than 2,000 visitors in its first two weeks of operation. People across the world have been using the site to send messages of encouragement to Robert and to petition politicians as well as the Kuwaiti government on his behalf. The site offers Muslims around the world the

opportunity to comment on the case. The variety of replies show that there is no clear consensus of opinion over the issue of apostasy.

The sheer volume of letters from over 6,000 individual British Christians to the Kuwait Embassy caused press and politicians to take note. Issues of *The Times* carrying articles on Robert were banned from Kuwait and his case was raised in an Early Day Motion before Parliament followed by a letter to the Kuwait Embassy from a group of British MPs urging the intervention of the Kuwaiti government to guarantee religious freedom.

There's still time to support Robert's appeal by writing to the Kuwaiti Embassy asking the ambassador to intervene to protect the reputation of the Kuwaiti constitution and drawing his attention to Article 35/37 in which the constitution guarantees religious freedom. Write to: Mr Khaled Al-Duwaisan, The Ambassador, Embassy of the State of Kuwait, 45-46 Queens Gate, London, SW7 5HR.

For up to the minute information on Robert's cases, visit his web site at <http://www.domini.org/hussein/home.htm> ●

## Water challenge!

The failure of the winter monsoon rains, which has left Sri Lanka's reservoirs more than two thirds empty, means Baptist churches there have had to exercise more

care... over baptismal services.

The delay in the summer monsoon has heightened the water crisis but resourceful Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church, in central

Colombo, remained calm.

Faced with the challenge of baptising six believers, leaders planned a two-part service. One part they held in the church. Then the whole congregation trooped through the city to the seashore – and the service continued. ●





# Shaken

# and Stirr

**GARY PRITCHARD**  
STORY OF ONE MAN'S  
TACKLE A 'MISSION IM



But it was in his GCHQ days that he first realised his unique gifting could be used for God. "I felt this was an ideal opportunity to use my gifts for the Lord – my ministry, if you like" said John.

So in the 60s, he offered his services to the BMS to help develop a communications network to remote outposts. It was a crucial arm of the work.

The string of Baptist churches established along Africa's River Zaire stretched over hundreds of miles and that was a big headache for anyone arranging supplies.

However, no amount of research or orientation could prepare John for the culture shock of his first African trip. "I had no idea of the scale of the operation," he recalls, "until I landed in Zaire with a suitcase full of equipment – to be told my connecting flight would arrive some time in the next few days."

Those regular trips would often end with the plane landing somewhere completely different to the intended destination.

But the tiring journeys, on which John was often accompanied by his wife, Margaret, carried their own rewards. Locals would respond with delight as their newly installed short-wave radios crackled into life.

It was an unbelievable experience for the villagers, who had only ever ventured a few miles from their home. Says John: "They have a word for

**J**ohn Corbett is like a James Bond character. He's developed sophisticated "secret appliances" for the British security cause. He's had to hack his way not only through the airwaves but also through dense jungle.

You even have to negotiate a hazardous pathway to his remote Herefordshire cottage.

But that's where the analogy ends. For this modest English gentleman's mission in life is not to outwit Goldfinger but to do God's will.

Now 64, John spent more than 30 years of his working life at GCHQ – the Cheltenham-based nerve centre for the British Government's security operations. There he became a highly trained expert in top secret aspects – including the development of sophisticated communication networks.

That was all a long way from his humble beginnings as a radio ham, building wireless sets from scratch. He also had a stint in the RAF – where those amateur talents were honed into highly specialised skills.

TOP: Short-wave radio communications in Zaire

ABOVE: John Corbett testing, testing.



TELLS THE GRIPPING  
O-STYLE VISION TO  
POSSIBLE'

# ed



geography—'mpoto'—which means 'the land beyond the village'. So the ability to speak to people hundreds of miles away was quite amazing for them."

John and Margaret became aware their wireless revolution could accidentally introduce unhelpful aspects of western life. "It was important to maintain the integrity of the local culture," says John. "Our aim was to bring vital communication links – not to invade their way of life."

That became a delicate process, with the new radio technology providing a far more accurate means of vital

communication. Historically, the Africans had used "talking drums" to relay messages from village to village, a carefully crafted low-tech sound system consisting of a hollowed-out tree trunk.

However, those messages were often misinterpreted – with sometimes comic results. "One day a message came via the drums that the doctor was dead," said John. "But it turned out to be a misread code that was actually saying the Land Rover was dead!"

Many organisations have sought John's help because of the skills and experience he has accumulated over the years. His technical manual – Where

There Is No Telephone – was ordered by the United Nations to cope with communication problems in the Bosnia-Croatia war. To date, that has been distributed to all five continents.

John's work has also often proved a lifesaver. As reports of the lethal Ebola virus and resulting deaths in Zaire last year began to pour in, John swiftly set up a satellite link to the World Health Organisation. They were then able to prevent the spread of infection.

Without John's crucial role, a higher death toll would have been likely.

Yet John takes it all in modest style.

"I just used my skills to assemble the system at home using my amateur licence," says John.

"Then we shipped it out within days of the first reports coming through."

John's determination to submit his abilities to God's service in Africa has left an indelible mark on his life. The legacy of those trips comprises many stories and happy memories. But it is the villagers' generosity that really springs to mind.

"We were constantly bowled over by the overwhelming kindness of the people," says John. "We often received gifts of food that were desperately scarce and which they required for their

own needs. We learned far more about Christian love from them than they ever did from us."

John's work has taken him to places he had never heard or dreamed of, but if one aspect has stood out, it has been his ability to embrace new technologies and apply them to simple domestic needs. And even though now retired from GCHQ, he has no intention of retiring from applying his special knowledge to God's work.

His new project is to link the jungles of Africa with the Internet. He plans to connect keyboards to the existing communications equipment, then via satellite links to the 'net.

"It sounds ambitious," he says, "but I don't see why the opportunities the Internet offers shouldn't be utilised by the villagers in Africa."

Pioneers to the last, John and Margaret prove that with God and total dedication, there's no such thing as a mission impossible.

Gary Pritchard is a freelance journalist based in South Wales. He is currently undertaking a media studies course.

**That proved to be a key component in stabilising the ebola situation.**



TOP: Putting a solar panel on the roof to charge a battery to run the radio at Yakambo-Koi

ABOVE: John and Margaret Corbett turned their Kinshasa flat into a communications workshop.



# country in focus

# FRANCE

## JAN KENDALL GIVES AN OVERVIEW OF FRANCE

**F**rance is the third largest country in Europe after Russia and the Ukraine. It is one of the world's most cultured and sophisticated nations. For centuries French was the language of diplomacy and educated people throughout the world looked to musicians like Berlioz, Saint-Saëns and Bizet, and artists such as Degas, Cézanne, Monet, Renoir and Toulouse-Lautrec for inspiration. Today French is the first language of 115 million people worldwide.

Although France is a large country, it is not densely populated. It is

traditionally thought of as being rural, with large areas of farmland producing fruit and vegetables, meat, cheese and wine. The demographic balance is changing, however, with people more likely to work in a factory, an office or a shop than on the land. Although there are still approximately one million farms in France today, over half of the farmers are aged 50 or over and are without a younger family member to take over the running of them.

France is one of the core members of the EC, and its common agricultural policy has enriched many French farmers, but has also contributed to

mountains of butter and lakes of milk and wine.

At the height of the Reformation in the 16th century, 48% of the population was Protestant. Persecution of the Huguenots in the 17th and 18th centuries reduced this to the present 2%.

Today France is a secular state with freedom of religion; 68% of the population is nominally Catholic but only 13% regularly attend mass. It was the French Revolution of 1789 that stripped the Church of its power and influence, and this can be seen today in the values held by the people generally.



The Church outlaws contraception and abortion; the state legalised contraception in 1967 and abortion in 1974. One in four marriages end in divorce. There are 22 abortions for every 100 births.

More than 43 million of the 57 million population have no real link with a Christian church and many large cities often have only a handful of evangelical churches. Having said that, growth among evangelicals has been steady, doubling between 1965 and 1990. Over 1,000 evangelical churches have been planted in the past 20 years. Pentecostals have grown the fastest, tripling their membership over the same period – much of this growth has been among the Gipsy community.

BMS currently has five couples working in France. ●

## Facts and figures France

**Area:** 551,500 sq km  
**Capital:** Paris (pop. 10,660,000)  
**Population:** 57,188,000 (1995)  
**Annual population growth:** 0.36%  
**Children per woman:** 1.8 (1991)

### People groups

French 75%, International minorities 14% (North African, Middle Eastern, Other European), Regional minorities 10% (Breton, Alsatian, Flemish, Basque, Corsican, Catalan), Others 1% (Jews, West Indian Antillean, Gypsy).

### Religion

Christian 71% (of which Catholic 68%, Protestant 2% and Orthodox 1%), Non-religious 19%, Muslim 8%, Jews 1%, Others 1% (Buddhist, Chinese religions, cults).

**Languages:** French

**Literacy:** 99%

### Health

One doctor for 350 people (1990)  
 Under five mortality: Nine per 1000 (1991)  
 Calorie consumption: 143% of required intake (1988-90)

### Communications

208 newspapers, 407 TV sets and 888 radio receivers per 1000 people





# CROSS Channel links

One of the highlights of mission work overseas is the appearance of a friendly face from back home. Missionaries look forward with eager anticipation to visits by friends and relatives, who drop in while on holiday.

This may be difficult in remote parts of Nepal or far-flung places like Brazil or Thailand – these are not the most popular holiday destinations. But if it's as close as France, a hop across the English Channel is much more straightforward.

And that is just what a group from Zion Baptist Church at Creech St Michael, Taunton, Somerset, did last year. Their Link-up missionaries, John and Sue Wilson, welcomed them with open arms when they offered to cross the Channel, not for a holiday, but to give them a hand in their work at the Baptist church in Morsang-sur-Orge.

Some of them toured the area delivering leaflets while others got involved with jobs around the church building – one of them was to convert a toilet into a shower room so that visiting teams could stay.

When a contingent from Hornchurch Baptist Church, Essex, paid a visit to their Link-up missionaries, Robert and Catherine Atkins, in Toulouse, it was an obstinate reinforced concrete pillar that became the centre of DIY attention. The pastor, Paul Merton, led a “demolition team” of members confident of flooring the slab in half a day but it wasn't long before they realised their pneumatic efforts would extend into day two . . . and possibly three.

And there are other stories. One couple have bought shares in a cross-Channel ferry company so that they enjoy half-price fares – a great incentive for dropping in on their Link-up missionary. ●

**BOTTOM LEFT:**  
Helping with the  
shower conversion  
(Photo: Tandem TV)





THEY MAY BE SMALL IN NUMBER BUT FRENCH BAPTISTS HAVE A BIG OUTLOOK ON MISSION, WRITES **PHIL HALLIDAY**

## Going big on mission

**T**he French Baptists are a missionary people, engaged in mission at home and abroad.

There were only 30 Baptist churches in the whole country when the French Baptist Union founded the European Baptist Mission (EBM) in 1954 along with the Swiss and German Baptists.

The needs in France were enormous but that did not prevent the French from looking beyond their own borders to the rest of the world.

The first country to which the EBM sent missionaries was the former mission field of the German Baptists, Cameroon. The work spread to Sierra Leone in 1965, to South America in 1979, to the Central African Republic in 1984, to Mozambique in 1992 and, two years ago, to Guinea.

This year the EBM sent missionaries to South Africa.

Today the EBM comprises the Baptist unions of 12 European countries and, overseas, the work of more than 50 missionaries.

They work in:

- Churches, as pastors, chaplains and evangelists.
- Hospitals, as doctors, midwives, nurses and tutors.
- Schools, as teachers, headmasters and educational consultants.
- Agriculture, as advisers and foremen.
- Construction, as engineers, craftsmen and architects.
- Theological education, as lecturers, translators and writers.

Of these, more than 20 per cent are French. There are currently 11 adults and 13 children from France serving with the EBM, all in Cameroon and the Central African Republic.

The Baptist churches in north Cameroon have experienced great blessing and dramatic growth in the past three decades. In 1964 there were

only 38 church members; 32 years later, there are more than 15,000.

French missionaries are involved largely in training church leaders but there is also a development programme which includes medical and agricultural help.

Baptist churches in the Central African Republic are also enjoying rapid growth. In the early 1980s, when French missionaries were invited to help, there were 14 churches and 8,000 members. Two years ago, this number had risen to 170 churches and membership was 55,000. Here French missionaries were also involved in training church leaders at all levels.

At this year's French Baptist Assembly in May, the president of the Missionary Commission spoke of "striking statistics". He pointed out that the French Baptists were sending missionaries to African countries where the Baptist unions were 10 times larger than the French Baptist Union.

But there was no suggestion of withdrawal or talk about greater needs at home. Rather, there was a call to more genuine partnership, as they learn from the African church, and a challenge for French Baptists to rise up and take the gospel to the countries in the "10/40 window" - those between latitude 10deg.N and 40deg.N where there is the greatest concentration of unreached people.

As in 1954, the needs in France are enormous - only 0.6% of the nation are evangelical Christians and there are only 110 Baptist churches - but French Baptists are still looking beyond their own borders to the rest of the world, seeking to fulfil the great commission of their Lord Jesus Christ.



Phil and Rosemary Halliday are working with the BMS in pastoral work in Massy, a suburb of Paris.

# Get Real

That's the challenge being presented to young people by the BMS this autumn. "Get Real" is the title of an outrageous new roadshow which aims to challenge young people in their teens and twenties to put their faith into action and get involved in world mission. During October and November, BMS Youth and Children's Co-ordinator Phil Marsden and a special 28:19 UK Action Team made up of young people from overseas will present the show at eight different venues throughout the UK.

Music, drama, testimonies and video will all be used in the fast moving, interactive presentation, and features such as the Mad Half Hour and The Toilet are sure to leave people flushed with laughter!

"We want to encourage young people to catch hold of God's vision for their lives," says Phil. "Everyone has a part to play in world mission, whether it's praying, giving, going or a combination of all three, and we want to challenge young people to lay their lives before God and make themselves totally available to be used by him."

For further details about the event nearest to you, contact your local organiser as found on the back page of this month's magazine.

### New Year House Party

If you're aged 18+ why not celebrate 'Hogmanay' in style at our New Year House Party. Phil Marsden and Derek Clark will be hosting this special three day event with wacky games, powerful prayer, a ceilidh and the midnight bells! The event takes place at the Atholl Centre, Pitlochry in Scotland from 31 December 1996 to 2 January 1997. The cost is £48 full board and all bookings should be made via Helen Hamilton at the BU office in Scotland (Tel: 0141 423 6169).



FRANCE - IT'S NOT REALLY A MISSION FIELD, IS IT? **THE PARIS ACTION TEAM** EXPLAIN WHY THEY DISAGREE.

# France The Paris Action Team

**M**ost people, if you ask them to guess where we were working as missionaries for the past seven months, say Africa or poor countries, not realising that we are, in the West, a great mission field ourselves. We, that is David, Oliver, Barney and Margaret, were sent to France to work alongside a missionary couple in a Baptist church 20 km south of Paris in the 'banlieue'. We faced the daily difficulties, not of poverty or strange diets but of modernised culture where the public are more concerned with buying the latest car or wearing the latest fashion than they are with God. In fact, religious education is forbidden in schools and, instead, they learn philosophy, which has created an intellectual, individualised nation leaving spiritual welfare sadly lacking.

So, imagine our joy when, after a couple of months' work abroad, we entertained about seventy Parisiens for a traditional English Christmas dinner, over half of whom were non-Christians. They went away not only having eaten well but also having laughed, sung, played games and been exposed to the gospel. Some of these friends even wanted to come back to church having discovered there was more to our faith.

Most of our work though, was far less glamorous. The church we were working with is only about eight years old and has suffered from a lot of illnesses and needed all the encouragement we could give. We took part in their services and weekly meetings, as well as helping decorate the church building so that they had more pleasant surroundings in which to worship God.

It was difficult to witness to God in a community where there was no real centre and shutters were closed over windows at about 8.00pm as families settled down for their evening meal. This certainly taught us the need to persevere and to pray for the folk we met. All of us could tell you that our devotional lives have developed as we have had to place our trust in God. On Easter Saturday, we had a concert

where Pascal Tonzet and his friend sang and shared the good news. Just days before it took place, we had hardly sold a ticket. On the night only 20-30 people turned up. At first we were disappointed. After all the work and prayer we had put into the event, how could God allow us only twenty people? We realised, however, that God is in control and quantity is not always what counts. He often sees things in a different way to us and although numbers were small, they were richly blessed!

One of our main projects which brought us in touch with people outside the church was the schools work. We must have sung 'Heads, shoulders, knees and toes' more times this year than in our childhood and it certainly gave us exercise for the week! We fairly sneakily performed two Christian music mimes on our last day in the schools as an illustration of communicating a message but otherwise our faith was being shown purely by our actions.

As a result of the seven months, we can testify to certain changes in our lives. Our muscles developed as we moved heavy pews in and out of the church; our French improved from stumbling through bible readings to preaching

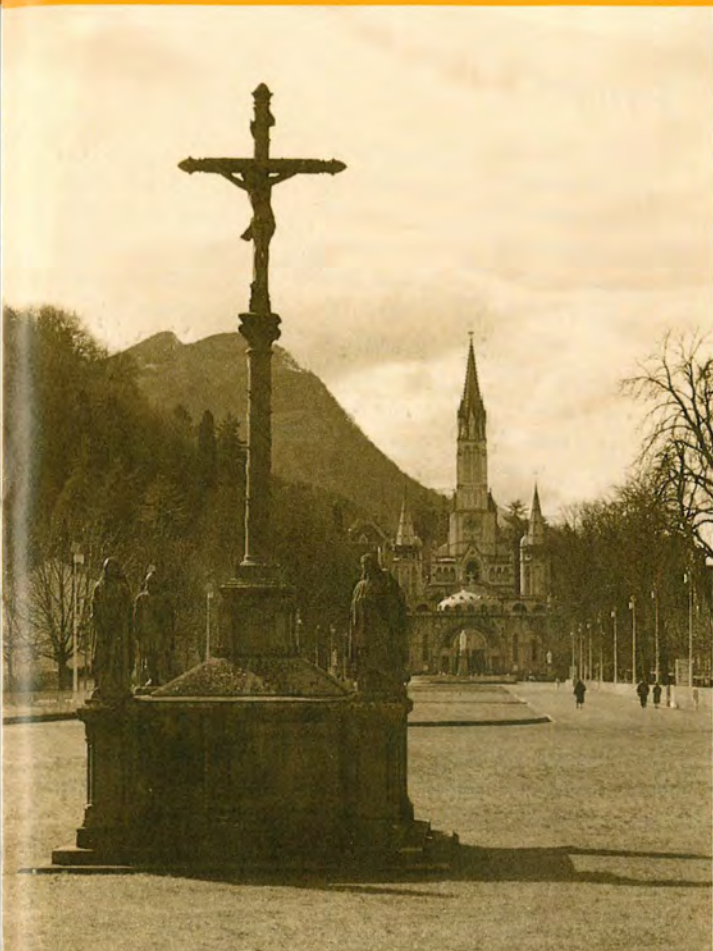
sermons; our culinary horizons broadened; and, of course, our parents' telephone bills shot up! We saw not only the sights of Paris but also some of the difficulties involved in being a missionary over there. It is isolating being a Christian at times and especially abroad it requires real determination and persistence, yet our faith gave us the assurance that we were where the Lord wanted us to be. This was really important at difficult times when nothing seemed to be happening and we all returned thankful for our friends and family who supported us and determined to pray for the country we have left behind.

We believe God has great plans for France. Though we might not have reaped a harvest whilst we were there, we sowed seeds and trust that God will bring them to fruition in His own good time. ●

**It is difficult to witness to God in a community where there is no real centre and shutters are closed at 8.00pm**







**“We believe God has great plans for France”**

**Team:**  
**Oliver Campbell - Smith**  
**Barney Green**  
**Margaret Sharman**  
**David Stevenson**





# TAKE 2

## Ten things you didn't know about the developing world

- 1 Calories from an animal origin make up on average only 6% of an African's diet. The corresponding figure for the rest of the world is 33%.<sup>1</sup>
- 2 Tropical forests cover 7% of the earth's land surface, but contain at least half of the earth's plant and animal species. Deforestation continues on average worldwide at 0.6% per year.<sup>1</sup>
- 3 In one year 30% of Calcutta's electricity was stolen – by squatters taking it from overhead cables.<sup>2</sup>
- 4 In 1992, according to the World Bank, Mozambique was referred to as the world's poorest country.<sup>2</sup>
- 5 In Bangladesh it is not unusual for one toilet to be shared by 50 families.<sup>1</sup>
- 6 95% of Bangladesh's development programmes are financed from abroad, and 95% of the country's budget is taken up in interest payments on its foreign debt.<sup>1</sup>
- 7 The indigenous peoples of Brazil are being decimated by diseases unknown to them until now – carried by people looking for metals, and the police who attack and murder them.<sup>1</sup>
- 8 A quarter of Bulgaria's woodland is suffering from the effects of air pollution.<sup>1</sup>
- 9 80% of people in Zaire are malnourished.<sup>2</sup>
- 10 The Thai government has recently clamped down on farmers whose main crop was opium poppies. This has made it harder for the people to buy everyday things like rice as well as luxuries from Western culture such as radios, plates, plastic washing up bowls and tinned meat.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Taken from *The World, A Third World Guide 1995/96*, published by Instituto del Tercer Mundo

<sup>2</sup> Taken from *Reader's Digest Guide to Places of the World, 1995*



## Prayer

Lord,  
When I open a door, open my heart's door;  
When I wash clothes, wash my heart;  
When I sweep, sweep my heart clean;  
When I use oil, make me wise like the wise virgins;  
When I light a lamp, give me light in my heart.

Lord, if I build a wall, make my faith as strong as a house;  
If I tend a tree, give me more fruits of the spirit;  
If I tend sheep, look after me like a lamb;  
If I sow seed, sow Your good seed in my heart;  
If I write characters, write my name in heaven;  
If I draw water, give me living water.

(Based on a Chinese prayer)

## Last call for ROOTS TO LIFE

Harvest festivals are nearly upon us, and if the lot has fallen upon you to organise something, and you haven't, it's not too late to order this year's Operation Agri BMM & BMS joint Harvest Appeal ROOTS TO LIFE. This pack contains drama, worship ideas, children's and young people's material, OHPs and other ideas to help you help others. Each pack costs £5 (cheques made payable to Operation Agri BMM) and is available only from Operation Agri BMM, 14 Church Road, Newbold, Rochdale, Lancs OL16 5PU.

## Baptist Youth making stand for justice and peace

It can often appear in our churches that Justice and Peace issues are taken up only by those over 40. Younger people share the same concerns, but don't always know about the right channels to motivate others or get things done.

Steve Blunden, the Association of Baptist Youth (ABY) Justice and Peace officer, has recently started a justice and peace group for Baptist youth. It's called Micah 6:8, and costs £5 a year to join.

Its first newsletter contains updates on Nestlé baby milk, El Salvador and beef eating; it also invites its members to write to the President of El Salvador, about the murder of Hector Recinos, and to Baroness Chalker about British government policy concerning aid and development in the Third World.

For more details write to Steve Blunden at 225 Northridge Way, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP1 2AA, or e-mail him at [Steveb@virgo.wkac.ac.uk](mailto:Steveb@virgo.wkac.ac.uk).

## One world week 20-27 October 96

October may still seem an age away, but if you're planning on participating in One World Week (OWW) this year, it's time to be organising events. Last year almost 500 towns, villages and



communities took part.

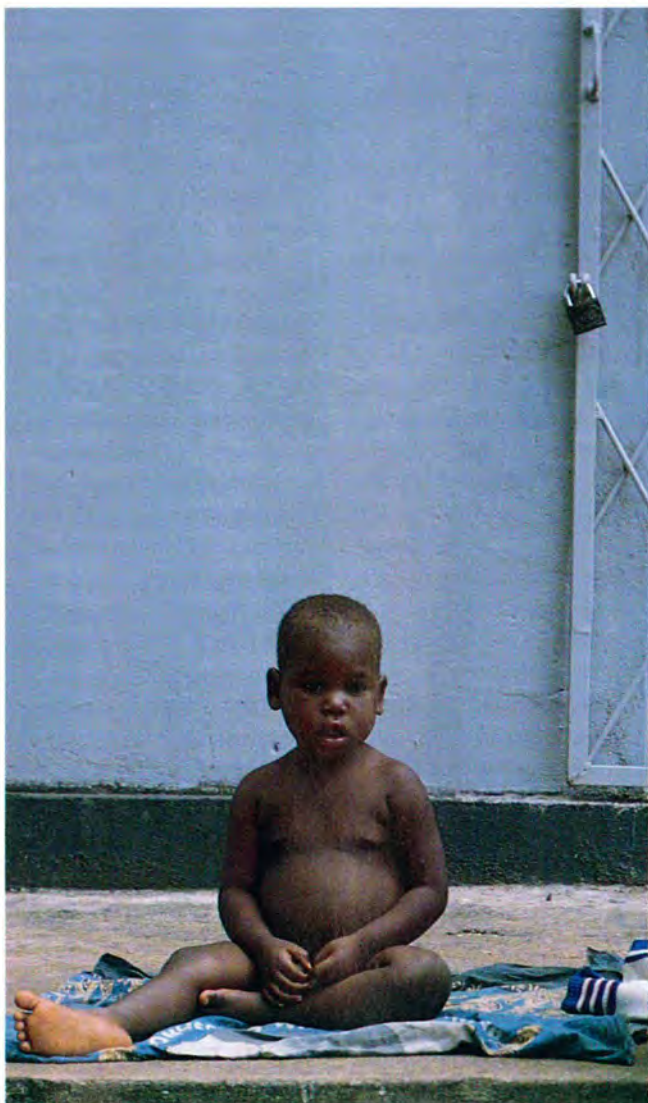
The study action kit *Living on the Edge* produced by OWW contains lots of things to help you and give you ideas: drama, quiz, ideas for meetings and discussions, stories from around the world, specially commissioned worship resources and comes complete with a twelve photo picture pack.

The cost per pack is £4.50 (three for £10.50, or five for £15.00) and they are available from: One World Week, PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT. Tel 0170 620 4444. Fax 0171 620 0719.

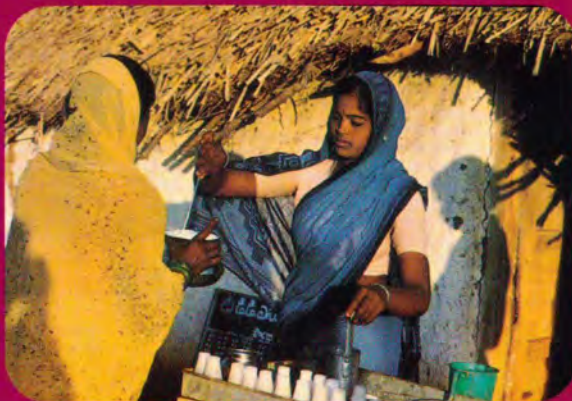
## God's big plan

A new series of six studies from Interserve is designed for small groups. Each pack comes with leader's notes, background articles and photocopy masters of group members' sheets. The pack aims to help Christians discover God's purposes from Genesis to Revelation, and to discover their part in his plan.

God's Big Plan is available for a limited period at a special offer price of £5, instead of the normal £6 plus £1 p&p, and can be obtained from Interserve, 325 Kennington Road, London SE11 4QH. Tel 0171 735 8227.



# ACTION card



## CREDIT UNIONS

One of the problems facing disadvantaged communities like the Dalit women of South India, shown on this month's card, is that of obtaining credit or loans at a reasonable rate of interest. For the same reason the Tshebedisano Mmoho Credit and Savings Co-operative was formed by women in Gauteng, South Africa in 1987. Credit and savings co-operatives encourage members to save regularly to obtain loans at reasonable interest rates and thus pay school fees, buy tools and so on.

At present the co-operative has more than 100 members and has saved R10,000. This is a small effort but it is one that has enabled those members who want to start their own businesses – an invaluable help in the new South Africa.

Members of the credit and savings co-operative enjoy equal rights to vote and participate in all decisions affecting the cooperative without regard to the amount the member has saved. This provides another opportunity for members to become familiar with democratic processes, co-operation and trust building. It is a small but significant part of building civil society and of people taking hold of their own future.

As a result of a process of consultation and workshops a Vision Statement was prepared last year for the co-operative which stated: "We are a group of women from different backgrounds who are committed to empowering women from our communities irrespective of their situations."

Credit unions, community banks and buying clubs are becoming an important part of national economic systems in many countries. They give people a chance to widen their skills, their choice and their experiences.

Please send your card, with a positive greeting, to the women of the Gauteng co-operative. The address is:  
c/o PO Box 29334, Melville, Johannesburg 2109, South Africa.



# TAKE 2





TWENTY EIGHT YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE GAINED PLACES ON THE 1996-97 ACTION TEAMS. **SAM GIBSON** DELVES INTO THEIR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS AS THEY PREPARE FOR THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

**ACTION**

# 'Whom shall I send?'

**H**ere I am, send me – the resounding cry from the 28 young people embarking this month on their BMS 28:19 Action Team year. Fear, excitement and a passion for God combine as these young people join together for five weeks of practical, educational and devotional training prior to their overseas assignments.

Then suddenly, it will be October.

After months of preparation, the time will have finally arrived for the seven teams to fly out: six months in Brazil, Portugal, Zimbabwe, Malta, Jamaica, Thailand and Nepal. What will they face? Who will they meet? What will they be doing? The unknown faces these young missionaries but they are certain of why they are here.

"I want to show other people the love of Christ through my life and actions." – Steven Thomson, Jamaica.

"I hope to learn more about myself; what I'm good at and what I'm not." – Catherine Crump, Malta.

For some, it will be the

first time away from home, the first experience of extreme poverty, the first time they will have eaten curried vegetables for breakfast – many changes, many new experiences and not always pleasant. They know there will be trials but these young people also know that they will grow in faith through them.

"I expect Nepal to be very challenging for me," says Chris Peacock.

"This will help me to grow as a Christian and see God moving in more power. I hope that I will be able to use my gifts effectively and develop them. I still have a lot to learn."

Action Teams provide these young people with the opportunity to offer something of themselves to the people they meet, the chance to "make the difference" for others as well as themselves.

In their preparations for the year, God is challenging and changing these young

people. During their training, they may have to face up to personal issues never before touched by God and as they go overseas, this process will continue.

For six months they will be living and working together with their team colleagues – people they will not have chosen themselves. But God will provide for and sustain them.

**'This year with the BMS will change my life and my one main hope is that it would change me to be more Christ-like'**

Steven Thomson, Jamaica Action Team

"I really want to be used this year by God and to grow in my relationship with him in a different

country," says Ellen Armstrong, who is going to Thailand. "God has called me abroad this year – mission really excites me and I desire to put my faith into action in this way. As I have grown up, I have received a lot from God and the church and now I want to give something back."

Alex Jones, of the Zimbabwe team: "Every time I am asked why I want to go to Zimbabwe the message of James 2:14-26 jumps into my head, that faith without

actions is dead. I want to put my faith into action and I see the 28:19 scheme as a way of doing this. I also see it as a learning experience. I want to put my faith into action throughout the rest of my life and see the scheme as a way of acquiring skills and finding gifts which will help me to do this."

There are practical considerations. Action Team members are asked to make a financial contribution towards the cost of sending them overseas. Churches often support their young people with cash, team members may go out to work and save in the months leading up to the beginning of the Action Team year, and there is help from a number of trust funds.

Many young people organise sponsored events to raise money.

With support from friends, Catherine Crump decided to combine her money-raising with helping others. She conducted a sponsored cook-in for the Cambridge Nightshelter Project, for the homeless based at Zion Baptist Church, Cambridge. She

Alex Jones - before his haircut - all set for Zimbabwe





# LETTERS

# TEAMS

and her friends baked cakes and pies for the shelter sponsored by other friends and family as well as her own church, Bethel Baptist, in Swavesey. With help from Zion Baptist Church, local companies and Catherine's old school, she raised more than £400 from this one event.

Other events were a sponsored "wiggly" by the Girl's Brigade group Catherine helps to teach, a car treasure hunt, "ye olde English meal" and a local carnival stall.

Alex Jones, of the Zimbabwe team, was amazed when his new haircut raised more than £200 to support his Action Team year. Losing his pony tail was quite a shock for poor Alex!

Ruth Bidnell, of the Jamaica team, took to the skies and threw herself from an aeroplane, while wearing a parachute. She raised nearly £800 from the jump but was more amazed at people's generosity than at her own courage.

She says: "It was a great experience though very scary, but certainly well worth doing." ●

## Book Review

**In the Steps of Timothy**  
by Lance Pierson, IVP 1995



Lance Pierson achieves several good things in a well-researched and coherent

whole. He details the Timothy story vividly presenting guidance for families, younger Christians, young church leaders and their mentors, and for mission strategy.

Application is encouraged by points for reflection and sharing at the end of each chapter.

The characterisation of Timothy in relation to events and places illuminates their significance. Perhaps he too readily sees here his own model for team-management. But his handling of the Letters to Timothy I found new and stimulating, and his exposition of "apostle" and "deacon" brilliant.

While basically conservative, Pierson explores adventurously the implications of Timothy's role, and gives weight to Timothy as co-author of some Pauline letters. He includes extensive notes in an appendix and throughout distinguishes four levels of interpretation: information from the Bible, deductions, inferences, and hunches.

I found the imaginary reconstructions at the beginning of each chapter unhelpful, but less pedantic readers will probably love them!

**Patrick Baker**

**SIR** – I was a boarder at Walthamstow Hall School just prior to the war. I read with horror and total disbelief the glowing centre spread (mh, June).

In the first place to call children of missionaries Mish Kids, in my opinion is tantamount to labelling them as different from other children and frankly an insulting and abhorrent gimmick!

Jacqueline Lang as present Head of Walthamstow Hall should check on facts before making statements about the past such as: "The girls almost transferred their family affections to their school." What utter nonsense!

Perhaps she would care to know that nights without number in my nightmares I have walked or run down endless dark wood polished corridors, or stairs and more stairs, exactly like – guess where? – Walthamstow Hall!

I decided that as boiled eggs were green I did not like them and I could not eat cabbage as it contained cooked slugs! Exaggerated? Not at all.

I was kept in isolation for one whole year in what was called The Cottage some distance from the school. I had ringworm – a fungal infection – I thought I had the plague, and was lifted up to a window from time to time to wave to my sisters and others as they walked by.

As I had no other toys but a teddy, I could practically run and jump on some stilts I was given in the garden. A tortoise was my only companion as I played and with thick grease and a mob cap to cover my shaven head, the village children would look through knot holes in the fence to laugh at me. I had no schooling during that whole year!

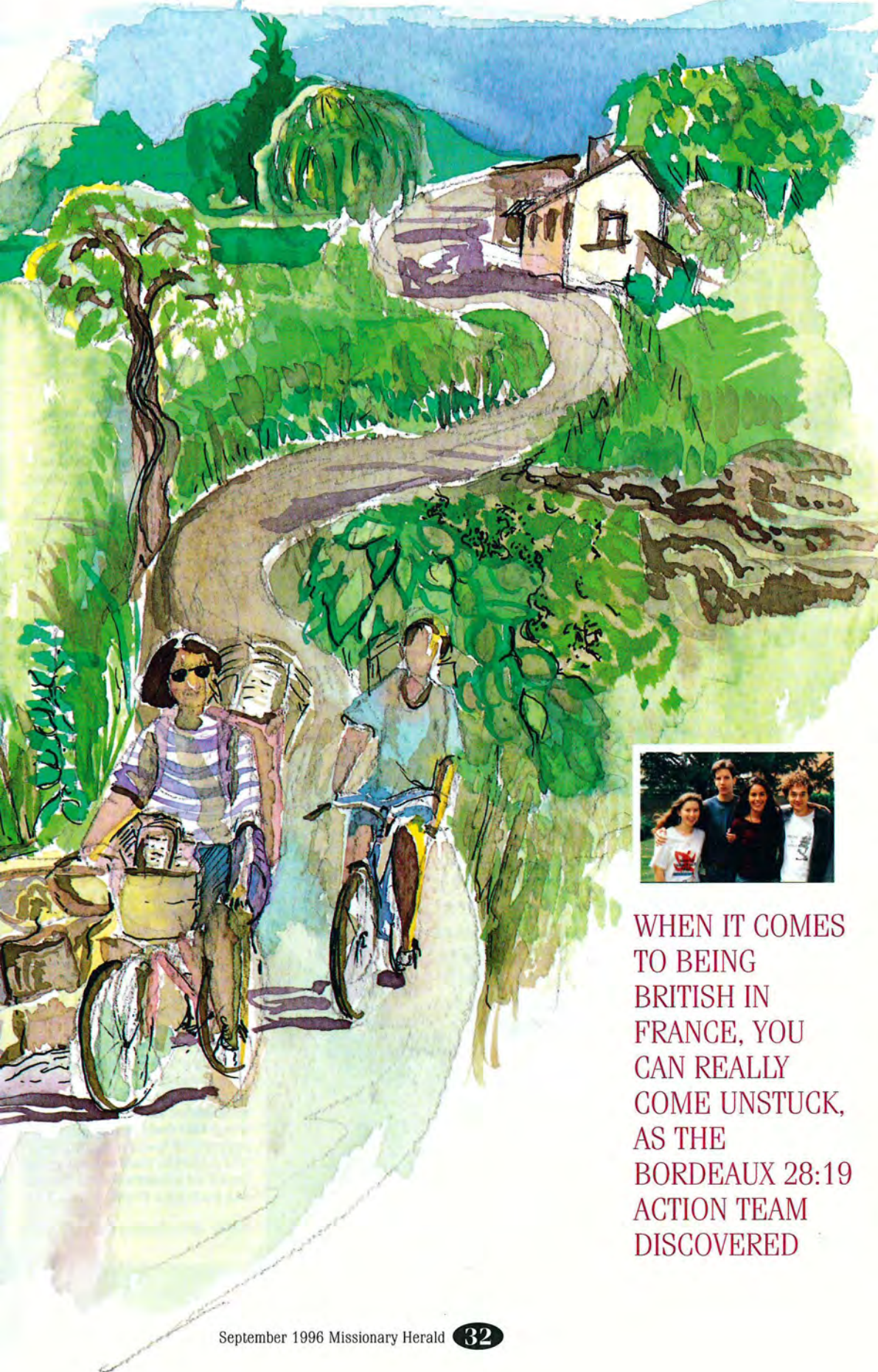
No, I did not resent my parents going abroad but I certainly did not have affection for the school. They say that it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good. For me the beginning of the war did me a good turn and ended my days at the boarding school of which I have no happy memories.

So do not imagine that the missionaries' children were all happy little souls as your article suggests. It is easier for people in this country to think so when giving money for missionary work. Money is a small price to pay.

**NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED**



# A trip (or two) on the road



Seven o'clock in the morning is a little too early for that lazy species of would-be students, such as the four members of this particular Action Team, but as the city of Bordeaux grinds into life, Richard, Paul, Emma and Anna would blearily begin to join the waking world.

By French standards 7am is a little late to be clambering out of bed as many people start work at 7.30, but as it is also considered courtesy in France to be late, we could feel justified at our attempts to fit in with French culture by staying in bed that bit longer. The day would kick off for the baby of the team, Paul, with an all-essential trip to the boulangerie for our daily bread.

This visit, if not carried out, resulted in four very hungry people by 2pm; a lot of shops close for lunch and lunchtime often extends from noon until 3pm.

We would all meet together for prayer and coffee - naturally strong and black in true French style - followed by a discussion on things that needed to be done that day.

Most of our work was directly linked to supporting the Baptist church in Bordeaux where we were based. However, it is not surprising that in the opening stages of our stay, any positive impact we may have had on the church was minimal.

This was due to the fact that as four young foreigners



**WHEN IT COMES TO BEING BRITISH IN FRANCE, YOU CAN REALLY COME UNSTUCK, AS THE BORDEAUX 28:19 ACTION TEAM DISCOVERED**



# to cultural understanding

who had previously visited France on holiday, we made the mistake of assuming that we knew everything and that France, being western Europe, would enjoy the same culture as Britain.

Oops.

When we discovered that this wasn't the case, we made the even graver mistake of presuming that the British way of doing things was right and, therefore, the French approach was undeniably wrong.

Double oops.

As we had not prepared ourselves for any culture shock, the settling in process was longer than it might otherwise have been.

During that time we may well have offended many people in the church by airing our views on how we felt things should be done.

Fortunately people were tolerant of us and as we got used to the French way of life we began to see why things were done the way they were and were able to work much more effectively within a French context.

As a team we travelled around the south of France visiting churches and putting on evangelistic events.

The first meeting we held in Pau brought our expectations of evangelism in France down to earth with a bump. Despite much publicity, only seven people turned up. That evening helped us to appreciate some of the hardships faced by Christians in France in talking about the gospel.

It was then that we shifted our goalposts; it was not our role to evangelise but, more, to encourage

Christians in France to evangelise.

This we felt was a goal which, if attained, would have a longer lasting effect. We also believed it to be important as France is very closed to the gospel; statistics show that in door-to-door work, only one person in 1,000 will respond. It was with this in mind that in the latter two months of our stay in Bordeaux, we started the mammoth task of reaching out to all the surrounding villages.

As a result of the prohibition of all religious teaching in schools since 1905 - France has been officially secular for more than 90 years - and the dispersed geography of villages, many people have had little or no opportunity to hear of the love of Jesus.

Armed with our leaflets, and with feet on pedals, we set about cycling through the French countryside to deliver 8,000 tracts.

Increasing time pressure meant we were able to distribute only 4,000 leaflets before we left France but the church in Bordeaux has committed itself to continue this outreach to the villages, and it is an encouragement to us to know that this work is continuing.

During our last few months in France we helped with services in both English and French, gave English

lessons in schools and on a one-to-one basis, as well as helping on youth weekends.

Days would usually end in the same sleepy fashion in which they began, with each returning to our respective homes.

However, the French



being an incredibly hospitable nation, invitations to dinner were frequent.

A typical example of a French meal would be at least five courses, eaten in a relaxed atmosphere. It is not surprising that meals could last more than three hours.

As a team we often lunched with the pastor, Christian Helminger, and his family, who would frequently apologise if we had only one

hour in which to eat lunch.

Towards the end of our stay it was this warmth and hospitality showered upon us which touched us most about the people of France. The baker, who Paul had daily visited took to shaking his hand just before we left; a real sign of acceptance.

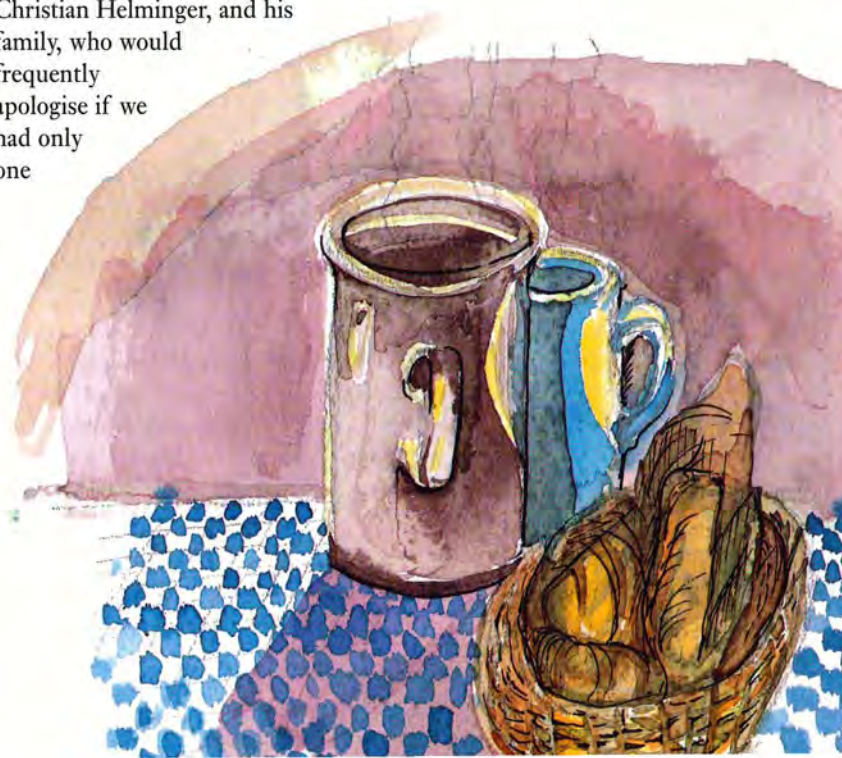
With a "fare thee well, France" and a kiss on each cheek, we set sail for fair England.

Since we have been back we are still discovering the things we learned in

France but we are confident that much has been gained from our time with 28:19 and are looking forward to the next epoch in our lives.

**Richard Ingold, Paul Brownutt, Emma Rendell and Anna Willott spent six months as the 1995-96 BMS 28:19 Action Team working with Baptists in Bordeaux, France.**

France: A different scene





# prayer *focus*



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

## Asia



Peter and Valerie Harwood

### NEPAL

Valerie is involved in Ryder Cheshire Home, an initiative which teaches physically handicapped people the skills they need to be able to find work. Valerie met a woman in the physiotherapy department who had suffered an epileptic fit while cooking and had fallen into the fire. She had lost most of one arm and the thumb from her other hand. The accident had occurred two years previously and she had gone to the home with no education, no parents and probably no job, looking for training.

One of the main aims of the mental health team with which Valerie works, is that people should recognise epilepsy and the fact that with medicine, it can be helped and such accidents avoided. This lady's village had not been reached with the news and even if it had been, she would probably not have been able to afford the medicine.

Education is such a gift we

all take for granted in the West – the availability of artificial hands and those trained to instruct and fit the use. Valerie says this lady's situation has spurred her on to find more activities which are suitable for disabled people, especially those with little or no education.

#### Please pray:

- for the continued success of Ryder Cheshire Home to integrate people with disabilities into the community with suitable jobs.
- for Valerie, that she would be encouraged by the achievements she has had.
- for this lady, that she may find the training she needs in order to have a better future.
- for the poor of Nepal, that there be an answer to their plight which is manifest in so many different areas of life.



Glyn and Frankie Phillips

### NEPAL

Jhit Ghari is a leprosy settlement just outside Butwal. When a fire broke out in a house which had been built by refugees, it soon spread across the roof to four other houses. A man living in the fifth house was worried

## El Salvador



David and Rachel Quinney Mee

Official figures have said that there has been a 36 per cent increase in violent deaths since the war ended, approximately twenty two a day, making El Salvador the second most violent country on the American continent.

David has only to walk round the small homes of San Rogue, a few kilometers up the edge of the volcano behind the church and he is met with disturbing stories: almost daily people he knows have their homes robbed (day or night) by masked and heavily armed men. Crimes are not reported as the police are ineffective, and the judicial system worse.

#### Please pray:

- for David and Rachel that their words and actions may truly be 'salt' and 'light' in El Salvadorean society
- for those oppressed and overcome by all the injustices and violence

his home would be next. The Christians in Jhit Ghari prayed with him asking the Lord to save his house – it did not burn. The man was so moved that he accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour that night and on the next Saturday morning he went to church to tell the congregation about it but was so overcome, someone else had to finish the story for him.

Frankie, who had arthritis diagnosed in her spine, is now able to walk without pain for much of the time. Two

other doctors have pronounced her clear of arthritis and she firmly believes that the Lord has healed her.

#### Please pray:

- praise God for his healing power and care.
- thank God that ex-leprosy sufferers, the outcasts of society, can witness to someone in this way and pray for this man as he embarks on a whole new life with Jesus at its centre.
- for continued health for Glyn and Frankie.

**Asia**



## Americas



Mark and Suzana Greenwood

## BRAZIL

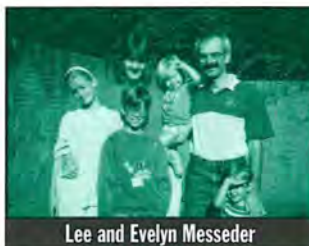
The Greenwoods, who are church planting in a favela area of Fortaleza, took a church service at very short notice when visiting a neighbour's family in the small village of Piranji, 200 km away from the bustle the city. At 7pm, while having tea with the lady who looks after the village chapel, they discovered she had called a special service for 7.30pm knowing there would be a pastor in town! Having gone to Piranji to relax, their only clothes were shorts and sandals. Soon they were on the platform, wearing clothes borrowed from the neighbours and scribbling furious notes on what they were going to say and preach. They not only survived, but were reminded of the beauty of fellowship.

Back in Fortaleza, the Congregacao Batista em Genibau has purchased a

building with a small sanctuary, two side rooms and room for expansion. Everyone is mucking in at the weekends, doing what they can and providing building materials. The Greenwoods are concerned at the lack of male participation in the congregation and want to develop a special ministry for men. Many families suffer heavily due to the macho culture with fathers being dependant on drink, drugs and other women, resulting in a lack of responsibility in the home. The Greenwoods feel that the only answer is for men to find meaning for their lives in Jesus and the church must find ways to communicate that to them.

## Please pray:

- that God would guide this church in searching for a new initiative to reach local men.
- for the women in the congregation who are caught in such a trap at home.
- that God's love and grace would reach the children, especially the boys, so that they would not be forced to follow in their fathers footsteps.



Lee and Evelyn Messeder

## BRAZIL

Lee and Evelyn work at the Dourados Baptist Seminary as well as with the local churches. Since February, Lee has been working as temporary Dean of the seminary which gives him greater contact with the students but has led to some difficulties as he has had to deal with some of their personal problems. He also teaches four theological subjects. Evelyn has been asked to teach English to the first year students which she is thoroughly enjoying. The Messeders return to Britain on Home Assignment in December and are not yet certain if they will return to Brazil. There is much to take into account, especially the continuing education of their children.

## Please pray:

- for Lee and Evelyn as they seek God's will for their family's future.
- for the seminary and

churches they are involved with if they do decide to stay in Britain, that there be people to carry on the work.

- if they stay in the UK, Lee will be looking for a job in the Baptist ministry.



Peter and Sheila Brewer

## NICARAGUA

Peter and Sheila have now completed their time in Nicaragua. They are considering an invitation from the Baptist Union of Trinidad and Tobago (BUTT) to organise an institute for the training of pastors, which it is hoped will produce a three year ordination course. The Brewers worked in Trinidad from 1970 to 1977 and from 1989 to 1991 and during much of that time, Peter was involved in training pastors and leaders in the churches. The society is exploring the invitation from BUTT along with Peter and Sheila.

## Please pray:

- for Peter and Sheila as they seek God's will for their future.
- examination of the proposal to ensure it is practicable.
- for the society as it discerns God's purposes for a continuing relationship with BUTT.
- Peter and Sheila have just completed a period of Link church visiting and now need to settle back into daily life in the UK.

## SERBIA

Margaret Pitt

Margaret has been in Novi Sad, Serbia as a volunteer with BMS since March this year. She is teaching English in a Bible College there. Almost inevitably she comes across refugees from the war - 120,000 from Bosnia and Croatia have arrived in Novi Sad as a result of the war. A humanitarian relief organisation, Tabita has been set up in the college and is run by the director's wife and helpers from the church. Clothing, bedding and furniture is given out when available and each family can have a food parcel every two months.

**Please pray:** ● thanking God that there are Christian relief agencies with which refugees can make contact. ● that the helpers may not feel overwhelmed by their task and may continue to show the love of God in all they do.

Asia



# prayer focus

## Europe



David and Yvonne Wheeler

### ALBANIA

David works with the European Baptist Federation in administration and a variety of engineering projects. Some of his time is spent working in mountain villages trying to bring the people a drinking water supply and irrigation channels from mountain springs for their crops. He is also involved in building a road to remote mountain villages to enable villagers to take their produce to market and for missionaries to reach them with the gospel.

Life in the mountains can be very hard. David was caught out one day when it began to rain heavily. There were landslides all along the road making it impassable by Land Rover so he was forced to walk back down. Along one of the mountain tracks, he passed a dead cow in a ditch which had been struck by lightning. To the farming family which owned it, this meant a loss of £200 of their livelihood. Further down the track David passed a lady trying to dig a channel with a pickaxe to stop the water flooding through her home.

Yvonne has also been working in the mountain

villages. Emergency repairs have been carried out to the central clinic in the village of Noya. This is helping to break down people's initial suspicions. They are becoming responsive, realising that all of this work is being done in the name of Jesus.

#### Please pray:

- for in-roads in the villages for the gospel to be shared alongside practical aid.



Wayne and Wendy Hadley

### FRANCE

Wayne and Wendy have been enrolled at Les Cedres language school in Massy, a suburb of Paris, since they arrived in France in January. They will be working in France after their language study is completed but they do not yet know where. Their local supermarket has recently begun selling Heinz baked beans which means they're quite happy to stay in the country now!

#### Please pray

- that the Hadleys would soon discover where they will be placed.
- for their two young children as they settle into school and pick up a new language.



Stuart and Joyce Filby

### BELGIUM

Stuart and Joyce have discovered that language study can be an ideal place to share your faith. They have been able to share with their classes and individuals why they are undertaking language study and to tell them of the love of God. In his final exam, Stuart chose the subject God to speak on and shared with her about knowing God personally and how that was possible – an added bonus was that he passed! He and Joyce were also able to give out some tracts and New Testaments to class friends.

#### Please pray:

- for continued success in language training.
- for more opportunities to share the gospel through friendship.
- for the seed which has been sown in class mates to grow and blossom.



Saverio and Betsy Guarna

### ALBANIA

Many people are coming forward for baptism in Albania. Saverio and Betsy are involved in taking both adults and young people through the pre-baptismal courses in preparation for another baptismal service to be held late summer. Two such new believers are Valentina and Albana.

Valentina was abandoned by her husband eleven years ago, is unemployed and has four children. Her eldest daughter sought Saverio's help when her mother was taken ill. In fact she had had a haemorrhage eight days previously but had no money for doctors or medicines. She just lay in bed, hoping she would get better. He took her to hospital where she underwent various tests and four days of intensive care. Later, one Sunday in church she told Betsy "You saved my life" and at the same time she

Europe





# zimbabwe



Jill and Phillip Igoe

Jill and Phillip recently moved into their sixth residence since leaving the UK in February this year. They were forced to move from the tiny house they were renting following a storm which caused half of the roof to collapse and left them wading in an inch of water. Builders working on the house following the storm cheerfully pointed out the shortfalls in its original construction. It appears the budget did not even reach to cement to mix the mortar with! They are now renting a neighbour's house.

Work for the Igoes is beginning to build up and they have been busy visiting churches around the country. Phillip has been leading a weekly training class for church leaders and pastors at a church in Mkoba and Jill has been going into high schools twice per week with Scripture Union, leading classes for O and A-level students, mainly aimed at AIDS awareness, but also looking at such things as family, self image, dating and marriage. From this month she hopes to begin work as a voluntary primary school teacher with a class of 11-year-olds.

The Igoes continue to struggle with language study. They feel they have come to a standstill and have been looking for someone in the church to coach them. One thing the Igoes have found strange about life in Zimbabwe is the view the Shona and Ndebele people have of white people. When Jill was chopping cabbage for a meal at a church conference, an older Shona woman approached her and asked in all seriousness, whether it would hurt her hands. They will not ask the Igoes to help with any cleaning as they don't think they can do it. Phillip was then told by an African man that he thought European intelligence was bigger and better than African intelligence. They are amazed that the Igoes can speak a little Shona although most of them speak at least three languages!

Please pray:

- for progress in language study and a person to teach the Igoes.
- that they would settle well into their new home and be able to remain there for some time.
- for their work as they take on new responsibilities.

asked to be included in the pre-baptismal classes.

Saverio and Betsy first visited Albana, then 19 years old, in September 1993 whilst she was serving a long sentence in the female prison. They told her they would pray for her and gave her a New Testament. Although not allowed to visit her again, Betsy continued to write and sent cassettes recorded with Bible meditations held in her home. She was pardoned last December and started coming to church on a regular basis. During a baptismal service in June this year she gave her life to the Lord. Forgiveness means everything to her; today she is a different person.

Please pray:

- praising God that he is at work in the country of Albania, for so long closed to the gospel
- for new believers such as Valentina and Albana that they may grow in their faith
- for other people that Saverio and Betsy are coming in contact with, that there may be opportunities to share the gospel

## SEPTEMBER 1996

### Arrivals

Chris and Sarah Mattock from Ferrara  
Keith and Barbara Hodges from Curitiba

### Departures

Angus and Carol MacNeill to Sangklaburi  
David Payne to Kathmandu  
John and Norma Clark to Fortaleza  
Mike and Daveen Wilson to Mossoro  
Gwen Hunter to Kimpese  
Pat Woolhouse to Kimpese

### Overseas visits

Reg Harvey to Estonia  
Alistair Brown to Estonia  
David Martin to Albania  
John Passmore to Albania and Estonia  
Andrew North to El Salvador  
Derek Rumbol to Zambia, Zimbabwe and Angola  
Stan Williams to Sri Lanka and India

### Anonymous gifts

for May 1996

We are indebted to the generosity of those who give to the work of making Jesus known through BMS colleagues across the world and acknowledge:

TOTAL £1,693.00

### Legacies

for May 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.

	£
Bailless Mrs Lilian G .....	12,541.68
Coulson Mr W E .....	1,900.00
Hambrook Mrs Doris T .....	100.00
Knighton Mr John C H .....	1,558.12
Moreman Miss .....	200.00
Selby Mrs Freda P .....	20.48
Towsend Mrs Beatrice .....	7,574.38
Tucker Mrs Winifred D .....	250.00
Turnbull Miss Mary .....	51.27
Waugh Miss Mary .....	100.00

TOTAL £24,295.93



Andy Stockbridge is BMS Director for Constituency Support having previously been involved in agriculture, consultancy and training.

He leaves the Society this Autumn to take up the post of Director of Resource and Support at Scripture Union in Milton Keynes. With him will go our prayers for a fulfilling career at Scripture Union. Andy says,

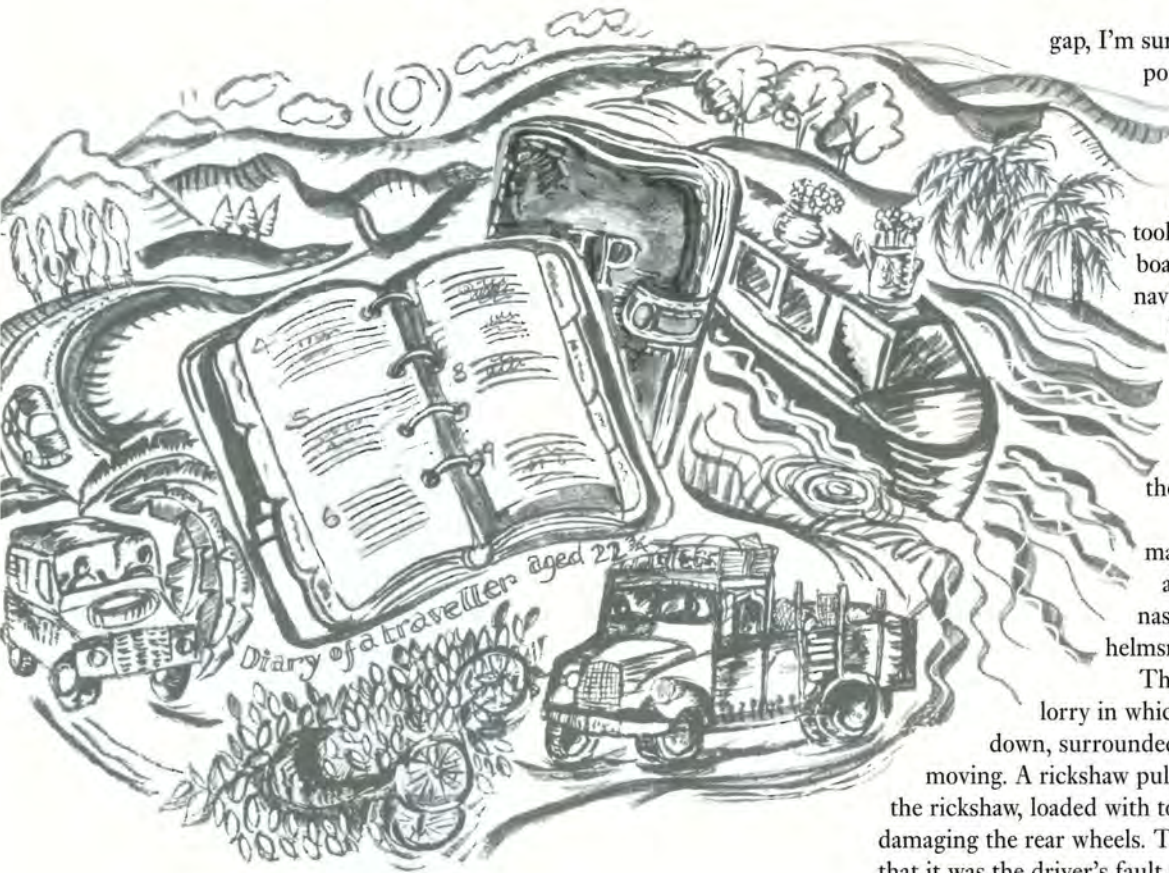
"My time has been a great learning experience and I feel privileged to have been a part of BMS work". ●

Nepal



*John Passmore takes a sideways view*

# Diary of a traveller, aged 22<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>



**S**omewhere in my past I remember hearing a Welshman reminiscing about “being there” on certain memorable rugby sporting occasions. Well, do you remember the night of the lost sleeping garment, and the ratatouille, not to mention the vasectomy by lamp light and the “velcro” kisses?

I was there! I saw it all and there have been many other things I’ve seen which would be far too embarrassing to publish in the pages of a missionary magazine.

I did wonder, on the night the robbers came, whether my time was up and there have been other occasions when I thought that it must surely be the end of life as I had known it. Being back in Europe has also opened my eyes. But having started to think about some of the other events I’ve witnessed, I must tell you about some of them. When else did I think my time was up? Well there was the unfortunate stumble by the Grand Union Canal and the inevitable splash as I hit the water. It was on one of those famous BMS summer holidays when a group of young people and leaders hired two narrow boats and spent all week, opening and closing lock gates.

The stumble happened when returning from a trip to a canal-side shop to replenish the stores. If it hadn’t been for the quick action of someone else dropping the supplies he was carrying and thrusting his arm down into the ever narrowing

gap, I’m sure I would have gone under, possible never to return!

That was the same day when one of the young people on the trip was nearly executed. It all started when he took over the rudder of the 60ft boat. After just about successfully navigating a low bridge on a sharp bend, while acknowledging the acclaim showered on him from the following boat, he failed to notice a fisherman with several rods and a keep net on the towpath just ahead.

The propeller of a narrow boat makes a nasty mess of such things and the irate angler nearly made a nasty mess of the wayward helmsman!

There was also the time when the lorry in which we were travelling was flagged down, surrounded by a crowd and prevented from moving. A rickshaw puller said that the lorry had caused the rickshaw, loaded with tobacco leaves, to topple over, damaging the rear wheels. The mob became quite insistent that it was the driver’s fault and the situation looked decidedly awkward until the driver handed over some money.

Thinking of journeys, which I wasn’t until now, there have been many when the end couldn’t come soon enough.

Travelling north to south in Jamaica through the mountains as a passenger in a left hand drive Jeep when they drive on the left, at least in theory, had more thrills than a white knuckle ride at Blackpool’s Pleasure Beach. It wasn’t much fun, either, being thrown around in the back of a car driving by the back roads, through the mountains from Zagreb to the coast and down to Dubrovnik because the main routes were still closed by the fighting.

I was there, because wherever John goes he seems to take me.

Over the years, since I was given to him as a birthday present, we have become inseparable and he’d be completely lost without me, but that’s another story. Time was, when I was younger, before my skin wrinkled and I had the minor operations which required stitching, I was something of a novelty and quite rare.

Then yuppies and the Thatcher years people made jokes about me. But all that was before personal organisers became electronic.

**John Passmore is the BMS Europe Representative and spent 10 years as a missionary in Bangladesh.**



# waves

## THE RIGHT TECHNOLOGY

Irrigation booms lie twisted and rusting, the pump house crumbling and fields scrubland. Forest has been cleared to make farmland but with the water source exhausted the project is abandoned. Sadly many well-intentioned initiatives are politically motivated or ill-conceived. My example is not unique. Inappropriate technology out of place, culturally unacceptable and unsustainable.

But there are many situations where we feel we can provide help. As agriculturalists, doctors, engineers, organisers, administrators we want to do something and that is where the problem is. We often interpret a situation or need in our own terms and then what we do can have tragic consequences. This is particularly so when inadvertently we recreate our own culture in another country.

When we examine a problem, we see it through our own eyes creating our own solutions. We need to look at problems from other people's perspective, seeking to listen and create solutions in partnership with those we wish to help. Something that has impressed me is the concept of intermediate or appropriate technology in

helping individuals and communities find local solutions to local problems. The principle is sustainability and self-sufficiency.

For sustainable development, the absorbing, considering, reflecting time is always time well spent. As many will tell you, the solution arrived at collectively is often surprising. This approach also has the advantage of gaining the commitment and understanding of those with whom we are involved. We might consider progress to be slow but again that is only in our terms.

I originally studied agriculture and though I didn't need to do that to understand the meaning of the parable of the sower, the lessons there have always seemed to apply in many situations. We need to find a solution that will take root. As any farmer knows, different crops are suited to different soil and require different husbandry techniques. Some will be sown and harvested within a matter of months. Others can last for generations, requiring skill, expertise and resources to sustain them.

Hopefully with a partnership approach our good intention, effort, resources and time will yield for years to come.

Andy Stockbridge joined BMS at a time of structural change and has directed the 23 staff of the Constituency Support department at BMS in Didcot since May 1994. The BMS Annual Report that year, "Travelling Together," professed "Networking for Mission in the 90s". This year saw the first pilot pages for BMS on the world wide web pioneered by Andy.

This month Andy take up the post of director of resource and support at Scripture Union in Milton Keynes. Andy will be leading a team of around 30 staff. With him will go our prayers for a fulfilling career at Scripture Union and our gratitude for his pioneering leadership at BMS.





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Sat 26th Oct 7.30pm  
Fri 1st Nov 7.30pm  
Sat 2nd Nov 7.30pm  
Fri 15th Nov 7.30pm  
Sat 16th Nov 7.30pm  
Fri 22nd Nov 7.30pm  
Sat 23 Nov 7.30pm

St Thomas Baptist Church, Crookes, Sheffield  
Methodist Central Hall, Edinburgh  
Castleton Baptist Church, Cardiff  
Princes Drive Baptist Church, Colwyn Bay  
Bromham Baptist Church, Bedford  
Trinity Baptist Church, Bexleyheath  
Green Lane Baptist Church, Walsall  
Zion Baptist Church, Creech St Michael

Cath Mawson 01274 487341  
Bill Mason 0141 639 5471  
Roger Foster 01633 680132  
Caroline Thomas 01492 531681  
David Richardson 01234 825521  
Irene Woosnam 0181 304 1858  
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