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What kind of leadership?



Leadership and servanthood

BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

BMS AT THE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY 1997



**WORLD MISSION
EVENING
'WOULD YOU TAKE
THAT RISK...?'
WEDNESDAY 30 APRIL,
7.00 PM**



**SEMINARS: 'NOT THE
BMS SEMINAR' LED BY
ALISTAIR BROWN, 29
APRIL 4.15 AND 'TEN
WAYS TO MAKE
MISSION A HIGHER
PRIORITY' 30 APRIL,
2.15**

ENTRANCE
FROM
MATTHEW
PARKER
STREET



INFO DESK

ENTRANCE
FROM
FOYER

Come and meet BMS personnel

at the BMS stand on the Ground Floor of Central Hall Westminster



Richard
Wells



Cath
Mawson



Diane
Hayward



Jim
Clarke

THE
BAPTIST
ASSEMBLY



JAN KENDALL



It's usually in January that people reflect about new beginnings. Thankfully God is not tied to our calendars and schedules, and as his people we can rejoice at his leading all

the while. This March/April edition of *mh* is a new beginning for me as Editor, although I've been working on *mh* as part of the team for several years. I'm thrilled with all the progress and transformation that has been achieved under Richard's editorship, and I know you are too, because you often write in or tell us face to face. Richard is now Dept. for Constituency Support Director. He'll still be in the background keeping a watchful eye on us, but he'll also be freer to pursue wider activities.

Mike Pilavachi also begins a new regular column with us this month. He pastors a congregation in Watford specially aimed at reaching young people, and leads the Soul Survivor team which runs a Christian festival for young people in the summer. We're thrilled to have him on board. Welcome Mike!

Meanwhile, I hope I will get to know more of you personally as the year progresses. Please say "hello" if you see me at the Assembly or elsewhere, or write in to introduce yourself or to comment on the magazine.

The features focus is on leadership this time, and for a change the Action Teams section will be looking at the Summer Action Team. That's as well as all our regular items.

Thank you for your support. I am very conscious that it is God's mission we are involved in together, and we go forward in obedience to him as partners together.

Jan

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BERUWALA, SRI LANKA
FISHERMEN

PHOTO: RICHARD WELLS

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The church in an atheist state

The marks of a leader

ARE THERE CERTAIN QUALITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS THAT DISTINGUISH A LEADER FROM A MERE FOLLOWER?

ALISTAIR BROWN GIVES A PERSONAL OBSERVATION.

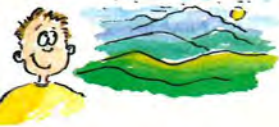
No-one questioned that Stewart was our leader. He wasn't the biggest, nor the best at everything, and he didn't have all the ideas. But he led. If he'd said we were going to war, we'd have marched off into the distance with him. Not bad for a nine-year-old.

Why did our gang follow Stewart? I don't know. There was no vote, not even any discussion. Stewart simply was our leader. We all knew it and all accepted it.

God's work needs leaders like that; clearly recognised and accepted. That quality of leadership has certain characteristics. Here are some of my marks of a true Christian leader.

A person who's called. Whether there's been a voice from heaven, or just a deep certainty in the bones, leaders know they've been singled out by God. I have at least six other careers I'd love to do, but I can be at peace only with one. That doesn't mean leaders always recognise or accept their calling. Moses and Gideon were decidedly reluctant, and God had to kickstart them to get going. When you're called, you don't have a veto.

A person with vision. A manager administrates what is; a leader envisions what isn't yet. He doesn't see just a distant horizon, he sees beyond it, and works to take people to a future unknown to them. Six months after becoming minister of a city centre church in Aberdeen, I stood in the empty sanctuary



late one night and told the church secretary we'd have to think what we would do when the place was full. He raised his eyebrows, wondering if I'd been struck with pastoral madness. For over 90 years that building had been big enough, and more than once they'd trimmed its size. But a year later the church meeting agenda had an item on the problem of space. Another year on and we'd bought a 900 seat building, and made the move.

A person who speaks for God. They may speak very quietly, but they do so with authority. To talk on behalf of the

Almighty is an awesome thing, not to be taken lightly by those who do the speaking or those who hear the words. The Bible commands obedience to God's leaders, for the logic of opposing them is to be at odds with God.

A person who sacrifices. Sacrifice is a normal part of the Christian life. Far from getting their own way, leaders model death to self-will. That's death to self-indulgence, and death to self-comfort. When others walk away, the leader stays with the job. When the bullets of criticism fly, the leader gets hit first. With Jesus teaching that the greatest must be the least, the leader doesn't even get to pick the plum jobs. Mother Teresa bent over the emaciated and diseased scrap of a dying man in the streets of Calcutta, wiping wounds that bled stinking puss. An American reporter watched her. 'Gee ma'am,' he drawled, 'I wouldn't do that for a million dollars.' 'Neither would I,' she said quietly.

A person who grows others. Some people's idea of strong leadership is the dominant ruler who commands policies for others to follow. That's megalomania. It's dangerous, weak and unbiblical. No leader has perfect judgment or all wisdom. The church

is a body in which each part depends on the others. What the good leader does is create a secure context so the most humble have confidence to share their thinking and use their gifts. That way God's voice is heard, God's work is done, and the kingdom expands.

People whose lives are marked with characteristics like these are leaders. As long as we simplistically take whoever volunteers, or pick on the person who's missed the meeting, God's people will be poorly led. Often we blame them for failure, but the fault is ours.

God never leaves his sheep without shepherds. They can be the unlikeliest of people, but the gift is in them. They're his leaders, and even if it's to death you'll follow them. ●

Alistair Brown is General Director of the BMS. He previously pastored two churches, in Livingston and Aberdeen.



The challenge of

itinerant leader

BEING A PASTOR TO THE PEOPLE IN YOUR CHARGE IS ALWAYS A CHALLENGE. BUT, AS **DAVID KERRIGAN** EXPLAINS, IT'S EVEN MORE OF A CHALLENGE WHEN THEY LIVE HUNDREDS OF MILES APART.

In many places in the world today the church is growing. Congregations are being started in new places and pastors are increasingly having to follow an itinerant lifestyle in order to serve these new churches. But along with the changes, there is also continuity. Recently, one of our missionaries was asked by an Asian colleague who I was, and knowing that a translation of 'Regional Representative' would have meant nothing simply said "well, if we were sheep, he would be the shepherd." That made my day! Whatever

title I might have - it is as a pastor that I prefer to work. What, then, are the challenges of itinerant pastoral leadership?

Timotti Samujji springs to mind. Living in the south of the Indonesian island of Sumatra, Timotti embodies for me the itinerant leader. Born into a Muslim family in the 1930s he was converted in his 20s when his own lack of assurance came into sharp contrast with a sermon he heard preached. From 1983-94 he planted twelve new congregations in the south of Sumatra and is currently

pastor of five with over 100 miles of rough tracks between some of them! Having spent a week with him, I can't say I know his secret, other than the giftedness God has given him, but I saw some principles working in his life which give me a clue as to how such a challenging ministry can be sustained.

Firstly, his ministry was gospel-centred. Most of these churches began when Timotti heard of a few isolated Christians living in a village, or in one case at a sugar-cane factory, and visited them to encourage them. Gradually, through Bible studies and worship times, others were converted, a small church was formed and elders appointed. In order to meet with these small groups, for several days we bounced along various tracks that really needed a more robust vehicle than his aging minibus, but on each occasion when we arrived and after we'd had our rice meal and rested, we worshipped and we preached and on one memorable day we baptised seven new Christians. They didn't always know that he was coming, but when they heard he had arrived, they rounded everyone up, and in the evenings we gathered together for worship and one of us preached.

In John 10:10, Jesus said "I have come that they may have life, life in all its fulness" and it was this 'life in Christ' that Timotti came to preach. I try to put this into practice in my



ship

own ministry - for whenever I visit our colleagues or mission partners in places near and far, there are always practical matters of importance to discuss, family news to catch up on and so on, but wherever possible we also open God's Word and we remind ourselves of this "life in all its fulness" which is ours to know and ours to share with others. An itinerant leader needs to be a messenger of this good news.

Something else struck me travelling with Timotti, and that was the love between himself and those he went to see in some far-flung place. Immediately on arrival there were kisses of greeting, laughter, refreshments, and a hundred other expressions of appreciation for his visit. In John 10:11 Jesus implies that a pastor will lay down his life for those he cares for, and whether it be pastoral ministry in one church or five churches, there has to be an element of sacrifice borne by the pastor and inevitably by the pastor's spouse and family. I could see from the effort involved in these visits that Timotti indeed made sacrifices to fulfil his responsibilities and the love with which he was received was in large measure his reward. There are times when any pastoral leader, itinerant or otherwise, has to force themselves to keep on keeping on. For Timotti the thought of hours more on a potholed track, or for myself as I squeeze on to yet another overcrowded bus or look up at another steep mountain track that God surely designed with only goats in mind, or yes, step onto another plane and away from the family for a few more weeks, the only motivation that will stand the test of time is the love of God which, once received,

cries out to be passed on to others! An itinerant leader has to love what he does, even when the thought of another journey, which to others, seems attractive, makes you groan and long for your own bed!

And finally, in John 10:14 Jesus reminds us that a pastor will know his people and they will know the pastor! Now there's a thought! When I'm travelling I find that the real 'me' comes through! I can't (and won't) live with a mask for weeks on end. So whether I'm tired, or anxious or stressed - or fresh and full of energy and feeling gracious - it eventually shows! And it is the same in reverse - to be a pastor for people in one place or in places with many miles between, the requirement is the same, to know and be known. Timotti knew these people so well - he had dedicated them as infants, baptised many of them as they came to faith, officiated at their weddings and would one day conduct their funerals - if the message got through quickly enough! It would

have been simple to forget details - after all he saw them infrequently and he saw so many others in between but I had a hunch that he shared a conviction that I have long held, that names are important. It's much deeper than that of course, but that's where it so often begins, for if my

In John 10:11 Jesus implies that a pastor will lay down his life for those he cares for

name is known its likely that my sorrows and my struggles, my joys and my hopes are remembered too. The itinerant leader needs a good memory (or a good notebook!).

Timotti is still travelling the tracks of south Sumatra this week, still preaching, still loving, still getting to know his people - and still hoping that his van will keep going for just one more trip! ●

David Kerrigan is one of two BMS Regional Representatives for Asia. He is based in Sri Lanka, and has particular responsibility for Nepal, Thailand, and Indonesia.



Left: David shares in a baptismal service with Timotti in south Sumatra
Above: David travelling on the roof of a bus

Equipping others

JOHN MELLOR REFLECTS ON HOW HE STILL HAS A ROLE IN LEADERSHIP IN THE ZAIRIAN CHURCH

Our role in Zaire is concerned with facilitating and encouraging nationals in their ministries. We began work in Zaire following independence and have always deferred to nationals. Now that there are far fewer of us we tend to be highly valued by the nationals and they are often more ready to hear and act on our suggestion than when they thought there are plenty more where we come from.

One of my responsibilities is to be the eyes, ears and voice of the Centre to MEPA (Evangelical Ministry to the Pygmies of Africa). Pygmies tend to be conscious of their material rather than spiritual backwardness. So when I was asked to preach at one of their services, recently, I spoke on Matt. 6:19-33 "Seek ye first the kingdom of God... and all these things shall be added unto you.", the idea being to help adjust their thinking away from relying on handouts to looking to God who enables his people to help themselves. Many of them saw the point and want me to go round their cell groups preaching on these lines. The Centre wants potential leaders to be identified from amongst the Pygmies and is willing to help train them.

Another ministry for which I am the Centre's eyes, ears and voice is the Kinshasa Tent evangelism ministry. Revd



Kamanda is a gifted evangelist with a vision for all the pastors of Kinshasa to be motivated for evangelism - at present many of them aren't - for them to mobilise their members to bring unsaved people to the meetings; to systematically cover Kinshasa, Zone by Zone (borough by borough) by evangelism campaigns.

Revd Kamanda has the gift of an evangelist and the leadership quality needed to carry this through, as we have seen by the numbers of folk saved, this past year. My place is to encourage him, be sympathetic in listening to his needs and do what I can to help.

I am also responsible for the administration of funds to run Portable Bible

Schools. The Centre wants every village and locality in Zaire - an estimated 80,000 people - to be churchled and for this each church has to have a leader. Following two months of evangelism of villages, those converted select the person they want to be their lay pastor, and a Portable Bible School is set up. It comprises of 200 hours of basic teaching given to lay pastors over two months. My leadership 'from behind' is in checking that the Centre's funds are used as intended.

My desire is to be able to say what I heard a semi-retired missionary say once on a platform: "I don't know what I'll say when I stand before the Lord, for I didn't do anything, my African brethren did it all". I must not get in the way of a national exercising the leadership God has given him. But before one can usefully begin to train someone to take

The first priority for a good leader is to recognise and respect those in leadership over him/her.

over one's ministries one has to identify and be in a position to choose suitable people.

The first priority for a good leader is to recognise and respect those in leadership over him/her. Ultimately God must be every leader's Leader. We must never forget that a leader in God's Church is a shepherd, a carer of the flock of God. A pastor who recently heard a sermon on this said publicly afterwards that he was frightened. He is frightened because he hasn't seen his work in that way. He has said before that he is apprehensive about standing before God at the judgement.

Christian leaders must live a life of prayer and be committed students of the Word of God; visionaries who are true to their vision. They must be able to



communicate their vision to others and enthuse them for it. They must enable others to realise their gifts as opportunity arises, and give them scope themselves to receive vision from God and fulfil it. Neither an expatriate nor a national leader should consider themselves indispensable to God, and they should be ready to hand over or give place to someone else as necessary. But they will aim, as opportunity arises, to equip others to grow into responsible leadership roles. They must be single-minded in pursuit of fulfilling the vision God has given and fearless in opposing any evil which would block God's purposes. ●



John Mellor works with the International Centre for Evangelism, Kinshasa.

Pioneers still needed

JOY PIPER BELIEVES THE METHODS MAY HAVE CHANGED BUT THE QUALITIES NEEDED FOR IMAGINATIVE LEADERSHIP IN MOTIVATING PEOPLE TO WORLD MISSION ARE STILL THE SAME

The missionary secretary is dead. Long live the missions mobiliser and the action group!

It's not just terminology which has changed beyond recognition in recent years. Methods of promoting world mission have come a long way in a short time.

Faxes, e-mails, the Internet, and improved telecommunications via satellite links enable us to be in direct contact with many of our missionaries and up-to-date with what is happening right now, all over the world.

Cheaper travel means it is even possible to visit our missionaries. No longer do they work in the "far off lands" of yesterday. Now they can be reached in just a few hours.

But, sadly, some things don't change, and missionary concerns still remain a minority interest in many churches, with missionary events largely attended by those already converted to the cause.

Mobilising a congregation in the 1990's into active involvement with world mission is hard work! The job ad. could read something like this:



WANTED

- People with energy and ingenuity
- Risk takers
- Prepared to make waves
- Prepared to disturb the apathetic majority
- Willing to exploit the possibilities the computer age has to offer
- People with Carey's courage

Ordinary people, not necessarily with any formal theological training or special qualifications, who are called by God and ready to give a lead, to spend time and imagination in raising support for missions, and communicating information about needs and opportunities. It is they who make it possible for the sending organisations to continue. It is they who are God's Power pack. ●



Joy Piper is now working on a practical handbook on world mission, to help people who are trying to develop a higher profile for overseas mission in the life of their church.

Making leaders in a newly fledged country

JOHN AND HEATHER RINGROSE HAD NEVER BEEN ABROAD BEFORE, BUT GOD TOOK THEM UP ON A PROMISE THEY'D MADE. THEY FLEW TO BULGARIA TO WITNESS THE INDUCTION OF A FRIEND AND CHURCH LEADER. **JAN KENDALL** REPORTS



It was a ministerial induction that the congregation in Sofia Baptist Church never expected to happen. Theodor Oprenov (known to them as Tedi) had been dedicated in the church 26 years previously and had grown up there. When freedom from communism came in 1990, Tedi and his wife Dimitrina (or Didi) were among the first to enrol for theological training at Spurgeon's College, London. The Bulgarian church did not expect to ever see them again. But Tedi and Didi returned, and in November 1996 Tedi was inducted as assistant minister of Sofia Baptist Church.

For John and Heather Ringrose, members of Westbourne Baptist Church, the celebration over 1,000 miles away had great significance. They had befriended the Oprenovs whilst they were studying at Spurgeon's College. They learned something of their past too: how they had grown up under communist rule where oppression of all religions was the norm.

As Christians, they and their families met in secret to worship and many pastors spent time in prison for so-called "crimes against the state". Didi ran a Sunday school in her parents kitchen, putting her whole family at risk. John and Heather were present at their ordination as ministers in Purley in June 1996. There they promised that one day they would visit them in Sofia, little realising God would actually ask them to honour this pledge.

At the end of October Didi rang John and Heather with the news that Tedi was to be inducted on 17 November, and could they be there?! Their immediate response was "Sorry, no, we can't make it." For they had no passports, no visas, no funds, and getting time off work would not be possible. But God had other plans, and before they knew it, their church decided to send them to Tedi's induction. Miraculously it seemed their passports were returned within five days, their visas came through, and they received donations from friends. John, a

schoolteacher, remarked "My headmaster was more than willing to grant leave of absence for a trip of this nature". On 13 November rather nervously they set off not only on their first real trip abroad, but also on their first ever flight. John said, "the Balkan Airways Tupolov T154 made it all the way there despite flapping its wings for a good part of the journey!" Arriving in Sofia, they were overwhelmed by the warmth of the welcome they received from Sofia Baptist Church: "They made it clear how much our visit was an encouragement to them." During the actual induction service they translated the address, already given in German and Bulgarian, into English for them and told them, through interpreters, how much they valued their support in making the trip.

For the Bulgarian church were thanking John and Heather as representatives of everyone in Britain who had made possible the training of their new pastor. There was such joy in their hearts that Tedi and Didi had returned to their

Mike Pilavachi



Want to know if you are a leader?

Are you going anywhere? You cannot lead others to a place unless you are going there yourself. Recently I was cross with the Church I pastor as I felt they lacked discipline generally, and especially in areas such as personal prayer. As I was complaining to God about them, I realised that these were indeed my weak areas! I looked at my Church and I saw myself! They were following the example of their leader faithfully. They are good followers. The question is, where am I leading them?

Look over your shoulder. Is anyone following you? If not, it could be you are not a leader. Pastors pastor, teachers teach, elders eld and leaders lead! You are not a leader because you have been given the title, but because you fulfil the function. The title should be a recognition of the function.

Are you a risk taker? Churchill, Thatcher, Blair, Branson are all risk takers. Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel were all risk takers. To lead you must be willing to take risks. We have been told that faith is spelt RISK. This should not be limited to praying for healing, but also with regard to money, time, projects, people etc. William Carey said "Attempt great things for God, expect great things from God."

Are you any good at delegating? It has been said "Don't work harder, work smarter." What is the difference between the man who runs his own corner shop and Richard Branson? Often it is not the amount of hours they put in. The man in his shop is often open all hours, seven days a week. Branson works smarter. He recruits, trains, and deploys others to do the work with him and therefore runs a string of multi-million pound companies and not a corner shop. Too many Christian leaders are trying to do everything themselves. It is unbiblical and stupid. Hence the number of corner shop churches.

Can you take rejection? Secular management consultants have found that any leader will always have a minimum of five per cent of his or her followers disgruntled or unhappy. This is the case whatever he/she does, or indeed if they do nothing! Rejection is a fact of life for a leader. If they did it to Jesus, they will do it to you. The question is, how do we cope with rejection? Do we react in defensiveness, bitterness or self-pity, or do we respond as Moses did, with resolve and compassion?

Are you a servant? This is the one aspect of leadership which should set the Christian apart. Our model is Jesus who knew where he was going, "for the joy set before him." He had disciples who followed, was willing to take risks with bread, fish, wine etc, knew how to delegate and willingly faced rejection. The most magnificent leader. And yet a servant. He cared. He loved. He sacrificed. He laid down his life. For his friends. "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet." (John 13:14) ●



homeland, and had not been lured by all the West had to offer.

The church in Bulgaria needs encouragement. Today there are 2,800 Baptists in Bulgaria in 55 churches. True, it has survived the communist regime. It has survived various buffetings from the state since then. But it is predominantly a tired and elderly church. It has elderly people who have got used to keeping themselves to themselves and not trusting anyone. Sofia as a city is worn out and people's faces reflect this. It is hard enough just being alive. What energy they have goes into family life; there are no reserves left to care for others. Financially Bulgaria is in a perilous state; unemployment is high; and inflation runs at 20% a week.

Gradually people are shaking off the effects of communism. But having lived for so long under its shadow has numbed the Bulgarians. It is difficult to get people to take the lead in anything in church life, even a housegroup. And so it is all the more remarkable that young people like Tedi and Didi Oprenov have sacrificed so much, and are prepared to become leaders in this dispirited nation. ●

Prayer Points

- that as the younger generation turn to the Lord, the mistrust of the past will recede
- that God will raise up leaders to build a strong and significant church in this land

INSET: Tedi being inducted as assistant minister at Sofia Baptist Church

Tedi, Didi and daughter

Record year for stamps



Last year David Beaumont and his team of BMS Stamp Bureau volunteers sorted and trimmed their way through 1314 parcels of stamps, weighing a total of 1225 kg, estimated to have included 8,600,000 stamps. Organisers of the Stamp Bureau, which is the oldest charity stamp dealer in the UK, say that's more parcels than ever before. And when the stamps arrive, more of them have been trimmed already, says David, which means less work for him, and more stamps per kilo.

In 1996 David sold 900 kg of stamps for £1,679 and transferred 93 kg to the Great Britain department and 73 kg to the Foreign and Commonwealth department.

Richard Camp, in charge of the Great Britain department estimates two-thirds of his sales are by post, and one-third at stamp fairs. By selling stamps in this way he was able to raise more than £2,000 for BMS in 1996.

Douglas Neilson, who heads up the Foreign and Commonwealth department raised more than £2,600 from sales last year.

The sale of these and other collectibles such as coins and cards altogether brought in over £6,000 for BMS last year.

For everyone apart from David and his team, it's an effortless way of raising money. Anyone who receives letters in the post can help to collect stamps for BMS, and help boost the sales even further.

Write to BMS Didcot for a special leaflet giving all the details. ●

Stamps

News

Green Tour

More than 5,000 people have experienced the challenge of BMS President Carolyn Green's roadshow, At the Cutting Edge, which has been touring the country since last summer.

The tour, on its final leg, has so far visited 16 centres to present the BMS vision for mission in a multi-media format during open celebration meetings with

Carolyn on tour



keynote speakers. Carolyn's aim is to inspire and challenge Christians to put world mission high on their personal and church agendas.

These events have also given Carolyn the chance to meet and pay tribute to volunteers who maintain the BMS profile in churches through the birthday scheme, prayer groups, magazine distribution or as mission secretaries and organisers.

And she has also met more than 400 church leaders to whom she has presented the BMS strategy for mission into

the 21st century during 23 breakfast or lunch sessions.

Among many the dowdy image of a BMS stuck in the past will have been blown apart. Church leaders, especially, have left their briefing sessions with a fresh image of a dynamic organisation committed to preaching the gospel and making Jesus known worldwide.

Several have taken up the challenge to visit BMS mission settings as part of their sabbatical plan and one group of ministers from southern England have asked for a two-week exchange visit.

Those who have spent time abroad speak of the benefits. David Morris, of South Parade Baptist Church, Leeds, who has visited Zaire and Brazil says "If we believe the words of John 3:16 then we have to recognise that world mission lies at the heart of who God is. And from a personal experience, after a sabbatical spent in Zaire, I began to take world mission seriously, and it completely revolutionised my own personal life and ministry."

A feature of celebration days has been the pre-meeting receptions at which Carolyn has met personally more than 1,500 representatives from churches to thank them for their sterling efforts and encourage them to continue carrying forward the BMS banner. The receptions, which have presented host churches with the challenge of catering for as many as 150, have also enabled BMS Co-ordinators across the country to strengthen their links with church representatives.

Richard Wells, BMS

Director for Constituency Support, said: "We've greatly appreciated the superb effort by church catering teams. They have created a convivial environment which is an important attribute in honouring the work of our church volunteers."

The celebration meetings have given local church organising groups the opportunity to be creative in dance, drama and music. These features combined with video and telephone live-link dialogue with missionaries abroad, have given a dynamic fast-moving and challenging feel to the programme.

During March and April the tour will visit celebration locations at :

Exeter, South Street,

Friday 7 March, 7.15pm

Knighton, Wales,

Thursday 13 March, 7.15pm

Sutton Coldfield,

Friday 14 March, 7.15pm

Glasgow, Queen's Park,

Friday 11 April, 7.15pm

Aberdeen, International Baptist Church,

Saturday 12 April, 7.15pm

Edinburgh, Charlotte Chapel,

Sunday 13 April.

These meetings are open to everyone.



New editor for Mh

Richard Wells after two years as editor of *mh* has handed the chair to Production Editor Jan Kendall following his appointment as Director for Constituency Support.

Jan (42) has worked for BMS for over seven years, at the hub of the Society's

BMS TAKES KEY ROLE IN BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

Among the integral features at this year's Baptist Assembly which takes place in London, 28 April - 1 May, will be:

- the World Mission Evening, with a theme of 'Would you take that risk...?', including a live-link with a risk-taking missionary, and keynote address from Trevor Edwards, General Secretary of the Jamaica Baptist Union. Wednesday 30 April, 7.00pm.
- 'Not the BMS Seminar', led by Alistair Brown, which takes both a light-hearted and a serious look at the image of mission work. "We're planning for 21st century mission, but we know many people still have an image of 19th century mission work" said Alistair. Tuesday 29 April, 4.15 - 5.15 pm.
- 'Ten Ways to make Mission a Higher Priority in your Church's Programme' seminar. Director for Constituency Support Richard Wells said, "Part of our business is promoting world mission, generating interesting ideas and then giving them to people who can make mission promotion go with a bang in their local churches. This workshop session will do just that." The seminar will be led by two BMS co-ordinators Cath Mawson and Theo Lambourne, both highly skilled at presentation. Wednesday 30 April, 2.15 - 3.30 pm.

publicity and promotion department. As well as experience in a shipping office and the credit control department of a butter factory, she has a theology degree from Nottingham University, which, she says has been very useful for the great number of Bible studies she has had to write over the years. Jan is also co-author of the BMS publication Present Company Accepted, a series of group sessions on the biblical basis for world mission.

"I've got a tough act to follow" she said, "but I believe this is what God wants me to be doing at this time. We've got a great team, and we're constantly seeking to improve what we're doing, and to hear and speak out on what we believe God is saying to his people today, especially in regard to mission."

Richard will act in a consultancy capacity as Editorial Director.

John Passmore, BMS missionary in Bangladesh from 1977 - 87, proudly shows off his medal and certificate.



Bangladesh Baptists celebrate 200 years

The First Baptist Church in the sub-continent of India at Dinajpur - today located in Bangladesh - were celebrating their bi-centenary in style in November last year. To commemorate their 200 years in being, they issued specially produced certificates and medals to several BMS missionaries who had served in Bangladesh; some, like the one allocated to William Carey, were issued posthumously.

Baptist Missionary Society stamp bureau Foreign and Commonwealth stamps for sale

Individual packets of mainly larger stamps (off-paper) including special issues (contents 95+% different)

100 World

60 Brit. Commonwealth

75 Belgium

50 France

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75 Western Europe

60 Australia

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60 New Zealand

100 USA

£3 each or any three packs for £8

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Please write your order, with your name and address, enclosing a stamped self addressed envelope, and cheque or postal order made out to 'BMS Stamp Bureau' and send to:

D G Neilson, 4 Argyle Street, Dundee, DD4 7AL.

The Trustees of the Elizabeth Seward's Charities HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that they have passed a resolution under the above provisions for the following purpose: Transferring the property of eighteen constituent charities into the nineteenth charity, being the Charity of Elizabeth Seward for Minister in the Provinces.

BMS news

COLOMBIA

The Presbyterian Church of Colombia has called for churches to lobby the Colombian government following the death of one of its lay pastors, Pedro Alzate Varela. Alzate was travelling on a bus when the bus was boarded by a group of armed men who shot him in front of the other passengers. Alzate was also a well-known community leader. (ENI)

UNITED STATES

An easel replaced a pulpit when YWAM University instructor and artist Mauricio Palacio brought a whole new meaning to the term "illustrated sermon". Working on a giant picture in front of the congregation, he captured in acrylics the images he received while praying as the churchgoers prayed and worshipped. "I think God wants us to find a new freedom, and speak to us visually as well as verbally" Palacio said. (YWAM News)

CYPRUS

More than 60 Partner agencies and "Friends of SAT-7" were present for the first Annual General Meeting of SAT-7, held in Cyprus recently. Entitled NETWORK '96 the two and a half days of meetings included an annual report on SAT 7's activities which began weekly broadcasts of Arabic language television programmes using the Eutelsat 2 F3 satellite in May last year. (SAT-7)

AUSTRALIA

A warehouse on the Melbourne waterfront is being used to store contributions to what one missionary organisation believes is potentially the country's biggest export: generosity. Hospital equipment, medical supplies, office furniture and building materials are all being gathered from across the region by Australian Relief and Mercy Services for shipment to Christian ministries around the world. (YWAM News)

SERBIA

A Christian rock concert in a pornographic movie theatre made an impact on young people who say the rest of the rockmusic world had abandoned them. Almost 50 members of the audience made commitments to Christ at the end of the concert in Nis by alternative rock groups formed by Youth With A Mission teams. (YWAM News)

News



building, with two dormitories and a classroom on the ground floor, and accommodation above for the director and his family as well as rooms for women students, along with dining room, and lounge/library. It already has 15 students who come from different cities and towns and are already active in the ministry of their local churches, all of which have been founded in the last five years.

The course is full-time, but only partly residential (one week in every three). Students use the two non-residential weeks for ministry in a local church and home study assignments. The final plan for the teaching staff is to have three full-time, two part-time and a further three visiting lecturers. Two of the teachers' wives are already involved in the life of the school.

The ABI will soon be registered by the Albanian government, and it is hoped that it will soon be a major force in the on-going and increasing development of a truly indigenous nationally-led Albanian church.

New Bible School dedicated in Albania

More than 100 Albanian believers and foreign missionaries gathered on the outskirts of Durres, 40km from the capital Tirana, at the end of October 1996 for the dedication of the new Albanian Bible Institute.

This represents the second phase in the development of a leadership training programme which has received a high level of co-operation from the evangelical churches in Albania. It began in 1993, with the offering of basic Bible teaching courses in towns and cities throughout Albania.

The ABI is a two storey



Bishop makes outspoken attack

Bishop Lesslie Newbigin launched an outspoken attack on "Western free-market culture" at Salvador, Brazil, while addressing the Conference on World Mission and Evangelism at the end of the last year. He said it was dominating the world, and he also criticised churches for

lacking the courage to provide an alternative. Bishop Newbigin said that although much of the conference time was spent discussing "non-European culture", not so much time had been spent studying the Western culture "in which the gospel had become domesticated". (ENI)

DRAMATIC DROP IN INFANT MORTALITY

Simple actions such as food distribution, vaccination of newborn babies, and teaching mothers elementary hygiene have saved the lives of thousands of children in Brazil. These lives have been saved through the co-operation of three levels of government and dozens of organisations, including non-governmental organisations, and others like UNICEF.

Commentators in Brazil are also marvelling that this has not happened because of great expenditure or gigantic plans. It is not the exclusive result of efforts of any federal state or local government body, nor of a specific religious or civil group.

This table shows how the number of children's deaths have fallen in north east Brazil over the last two years. It still has a long way to go, but the dramatic percentage drop in such a short space of time is remarkable.

Norm:

Number of deaths per thousand children born alive = 20

STATE	1994	1995
Alagoas	183	113
Sergipe	117	84
Ceará	110	62
Paraíba	112	48
Bahia	103	41
Rio Grande	103	59
Maranhão	77	51
Piauí	70	47
Average	100	60

Figures published by the Ministry of Health



Alistair Brown



Big cities-home for the lost?

Streets jammed with traffic and crowded with people. This is Karachi, Pakistan, a city exploding with population growth. It's not unusual. Early next century, for the first time in history, the majority of the world's population will live in cities.

To walk the streets of the mega cities is to be choked by fumes, pestered by beggars, and to encounter desperate poverty, loneliness and sometimes violence. The cities are crowded with lost people.

So BMS has made the big cities a focus of our future strategy. We'll take the gospel to the poorest favelas, the abandoned children, the helpless who roam streets and may have no home anywhere. The task is immense. It seems impossible. But, in God's power, it's no more impossible than the commission given to those first disciples to go into all the world. In today's world, that must mean going to the cities' millions to make Jesus known. ●

Ministry under the Big Top

When Ashtons Circus - one of Australia's biggest - comes to town, it brings more than acrobats, jugglers and clowns. Travelling with it for the last four years has been Australia's first circus chaplain, Barry Fletcher, who ministers to the 25,000 itinerant workers in the country's circus industry.

Barry, a Pentecostal minister, commented, "It's an industry that has never had a chaplain." He counsels workers on many issues when they call into his mobile office for tea or coffee or a chat. He talks to them about drug and alcohol abuse, and financial

problems as well as their spiritual needs. It is difficult for circus and sideshow workers to have regular contact with the clergy unless they have their own chaplain because "not many priests want to have anything to do with itinerant people."

Fletcher has held services under the big top with congregations ranging between 200 and 1,300. He has also conducted five christenings and one wedding.

A religious service in a tent is well-received, he says, because for many people it is non-threatening. (ENI)

Letter to WML Desk

Dear Audrey

Help! I've just taken over as District BMS Secretary and at my first meeting questions were asked about help BMS gives to Missionary Secretaries and Link-Up groups - we think you send a letter but no one seemed very certain.



Congratulations on your appointment as District BMS Secretary. We hope you find your new role both rewarding and exciting. Don't panic if you don't know all the answers, none of us do, and others are there to help - you can write to BMS at Didcot; get in touch with your BMS Co-ordinator; speak to other District BMS Secretaries - together we can find the answer to your queries.

You ask about help to Missionary Secretaries and Link-Up groups. Yes, all new Missionary Secretaries and Link-Up Contacts receive a letter from BMS and with that letter a pack of material giving some basic information about BMS and the work it is involved in and some ideas as to the role of Missionary Secretary or, in the case of the Contact, some information on Link-Up and role of the Link-Up Contact. In addition your BMS Co-ordinator will also get in touch, introduce themselves and share information about

help that is available more locally.

After this initial contact more help is available

- All Missionary Secretaries and Link-Up Contacts receive, free, a mailing from Didcot three times a year giving details of new publications and up-to-date information on BMS;
- Subscribing to *mh* magazine is encouraged (some churches pay the subscription for their Missionary Secretary); and
- Regular training / information events are arranged by the BMS Co-ordinators.

On a more individual level support is also available - BMS Co-ordinators are always there to help and advise; the World Mission Link Organiser at Didcot can be contacted; and there are other Missionary Secretaries or Link-Up Contacts nearby who will be ready to share their experience. By using this network and the information that comes through the post we hope all Missionary Secretaries and Link-Up Contacts receive the help they need - if your group feels that there is more that needs to be done, do let us know. ●

Audrey



Dates for your Diary

At The Cutting Edge Presidential tour
In March and April Carolyn Green will be visiting the South Western and West Midlands Areas and Scotland, meeting church leaders and sharing in celebrations with people from the churches.

Meetings with church leaders
Meals with ministers have been arranged in the following Areas - Birmingham, Worcester, Coventry, the South West and Scotland. Any minister who has not yet received an invitation should contact the BMS Co-ordinator for their area.

Other Events and meetings:

Saturday and Sunday 1/2 March
Hartlepool District BMS Weekend

Details Eric Westwood 01429 866164

Monday 3 March
Lanarkshire Women's Auxiliary Missionary Rally, Coatbridge

Details Betty Brown 01236 429450

Tuesday 4 March
Newport WMA Annual Gift Day

Details Janet Hall 01633 271661

Wednesday 5 March
West of Scotland Women's Missionary Prayer Meeting, Adelaide Place Baptist Church, Glasgow

Details Freda Kennedy 0141 632 0883

Saturday and Sunday 8/9 March
Cardiff District BMS Weekend

Details Beryl Davies 01222 756426

Monday 10 March
West of Scotland Women's Missionary Fellowship, Bath Street, Glasgow

Details Ann Durning 0141 641 6248

Good Friday 28 March
South East Thames Annual Good Friday breakfast

Details Joy Piper 01322 528440

Wednesday 2 April
West of Scotland Women's Missionary Meeting, Adelaide Place Baptist Church, Glasgow

Details Freda Kennedy 0141 632 0883

Wednesday 9 April
Prayer Concert at Waterlooville Baptist Church

Details Leslie Gregory 01705 257305

Saturday and Sunday 12/13 April
Western Baptist Association, Group D Annual Mission Weekend

Details Pauline Trounson 01297 442583

Monday 14 April
West of Scotland Women's Missionary Fellowship, AGM, Bath Street, Glasgow

Details Ann Durning 0141 641 6248

Wednesday 7 May
BMS Welsh Women's Missionary Auxiliary Annual Meetings, Zion, Newtown

Details Delyth Wyn Davies 01766 512957

WOW Action Day
Saturday 5 April, Centenary Baptist Church, March, Cams
Contact Sandra Davies 01354 654493

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

ission Link



Have I got news for you?

Paul Merton and church raise the roof for PIPS

Ministers can be forgiven if they don't like building projects. So when Paul Merton and his Westgate Road Baptist Church, Newcastle set out on a project to modernise their Anglican-type church, that they knew would take several years, they must have wondered what lay ahead.

To add to the challenge Westgate Road church is a Grade 2 listed building, and its Westmorland slate roof had to be replaced with expensive Westmorland slate.

Undaunted, members set about raising money for their own building project. At the same time they pledged to support a building project overseas.

So when they recently raised £17,370 at a special thank-offering in aid of their

new roof, they tithed that offering and gave £1,737 to BMS in support of a special PIPS project. The money will help pay for the building and equipping of a clinic in Fortaleza, north-east Brazil where BMS missionary Mary Parsons is based (see above).

Mary reports that the project - a Save the Children scheme - is going well, and already the water board have laid pipes, which will soon be linked up to the clinic. Work is happening at such a pace that there are plans to start renovating a bungalow alongside the clinic, in which it is possible Mary will live.

"This is capturing everyone's imagination," said BMS North of England Co-ordinator Cath Mawson. "It's brilliant how things have taken off." ●

Bridgwater Story

When the members of Bridgwater Baptist Church got together and decided on a Christmas sale and luncheon, to raise money for BMS, they didn't realise how quickly the news of their fundraising event would travel! Both the local press (Bridgwater Mercury) and Father Christmas called in to see them. Altogether, they raised a breathtaking £1,100.

BMS Co-ordinators Delyth Wyn Davies and Phil Hindle are ready, willing and able to go to churches in their areas to talk about their recent trip to Zaire. You can contact them direct on 01823 698977 (Phil) and 01766 512957 (Delyth).



Delyth



Phil

Action Teams Tours

The Action Teams return to the UK in the spring, and as we go to press, not all the dates and venues have been firm up for their itineraries of visiting churches around the country. However, this is what we do know. Look up your area, and make a space in your diary for the relevant date!

NORTH OF ENGLAND

- Contact: Cath Mawson. Tel. 01274 487341
 28 April - 5 May Zimbabwe team in Craven district. Contact Sue Sheppy, 01282 813415
 5 May - 12 May Thailand team at Moortown Baptist Church, Leeds. Contact John Hawkesworth 0113 269 3742
 12 May - 19 May Thailand team at Heywood Baptist church, Rochdale. Contact Sandra Crawford 01706 628908
 Brazil team in Brierfields, Burnley. Contact Hilda Pate 01282 74025
 19 May - 26 May Brazil team in Adel, Leeds.
 26 May - 2 June UK team in South Bank, Middlesbrough. Contact Doris Burdett 01642 452778
 2 June - 9 June Jamaica team in Ansdall, Lytham St Annes. Contact Andrew Hardcastle 01253 739043
 9 June - 16 June Malta team in Rochdale district. Contact Val Treaton 01706 522084
 16 June - 23 June Portugal team in Northern Association. Contact Margaret Barnett 01207 504023

SCOTLAND

- Contact: Derek Clark. Tel 0141 775 1201
 28 April - 5 May Thailand team at Edinburgh & Lothian Baptist Missionary Auxiliary To be confirmed
 5 May - 12 May UK team at Cupar Baptist Church, Fife
 12 May - 19 May UK team at Paisley Central Baptist Church
 19 May - 26 May Jamaica team at Bridge of Don Baptist Church, Aberdeen
 26 May - 2 June Malta team at Solway Association
 2 June - 9 June To be confirmed
 9 June - 16 June Nepal team in Argyleshire and the Isles
 16 June - 23 June

SOUTH WALES

- Contact: Gareth Hutchinson. Tel 01792 360909
 5 May - 12 May Nepal team in Cardiff
 12 May - 19 May Nepal team in Cwmbran
 19 May - 26 May Jamaica team in Aberdare & Swansea
 26 May - 2 June Malta team in Blackwood

NORTH & MID WALES

- Contact: Delyth Wyn Davies. Tel 01766 512957
 All details to be confirmed

CENTRAL & EAST OF ENGLAND

- Contact: Jim Clarke. Tel 01353 778984
 28 April - 5 May UK team in Buckinghamshire
 5 May - 12 May Jamaica team in Suffolk BMS Support Group
 Malta team in Swavesey and Cambridgeshire. Contact Richard Owen 01954 232210
 12 May - 19 May Malta team at Mill Road Baptist Church, Wellingborough.
 19 May - 26 May Malta team in Hertfordshire
 26 May - 2 June Portugal team at Leigh Road Baptist Church, Leigh-on-Sea. Contact Roger Martin 01702 471010
 2 June - 9 June Nepal team in Leighton Buzzard and Bedfordshire. Contact Sue Carter 01525 221187
 Thailand team at Great Shelford, Cambridge. Contact Jonathan Burrough 01223 842181
 9 June - 16 June Thailand team at Victoria Road South Baptist Church, Chelmsford.
 Zimbabwe team in Norwich. Contact Raymond Lewis 01603 743685
 16 June - 23 June Brazil team at Histon Baptist Church
 Contact Jane Magowan 01480 435153 (work)

LONDON & SOUTH EAST ENGLAND

- Contact: Derek Mucklow. Tel. 0181 393 6017
 All details to be confirmed

MIDLANDS

- Contact: Theo Lambourne. Tel. 0116 271 3633
 28 April - 5 May Brazil team at Sutton Coldfield Baptist Church, Trinity Hill Contact Alan Pain
 5 May - 12 May UK team at Dunchurch Baptist Church, near Rugby
 Contact Matthew Cooper 01788-813651
 12 May - 19 May Jamaica team with Nottingham BMS Support Group, Contact Joan Manicom 0115-962-3235
 19 May - 26 May Jamaica team in Worcester, Contact Martin Hodson 01905-358 869.
 26 May - 2 June Malta team based at Shirley Baptist Church Solihull, Contact Brian Garman 0121-704-1145
 2 June - 9 June Portugal team based at Ashby-de-la-Zouch Baptist Church, Leics, Contact Gill Roberts 01530-414 350
 9 June - 16 June Nepal team based at Ledbury Baptist Church, Contact Simon Minshull 01531-632 079
 16 June - 23 June Zimbabwe team based at Ross-on-Wye Baptist Church, Contact Phil Dazeley 01989-567 810
 16 June - 23 June Thailand team based with the Peterborough District
 Contact Maggi Bass 01733-237 692

SOUTH & WEST OF ENGLAND

- Contact: Phil Hindle. Tel. 01823 698977
 28 April - 5 May Malta team in North Oxford & E. Gos.
 5 May - 12 May Portugal team in Gosport
 12 May - 19 May Zimbabwe team in Didcot
 19 May - 26 May Zimbabwe team in Isle of Wight
 Nepal team in Torquay
 26 May - 2 June Zimbabwe team in Gos. Association
 Thailand team in Yeovil
 2 June - 9 June Brazil team in Worle, Weston-super-Mare
 9 June - 16 June To be confirmed
 16 June - 23 June Jamaica team in Berks. Association

Martin Pearse on course

MARK RUDALL MEETS THE INCOMING BMS PRESIDENT

P R E S I D E N T

Martin Pearse



NOT every day do I meet someone who lists his leisure interests as 'school governor, barn-dance caller, football referee, walking, camping and supporting my children's activities'. They are all high-energy activities, and when this same person must also find time to hold down a demanding career in the voluntary sector and be preparing for a non-stop year as the fourth President of the BMS he must be someone with enormous zest for life.

All this seemed to match the head-and-shoulders pictures of Martin Pearse appearing in various Baptist periodicals during Autumn 1996. Even without seeing the rest of him they reminded me of the kind of rugged figure whose top half might have been glimpsed years ago on the bridge of a liner, sextant in hand checking the ship's course.

President-elect Martin is aged 43 and earns his living as Director of Burton-on-Trent YMCA. The son of a BMS missionary, he was part of the teenage BMS Summer School generation and like so many others developed an enthusiasm for the Society's work through the friendships made summer by summer. Eventually invited to join the BMS Committee, he has served for 12 years and currently is representative Director on the Board of Management.

He is a wonderful example of the kind of person whose existence reinforces the management axiom 'if you want something done, ask a busy man'.

But sometimes he has to stop, and Martin's home life centres on his wife Anna, and their sons Nicholas (12) and

with BMS

Taking the risk
Taking the risk

Mark (10). The family are part of New Baptist Church, Burton-on-Trent, moving there from London when Martin was given the task of opening up a new YMCA work in the district. 'Ours is a very Christian branch of the YMCA' he says, 'and over the years our work has grown dramatically, seeing us working in the community with people of all ages, not just the young.'

'I have a tremendous sense of privilege at being given this Presidential opportunity,' he says. 'And I see the task as different from that of the former BMS Chairman. I am clearly a figurehead in a sense, but I also see my role is to be involved in the decision-making processes of the Society. I also want to be active in promoting the work of the BMS world-wide. I'll do it, I suppose, in my own style, but I think age is on my side for the BMS has sometimes been seen by our constituency as an organisation run by older people and that's not really fair.'

The 1997-8 Assembly theme 'Take the Risk' has been developed jointly between Martin and the incoming Baptist Union President Frederick George. I asked Martin for his perspectives on it:

'I'm proud of the BMS. I think we're becoming more and more relevant and also more 'evangelical' too: I think God wants that so I want to be bold and not be afraid to say it. Carolyn Green has run meetings around the country to raise the BMS profile and to clarify what we stand for - so I want to continue that.

'I particularly have a heart for young people and the 20s-40s in our churches. We now live in the kind of world where things

are much more temporary than they were a few years ago. This kind of trend means that if the BMS is to exist in ten to fifteen years time younger people need to grasp its vision and help the Society to adapt. They need to grasp the importance of world mission, and if they're Baptists, to support what the BMS is doing; otherwise what I believe what God wants simply won't be there. I believe God does want the BMS, so I'll keep promoting that and also keep encouraging those who are older to bring the younger ones aboard.

'Strategically, I see the Action Teams as terribly important and well worth developing even further,' he says. 'These teams can change the lives of young people. But I'd like also to have a series of 'rolling magazine style' evening meetings for young people to show how the command to preach, teach and baptise is a day-to-day imperative, not merely an option among all the other things to do in their busy lives.'

'I think that's where our Assembly theme of 'Take the Risk' comes in: I want to see people getting involved, giving their 'all' to Christ and being obedient to what He wants.'

Martin and I were talking in the chapel on the top floor of Baptist House. Perhaps it was the steps down to the ground floor that once again called to mind the image of the confident mariner pacing along the ship's bridge, sextant in hand. I reflected how that image is perhaps not quite as appropriate as I thought at first.

Martin Pearse does indeed know where he's going: but we can be sure he intends to look to his Lord for the regular course checks throughout his BMS Presidential year. ●

1

The second of a series edited by **Jan Kendall** which focuses on six towns or cities around the world in which BMS personnel are operating.

So what's different about Kathmandu?



Kathmandu is a town like many others - lots of people, homes, offices, shops, cars, buses, trucks, rush-hour traffic jams, a ring-road, pigeons and sparrows. So how does Kathmandu differ from your nearest town? Well, there are several things missing that you might expect to see. For example, there are no street names, except on the main roads, so most people do not have a home address. This makes it difficult to find someone's house unless they show you the way; there are no postal deliveries and certainly no post codes! Also, once you step away from the main roads, you step off the pavements - there aren't any, there are only a few street lights in the network of narrow winding streets which make up the bulk of Kathmandu.

Public transport is restricted to buses of all shapes and sizes, a number of trolley buses donated by China, a growing fleet of taxis and some cheap but uncomfortable three-wheeler auto-rickshaws. The brightly coloured cycle-rickshaws are used mainly by tourists. Many people travel by bicycle or motorbike and a large number of pedestrians brave the traffic and the fumes. Steps have been taken to reduce the pollution caused by vehicle emissions and low grade fuels, but Kathmandu is surrounded by hills which means the smoke is not easily dispersed. One mission organisation has started issuing smog masks to its Kathmandu based workers - a new item for the 'essential

missionary kit'!

Pollution, monsoon clouds and foggy winter mornings permitting, you can occasionally see the Himalayas from Kathmandu, something not many other towns can claim. Sacred cows, revered by the Hindus, meander freely down the middle of the main road, pigs snuffle for food in the rubbish unceremoniously dumped here and there, packs of dogs jealously guard their territories, and the occasional monkey ventures off the rooftops to snatch a bag of fruit from a passer-by.

NOTHING EVER CHANGES...?

Daniel Wright, a surgeon attached to the British Residency in Nepal in the 1870s, wrote: "The streets of Kathmandu are very narrow, mere lanes in fact; and the whole town is very dirty... to clean the drains would now be impossible without knocking down the entire city, as the whole ground is saturated with filth. In short, from a sanitary point of view, Kathmandu may be said to be built on a dunghill in the middle of latrines."

A current travel writer, Charlie Pye-Smith, comments that little has changed!

THE CHRISTIAN SCENE

Until the 1950s the Hindu kingdom of Nepal was closed to the gospel, but Christians throughout Asia were praying for an opening. In 1951 a new government invited foreigners to Nepal to undertake development work. In this way three young men from the Union Biblical Seminary in India came to Nepal in 1952, and started a small house fellowship in Putalisadak (Butterfly Street), Kathmandu. By 1960 a church building had been erected opposite the present Parliament buildings, still on Putalisadak, and the first pastor appointed.

Today church attendance at Putalisadak is on the increase and the building is too small. The church is gradually achieving Nepali leadership. It has a daughter church in one of the slum areas of Kathmandu and a growing youth, children's and women's programme. Every week night, in one part of the city or other there are two house fellowships meeting.

The church also hopes to expand its social programme, providing more scholarships to children of poor homes. ●





kathmandu



Merging of two major religions

In Kathmandu the two major religions merge - so Hindus and Buddhists share the same festivals and same places of worship. There is a great emphasis on the extended family; parents arrange marriages for their children; sons continue to live with their parents after marriage, while daughters are "given away" to the in-laws. Displays of affection between husband and wife in public are frowned upon, although hand-holding between friends of the same sex is a common sight.

Has TV reached Kathmandu?

Yes, the all-pervasive global culture has arrived in Kathmandu - many homes do have satellite TV. Imagine the impact of a programme like "Baywatch" on a society where it is culturally inappropriate for all but children to show their legs! The traditional male dress is a long white tunic and trousers, baggy at the thighs, but tight at the ankles. However, already this is kept only for the most formal

occasions and has mostly been replaced by the ubiquitous trousers and shirt or t-shirt. Saris are still the norm for women, but western styles are seen by the young as more fashionable and are worn by the more daring.

There is also the government-operated Radio Nepal which broadcasts traditional Nepali music and solid, dry "educational" programming, and in contrast, Kathmandu FM Radio Station has recently been launched which provides lots of western pop songs, and uses English as its main language.

Leisure

In Kathmandu you won't find leisure centres, children's playgrounds, public libraries, superstores or McDonalds. There is one public outdoor swimming pool, a few spartan public parks, some private libraries, a number of 60s style department stores and a Wimpy, which opened in 1996. There is electricity and telephone systems, although often unreliable, and the water supply is not safe to drink without filtering and boiling.

Our town

Kathmandu

Everyday life

Amidst the many tiered pagoda palaces, temples, durbars and squares of Patan are a veritable rabbit warren of medieval houses reaching up for the sunlight and air whilst the streets are dark and dark even on the hottest day. Despite the municipality infrastructure inadequacies, each year more of the lanes are powered and homes connected to drains. Although 90 per cent of homes have taps, water only flows from 60 per cent of them and that at infrequent intervals. Consequently the traditional water sources of stone taps and wells are in great demand. Week by week, every Saturday, there's a queue at the taps/wells with mum bringing the family's weekly wash to be soaped scrubbed, pounded, rinsed and wrung out near the water source, then carried home in copper or plastic bowls taken up to the roof and spread out to dry.

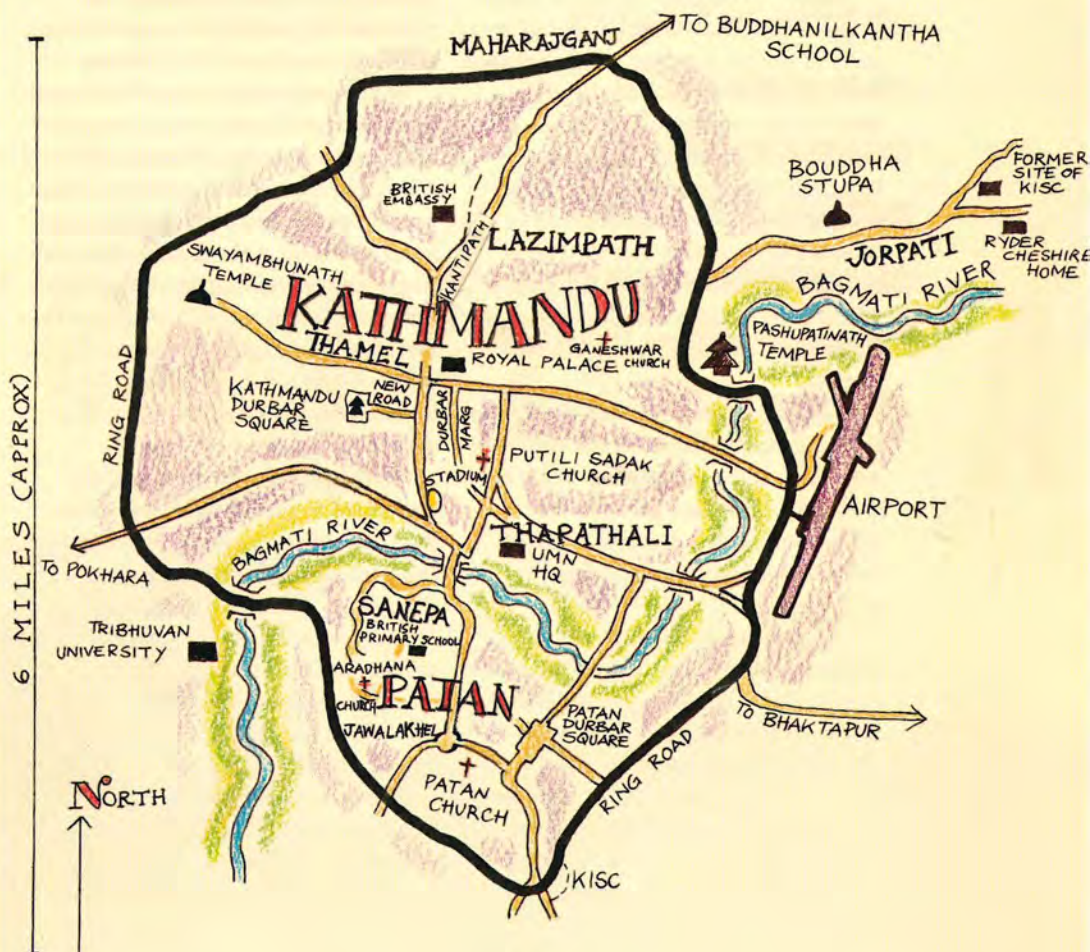
Houses are traditionally one room wide and built round a square, frequently have a worship place - either stupa or small shrine. Within the old city of Patan there are 2,200 stupas (area approx one square mile). At the festival of "Maitrya" when the dead are remembered and their spirits encouraged to pass over to the next world, thousands of people visit these stupas leaving a small offering at each one - a few grains of rice, candle, wick lamp, sweets or flowers. Normally each morning a family member will go out to the square to make an offering, then move to the shrine of the neighbourhood for making a further offering - perhaps even to one of the major shrines of the area before retiring home and making offerings to the individual deities at the top and bottom of the house. ●

Where there's a well, there's a way

Dil Maya Tandukar and Sarmila Maharjan are an unlikely duo - forty years difference in age, one a great-granny with diminished eye-sight, the other, a young mother struggling to run her tiny tea shop whilst caring for her two under-fives! What unites them - the well! They are both dependent on the same well for drinking water. It is strategically placed at the bend of a road leading down to the Bagmati River. Farmers pause for a drink on their way home resting the sheaves of rice on a nearby wall. The daily labourers who fill sacks with sand from the river pause for a drink as they plod up to the construction sites around the city. Women are glad of a chat and a drink as they return with their bowls of washing. The well is a social focus for all who pass by but before anyone can enjoy a drink Dil Maya or Sarmila have to produce a bucket to be let down 16-18 feet to the water level. Not once a day, but ten, twenty, thirty times. Of course being on a public path there are the thoughtless who toss a pebble or a stick into the well, and the wind deposits dust and sand.

The ladies decided something must be done and they had actually seen rower pumps fitted to covered wells in other parts of the city. They approached CDHP whose water technician encouraged them in community motivation and awareness raising. A committee was formed, funds raised and application for CDHP assistance submitted. Dil Maya and Sarmila were key committee members. The committee opened a bank account - more accurately they attempted to open a bank account but no one was literate, no one could sign his/her name so the bank insisted that the signatories should have citizenship certificates. What a proud day it was when Dil Maya and Sarmila came into the office with their laminated citizenship cards complete with photographs and thumbprints. The very next day off to the bank they went, the cash deposits and the work began!

Subsequently both ladies took training on how to maintain the rower pumps and how to chlorinate the well using a slow release system. The community contributed 26% of the total costs by their labour and bringing sand from the river. ●



Zaire Zaire Zaire Zaire Zaire



FROM THE DIARY OF OWEN CLARK...
I THOUGHT IT WAS A FAIR RESULT, THOUGH WE HADN'T SET OUT TO RUN AN ANGLING COMPETITION AT ALL. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE CHURCH PLANTING.

On the Saturday we'd set off in the Land Rover for the Bateke plateau, district evangelist Mputu, a young helper Belesi, Deanna and myself. Sixty miles of rolling grassland later, we turned into Nguene, site of a recent church plant, to say we'd be back on Friday to start courses. Further negotiation of large, rain-filled potholes for 25 miles brought us to an even newer group at Mbankana, to confirm that we'd be in church the next day. A final leg down a deep-puddled, sandy road brought us to Bwantaba. To stay in Pastor Mbieme's mud-hut.

On Sunday morning, Pied-Piper style, Belesi enchanted the Bwantaba children with songs and a story, before we set off to join the Mbankana group in their palm-frond church. Deanna preached, and we stayed most of the day to encourage them.

On Monday we checked out the blackfly on the beans in the Bwantaba church field. Treatment was imperative. Invited to start work at Kinzono, ten miles past Mbankana, we paid them a visit on the Tuesday. Each evening, back in Bwantaba, Belesi and Mputu called people to sing and dance to the drum near a camp-fire and hear a Bible message.

Wednesday we paid for insecticide and

arranged for the blackfly to be sprayed. Deanna planned to teach the Mbankana women to make pancakes in the afternoon and so it came about, our presence being surplus to requirements, that Belesi and I opted to go fishing.

In the deep valley beyond Mbankana flows the river Lufimi, swift, clear, and the colour of neat tea. Mukoko, Papy and Nkie from Bwantaba came along to show us the ropes. Whilst I issued hooks and line, local boys caught grasshoppers and dug worms for bait. I caught three and Belesi one, before we packed up, and the Bwantaba lads laughingly conceded defeat: 4-1 to Kinshasa. Honour, however, demanded a return match on their home water.

Saturday afternoon the Bwantaba anglers led us past an acacia forest into the Limbimi valley, through scrubby trees and grass, steeply down to the forest at the bottom. There, in a small, swift, limpid stream, fish were clearly visible, but Belesi and I found them hard to catch, taking only one apiece. On rejoining the Bwantaba lads, to our chagrin they were happily descaling 26 fish. It was Kinshasa's turn to call for a final and deciding match. But when? And where?

For Sunday services we split forces - Deanna at Bwantaba to preach, Mputu and Papy at Mbankana. I took Belesi to Bombo-Lumene, where, to the children's delight, he did his Pied Piper bit. Papa Antoine, who had cut new pole-seats and added a palm-frond or two to the roof, helped get communion ready, before banging the wheel-rim. We had 18 adults and four children till Belesi and crowd joined us to swell the singing. Message and benediction given, we shook hands at the door, and the members returned for communion.

On Monday war was declared on the blackfly, and Mukoko learnt how to pump insecticide. Later we continued



Zaire Zaire **R** Zaire Zaire Zaire **E**

A fair result

our classes in Bwantaba and Mbankana. Tuesday and Wednesday were spent, as promised at Kinzono, Belesi animating the singing and calling people to gather. Mputu preached effectively. On the second day we talked with them about founding a CBFZ church, and promised to return the following month.

On Friday, our last day, we met the big chief of the area, Labi, who suggested we revisit the villages where, in the 1930s BMS missionaries had started work. When an elephant journeys, he said, it returns to where it has eaten previously.

In the afternoon Mukoko and Co were in a church meeting, but five others were

keen to settle unfinished business. We agreed on the Limbimi again, at a different location. Belesi and I caught five fish each, and Deanna one, to make 11. The Bwantaba lads looked smug as they counted out 14, until we said that they were five to only three of us. Our average was thus higher than theirs. That made Kinshasa the winners. Though not entirely convinced, they were generous enough to concede defeat for the series. Personally I felt it was a fair result. But then I would, being on the winning side.

We met the big chief of the area, Labi, who suggested we revisit the villages where, in the 1930s BMS missionaries had started work. When an elephant journeys, he said, it returns to where it has eaten previously.





MISSIONARY SLIDES ARE JUST A SHADOW OF THE REAL THING SAYS PASTOR AND GP ALAN K BEAVIS. THERE'S NOTHING QUITE LIKE MEETING OUR OVERSEAS BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN PERSON.

If only mission could be more interesting, more immediate. If only we could actually get to know someone in a foreign mission or church. It would then be so much more real. We would pray with much more enthusiasm and with much more sense of what to pray for. In these days of fast and relatively cheap travel there are greater opportunities than ever to get a closer feel and contact with missionary work.

Having previously visited Zimbabwe in November 1994, both to visit friends and to minister in

several different churches, I set off once more in May 1996. Although many Zimbabweans would consider themselves Christians, many also embrace their old traditional (animist) beliefs, which often centre around ancestor worship. In a society that is very aware of "spiritual forces", evangelism is seen very much as a power encounter between God and the forces of darkness. There

also needs to be an emphasis on physical and spiritual healing as part of the gospel declaration.

When I left it was with some apprehension, as I had no idea of the plans that had been made for me during the time I would spend in Zimbabwe. On arriving, somewhat drowsy and bedraggled after a ten hour overnight flight, my worst fears were realised - there were NO plans for my visit! Yes, they knew I was coming and yes, they were very pleased to see me again but, after all, this was Africa!

Planning, organisation, etc, well that's all very UK. One of the first things to realise is that we can't expect things in Africa to work in the same way or at the same speed as they do at home.

Because of my job as a GP, as well as the pastor of Totteridge Road Baptist Church in Enfield, I made contact with the Hospital Christian Fellowship and spent time meeting the local Christians in the hospitals in Harare. This was to be a pattern often repeated - one contact leading to another and contacts made on this visit that have led to further invitations for the future. I also made contact with BMS missionary Steve Seymour and spent a day out in the rural areas seeing something at first hand of the agricultural work of BMS. It just happened that Patrick Dube, the president of the Baptist Union in Zimbabwe was also on the same trip, so another contact was made. Speaking with the local Christians is so much more stimulating than viewing missionary slides!

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second city is a very attractive city where the streets, while not being paved with gold, are

wide enough to turn a full team of oxen in one go! I didn't actually see any teams of oxen but, no doubt, the ability to accomplish this manoeuvre was very useful in the days of Cecil Rhodes and the original European settlers.

In Bulawayo I was able to preach at a church which turned out to be a group of about one hundred people meeting in the open air every week, sitting on a tarpaulin. They did have a tent but it was blown down in the wind and now they are hoping to raise funds to build a permanent structure.

As a result of meeting their pastor, we were able to invite him to the UK to share his vision for a multi-purpose building to meet the needs of this particular suburb of Bulawayo, call Nkulumane. Since his visit in August, the church at Totteridge Road has caught this vision and has pledged to help raise support for the building. The youth group really took the whole thing to heart and as well as hoping to raise funds, some are already planning to visit Zimbabwe and do some practical work there. Now they have met Pastor Levy, they know him and want to help their new friend realise his vision for God's work in his homeland.

Also while in Bulawayo, I met Pastor Raymond Motsi, from Bulawayo Central Baptist Church, a church which has been responsible for several church plants in the spreading suburbs around the city. The original church was built on land given to the Baptists personally by Cecil Rhodes! Raymond raised with me the possibility of forming a 'twinning' relationship between the church in Bulawayo and the church here at Totteridge Road, an idea that I found very exciting and

Clothed in flesh and blood



Far left: statue of David Livingstone
 Above left: Nursing sister in Harare
 Above centre: Supermarket in Bulawayo
 Above right: Plaque in National Park
 Main: Victoria Falls
 Bottom right: Theological College at Bulawayo



to which the church readily responded on my return.

Our mission interest is now clothed with flesh and blood and we feel that in the coming years we will derive as much blessing and input from our Zimbabwean friends as they

will from us. We now have regular information on the work in Zimbabwe in our services and each part of the church is getting involved. Nowadays, there are regular phone calls and letters between Bulawayo and Enfield

with a flow of information between us. We really feel that we have become partners with our brothers and sisters in Africa and they with us ●

Alan K Beavis, minister of Totteridge Road Baptist Church, Enfield is also a GP.

TAKE 2

Take Two – a resource for church leaders and workers



What the Bible says about leadership

A leader should be :

- able to delegate
- above reproach
- eager to serve
- examples to the flock
- equipping God's people for service
- first tested
- full of the Spirit
- gentle, not violent
- not given to drunkenness/indulging in much wine
- of good reputation with outsiders
- holding truths of faith with a clear conscience
- hospitable
- not lording it over those entrusted to them
- not a lover of money
- not malicious talkers
- managing own family well
- not pursuing dishonest gain
- not a recent convert
- respectable
- self-sacrificing
- self controlled
- a servant
- a shepherd of God's flock
- sincere
- able to teach
- trustworthy
- voluntary, not press-ganged
- wise
- worthy of double honour

These refer to elders, deacons, and others in non-specific leadership. References are from Exod 18, Mt 20, John 13, Acts 6, Eph 4, Phil 4, 1 Thess 5, im 3, 1 Tim 5, Titus 1, 1 Pet 5



"The gift of leadership is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate those goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God."

(C Peter Wagner, Professor of Church Growth at Fuller Theological Seminary School of World Mission, Pasadena, California)

Discussion questions on leadership

- 1 What are the qualities of a good leader needed in your church situation? Are other non-leadership qualities needed as well?
- 2 How do you view leadership in your church? What is your profile of a good leader?
- 3 Which of the following words sum up your leaders:
 - Manager
 - Has no feelings
 - Spirit filled
 - Wins respect
 - Evangelist
 - Decision maker
 - Disciple maker
 - Boring
 - Holy
 - Facilitator
 - Goal orientated
 - Clever
 - Preacher
 - Judge
 - Patient
 - Disorganised
 - Uninspiring
 - Listening ear
 - Servant
 - Enabler
 - Happy
 - Authoritarian
 - Teacher

Visionary
Copes with failure
Anointed
Efficient

Any others you want to add?

4 How do you appoint your leadership? Do you, for example, have a sort of hierarchy of office within your church? Does someone have to have served as a deacon before he or she can become an elder? What changes would you make, and what effect would they have?

5 How did the people you know in leadership find out they were being called to leadership, and how did they acknowledge it? Was it an individual thing, or was the church involved?

6 Do you give scope to women in leadership? What special qualities and perceptions do women bring to the role?

7 The concept of leadership is often associated with that of service. How does this manifest itself? It has been said that servanthood and anointing should go hand in hand in a leader in the church. How do you view this?

8 Leaders are human. What

Q

"I realised that before I could ever become a leader I needed to learn how to be a follower..."

(Josh McDowell, youth speaker and author)

Thought on leaders and leadership

- A community is its leaders
- Everything starts with good leadership
- Good things happen in communities because leaders working with people make them happen
- Lead by example. To achieve change, leaders must model it
- Find out what people want and help them set attainable goals
- Form a clear, exciting image of what the organisation can do or be. Share the vision and get others involved.
- Encourage everyone on the team to contribute
- Be committed to assisting others to realise their potential
- Be flexible in how the goals are achieved. Know that there is more than one way to achieve the goal. We can learn from mistakes; it's just another way of doing things.
- Focus on the issues or behaviour when there are problems - not the person
- Leadership means focusing on a shared vision of what is possible, but more than that, it means empowering others to make it happen.

(contributed by Steve Seymour)

Q

"Anyone wanting to be a leader among you must be your servant. And if you want to be right at the top, you must serve like a slave"

(Jesus in Matthew 20:26-27, Living Bible)

are the main temptations that seem to overcome them? How could you counsel someone who was a victim in a situation where the leader had gone off the rails?

9 Should we impose our model of leadership in another culture? What are the advantages and disadvantages of doing this? How might things have been very different if Western religious culture had not been imposed?

10 In the Early Church leaders sometimes failed because they were appointed too young in the faith. Is this a danger facing us today? Or do we veer to the other extreme, and appoint people too old for the job?

11 In parts of the world today, there is a young Church, with little or no mature leadership. How do you think these churches ought to appoint their leaders, and what sort of people should they be?

*Go to the people
Live among them
Learn from them
Work with them
Plan with them*

*Start with what they know
Build on what they have
Teach by showing
Learn by doing
Not a show case
Not relief but release
But the best leaders when their work is accomplished and their work is done*

The people all remark, we have done it ourselves.

(Chinese poem, contributed by Steve Seymour)

ACTION CARD



Uprooting people

Mention the Maasai people of Kenya and images spring to mind of proud nomads clad in red robes tending their herds on the open plains. The sad fact is that many Maasai have been turned off the lands which their animals grazed for hundreds of years; their pasture land lost to developers for game parks and farming. This month's card shows volunteers from Christians Aware helping to build a school in a desert region of Kenya, where the local community of Maasai people offered hospitality and shared in the work.

Other volunteers from Christians Aware visited Brazil in 1996 and became very aware of the Indian communities suffering at the hands of unscrupulous miners, loggers and farmers who are depriving the Indians of their livelihoods and turning them off their traditional homelands. The Indian people have worked

on the land for thousands of years. For them, their land is central to their identity and self worth.

The World Council of Churches is marking 1997 as the Year of Churches in Solidarity with Uprooted People. The launch of this initiative in Europe will be held in London from 6 - 9 March when the first pan-European ecumenical consultation will be held

IT IS VITAL THAT SUPPORT IS GIVEN TO ALL PEOPLE WHO ARE UPROOTED FROM THEIR HOMELANDS.

to address church responses to uprooted people: refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants, immigrants, and internally displaced persons such as

the Maasai and the Indian communities of Brazil.

It is vital that support is given to all people who are uprooted from their homelands. Survival International is one organisation working to draw attention to the plight of dispossessed people. Please send your card requesting information and offering support to: Survival International, 11-15 Emerald Street, London WC1N 3QL. Christians Aware address is 10 Springfield Road, Leicester, LE2 3BD. ●

**TAKE
2**

Hot... bunkers...

Summer bunkers...

road race... bunker

horse and cart

Mercedes... bunkers

Get the impr

action

This was our first exhausted view of Albania following a fourteen hour flight from Heathrow via Athens. We arrived at lunchtime on Friday 16 August and were met at the airport by fifteen eager taxi drivers who all wanted to carry our luggage – but we'd been warned about that during our training day at Baptist House, Didcot. We opted instead to go with the friendly Canadian, Jonathan Steeper, the Albanian volunteers co-ordinator who was there to meet us.

On arrival in the capital, Tirana, we were taken by Jonathan to meet our host family who were to look after us very well during our stay. We spent the first weekend getting our bearings around Tirana, met our Albanian translators and had our first taste of the First Baptist Church of Tirana thanks to a friendly market trader who

saw three lost souls wandering around and pointed them in the direction of the church.

Monday was D-Day and the morning Bible Club began. We greeted twenty-eight eager looking faces and launched into our week's programme – stories from the Old Testament. With the help of our fine translators who managed to turn our teaching into comprehensible Sqhip (Albanian), we started at the beginning with how God created the world and moved on to look at four people that God used in very powerful ways: Noah, Moses, David and Jonah. We began each morning with a time of worship and prayer, then spent the following two hours doing craft activities.

The following Sunday we presented the church with a banner which the children had made showing the seven days of creation and everyone joined us in singing "Jesus' love is very wonderful".

During the second week we focused on the life of Jesus and used the "Jesus" film translated into Albanian to help us.

By the end of our two weeks we were teaching about fifty Albanian children and a handful of missionary kids between the ages of 5 and 16. Many of the Albanian children had never heard about the Bible before.

Whilst planning for the Bible Club involved us working in the afternoons, we still had time to take in some of the local sights. We managed to choose the only gloomy and rainy day of the entire Albanian summer for a dip in the Adriatic sea, but BMS missionary Yvonne Wheeler, an expert in changing on the beach, came to our rescue as we attempted to change out of swimsuits and into dry clothes in the pouring rain and a force 10 gale!

We were greatly blessed by

God as we depended on him to help us cross the language barrier, maintain our energy levels in the heat and inspire us with activities to keep the children entertained.

We thoroughly enjoyed our two weeks in Tirana working with the children, chatting with missionaries and sightseeing. We would recommend a Summer Action Team to anyone wanting to explore short-term missionary work or wanting to do something useful with their holiday.

We were sorry to leave Albania. Our thanks to all the missionaries – especially David and Yvonne Wheeler who offered us advice, support and hospitality. We are all looking forward to a return visit to the country. ●

Sian, Sharon and Trish.



SIÂN WHITE, SHARON WHITE AND PATRICIA BOUND
SPENT TWO WEEKS IN ALBANIA IN AUGUST 1996 AS MEMBERS
OF A 28:19 SUMMER ACTION TEAM.

S...

... bunkers...

... mission?



Prayer focus



To complement the BMS Prayer Guide **Sam Gibson** brings news from BMS colleagues around the world

AFRICA



Jill and Philip Igoe
ZIMBABWE

Philip began leading a new course for pastors in January and has been very encouraged that some women have shown an interest in training for church leadership. In theory, there is no problem with women leading in the churches of Zimbabwe and yet all the pastors are male, and women's leadership tends to be confined to their own meetings or to children's work. Jill and Philip are both well aware of the vital work women do in the churches and hope they will be able to receive the training to take on more leadership roles.

The Igoes have been working on building relationships with the local people. One night they received a telephone call asking Philip if he would mind collecting a body from the mortuary the next morning! A reasonable excuse could not be brought quickly

to mind although Jill and Philip did wonder how the coffin would fit into their truck. Thankfully a larger van arrived saving the Igoes the experience but as they say, "It's nice to be asked!"

Please pray

- for Philip as he leads his new pastors course, training and developing a generation of church leaders. Pray for wisdom and for growth of the course and for more women to join up
- for language study, the Igoes are making slow but definite progress with the Shona language and can now understand much of what is said to them, although they cannot always respond.

BRAZIL



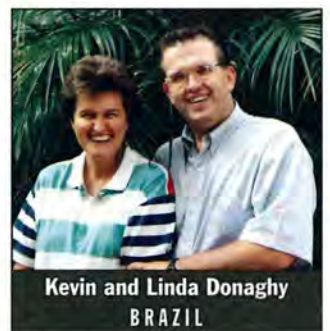
Andy and Linda Eaves
BRAZIL

Andy and Linda have moved from Limoeiro do Norte, to Fortaleza to work with a new church. They are happy in

their new location and are sure it is where God wants them to be, although the community is very different from that in Limoeiro – it is more affluent for one thing. The Eaves are working with the First Baptist Church of Fortaleza which has 800, mainly well educated, professional members. It has several congregations and they are attending one called Shekinah, on the edge of the city. At present, the Eaves are involved with the young people, the music and are leading a Sunday school class. They are also helping with another congregation in Capistrano, 65 miles from Fortaleza. Pastor Marcos, of the First Baptist Church has a heart for social projects and the Eaves hope to become more involved in some of the new initiatives he is setting up. The church has some involvement with a favela which they can see from their flat and Andy hopes to begin regular visits there so that he can get to know the situation. A school is planned for the favela children in the near future and the church would like to set up a consultation room in the planned school so that the several doctors in the congregation may be able to offer free clinics from time to time.

Please pray

- that the Eaves and their two young children settle quickly into the new area and build up friendships
- for their work at Shekinah, that they would have wisdom in leading, particularly amongst the young people
- a definition in the Eaves role at the First Baptist



Kevin and Linda Donaghy
BRAZIL

Church

- for Pastor Marcos and his social action projects. Kevin and Linda have been on home assignment since December 1995. During that time, their daughter Anna was born and they have been considering their future. The couple will not be returning to Brazil but are making enquiries about going to Portugal.

Please pray

- for the couple as they seek the Lord's will for the next stage in their lives

United Mission to Nepal

Executive Director

The United Mission to Nepal (UMN) is an interdenominational Christian mission organisation working in Nepal since 1954, sponsored by more than 40 member and affiliated organisations from 18 countries. UMN is now seeking an Executive Director (C.E.O.) to lead the Mission over the coming years. Availability from January 1998 is envisaged.

Working in the fields of health, engineering and industrial development, education and rural development, UMN has a staff of 180 expatriates and 1200 Nepalis, plus secondments and working relationships with related organisations. This is an exciting organisation enabling Nepalis to be trained and involved in the development of their own country and in uplifting the poor and the marginalised. UMN pursues this goal "in the Name and Spirit of Christ, making Christ known by word and life".

The successful applicant will be a committed Christian in sympathy with UMN's purpose with the spiritual, missiological, managerial and leadership maturity needed to lead a complex organisation in a sensitive religious and cultural setting. Previous experience in Nepal or a similar situation is desirable but not essential.

UMN does not recruit expatriates directly, and the successful candidate will, as part of the application process, need to apply to and be accepted by, one of the UMN Member Bodies. Salary and benefits will be in line with that Member Body's scale for staff in Nepal.

Interested individuals should send their C.V. to the Selection Committee Chairperson, marked "Confidential - UMN Selection Committee." Please include personal and professional details and previous Christian service experience. Possible candidates will be sent further information about UMN, a job description, details of the short-listing and interview procedure, and a list of UMN Member Bodies in the applicant's home country. Closing date March 15, 1997. Please send all inquiries to:

Dr. Dale H Schumm, Chairperson,
Box 370, Elkhart IN 46515, USA.
Fax #1 - 219 - 294 - 8669.
E-mail dale@MBM.org

Brazil

28:19 Action Team

Recently Esther, Catherine, Sarah-Jo and Laura did some 'gate to gate evangelism' for the church of Parque Selecta. All of the houses in the area have security gates which means you cannot get to the front door. You have to clap your hands and speak to the owners from a distance. The girls distributed tracts and invitations to a church meeting. They were surprised by the enthusiasm and interest shown, which was talkative and responsive, unlike the typical doorstep response in Britain.

Please pray for the girls working in churches across southern Brazil, for health, language skills, safe travel and relationships within the team, and with those they live and work with.



David and Ann have been made very welcome by the church in Barletta which David is pastoring. The church has a congregation of around 40 with a membership of 12 and has a strong youth group. At the congregation's request, David and Ann have begun a weekly prayer meeting with a short study every second week. The last time the church met together for prayer before this group was 23 years ago and they have had an average attendance of over 20 people each week. David continues to work with the churches in the Puglia and Basilicata Association and has been elected onto the Puglia Association committee.

Please pray

- for growth and development of the church in Barletta - several people have come forward for baptism
- guidance for David as pastor of the church on the way forward

EUROPE



Barnabas Project volunteers Geoffrey and Marion, are teaching English at the Baptist Theological Academy in Budapest. They feel they are greatly privileged to be able to serve amongst these young Hungarian Christians preparing for service as pastors and mission workers. According to the Principal, one third of the students in the Academy cannot afford to pay their tuition fees and

efforts are being made so that no one suitable for training has to be turned away. The Rushtons have visited a thriving English language International Baptist church in Budapest but feel that they should worship regularly in a Hungarian church. This will help them to learn the language and also to see first hand, the type of situations in which their students do their practical placements.

Please pray

- thank God for the excellent relationships the Rushtons are building up with their students, pray this continues to develop
- for patience and understanding when they are surprised by different attitudes or procedures

A r o u n d t h e w o r l d

Prayer focus



EUROPE



Prema Tennekoon
ALBANIA

In 1995, Prema was involved in developing and initiating a curriculum for nurse education in Vlore. As far as is known, this is the only curriculum written for nursing by Albanians and addressing important issues about the future of health care and nurse education not only in Vlore, but in the whole of Albania. It has now been decided to print this document and distribute it to those involved in decision making. This is an important step forward. The nursing department of the university

has moved into a new building specially designated for it. Two years ago, the building was a mere shell but it is now filled with 200 students and proposals have been made to turn the ground floor into a health centre offering both a health service to the local community, and practical experience for nursing and medical students. A little over 20 of the students are Christians, most very young in the faith but all delighted to find other Christians amongst their fellow students. They have begun meeting together and want to introduce Jesus to others. A few are meeting with Prema in her home studying a discipleship course and will in

turn, teach the others. They all come from different parts of Albania and who can say where they will go to at the end of their course and what they will do for God?

Please pray

- that the curriculum will get into the right hands to make an impact on medical care and nursing in Albania, at a national level
- for the young Christian students, nearly all from Muslim homes and communities – pray for protection and growth
- for the outreach these young people are beginning in the university, and for Prema as she disciples them



BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The BMS Annual General Meeting will be held during the Baptist Assembly (the joint assembly of the Baptist Missionary Society and the Baptist Union of Great Britain) at Westminster Central Hall, London, on Wednesday 30 April at 11am. If you are attending the meeting in a voting capacity and have not received a voting card (either direct or from your church secretary) please apply to Michael Quantick, Administration Manager, BMS PO Box 49, Didcot, OX11 8XA.

Checkout

Arrivals

Stuart and Joyce
Filby from Belgium
Joy Knapman from Sri Lanka
David Kerrigan from Sri Lanka
David and Rachel Quinney Mee from El Salvador
Peter and Margaret

Goodall from Sri Lanka
Christine Preston from Nepal
Colin and Marcia Pavitt from Brazil
Derek and Joanna Punchard from Brazil

Departures

Phil Commons to Bangladesh
Stuart and Joyce Filby to Belgium
Peter and Valerie Harwood to Nepal
Joy Knapman to Sri Lanka

David Kerrigan to Sri Lanka
Stephen and Elizabeth Allford to Zaire

Overseas Visits

John Passmore to Belgium, Albania and North Africa
David Martin to North Africa
Andrew North to Nepal and Thailand

A tale

that truly takes the biscuit



ILLUSTRATION SARAH PRENTICE

The scene: An airport departure lounge somewhere in Germany. The characters: an immaculately dressed, precise, well-off businessman and a rather scruffy looking, young backpacker.

The business man came out of a shop where he'd just purchased some rather expensive local biscuits which were in a paper bag. He had his briefcase and an overcoat folded over his arm. He looked up and down the rows of chairs in the departure lounge and eventually settled on a row where there were several empty seats. He sat in the middle, well away from the

other passengers and having put the briefcase on the floor arranged the coat on the next seat.

After a few moments he got up and walked over to a stand and picked up one of the free newspapers. As he returned to his seat he visibly stiffened on seeing that he was no longer the only person in the row. In the seat next to the still folded coat was another passenger. As one looked at two men sitting either side of the coat, the contrast could not have been more marked. Rather disreputable trainers as opposed to highly polished leather shoes. A T-shirt with some rather dubious printing on it as against a perfectly pressed white shirt and silk tie. A few days growth of

beard compared with a freshly shaved chin, immaculately clipped moustache and recently groomed shiny hair.

The businessman sat, opened the paper and began to read. He could not believe what happened next. The other passenger stretched out his hand, fumbled in the bag, took out one of the biscuits and began to munch! The hands holding the paper began to tremble and as if to stake a claim on the bag, he too reached out and took a biscuit. Time passed, passengers came and went, planes landed and took off and the hand moved again. Further indignation but the only response was to take a biscuit himself as before. More flights were called when the final insult came. The hand moved out, felt in the bag and discovered that there was only one biscuit left. The young man took out the biscuit, broke it in half, offered one piece to his fellow traveller and ate the other himself. This was almost more than the businessman could bear but bristling though he was he took the proffered half and ate it.

After one further flight announcement the backpacker checked his ticket and left followed by a stare from the businessman who was still smarting at the loss of two and a half biscuits. Eventually his own flight was called so he rose, folded the paper and tucked it under his arm, picked up the briefcase and lifted his coat, when suddenly, to his horror, under the coat he saw them. There on the chair was his bag of biscuits! ●

JOHN PASSMORE

John Passmore is the BMS Europe Representative and was a missionary in Bangladesh for ten years.

A

Place

Albania
Bangladesh
Bulgaria
China
Croatia
Nepal
North Africa

Job

Time

?



New strategy - New opportunities
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SAT 7

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South Africa
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(Multi-media communication based in Cyprus)

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Development Officer

Editor/Writer

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PRODUCERS



Albania Administration Manager, International Baptist Centre

Bangladesh Experienced Surgeon
Nursing Training School
Consultant (full-time)
Ministers

Bulgaria Minister for church planting and pastoral work

China TEFL (English) Teachers for work with Amity Foundation

Croatia Ministers for church planting, evangelism and pastoral work

Nepal Dentist(s)
Community Health Doctor
Pastoral couple,
Administrative Headquarters
Programme Manager,
Community Health Project
Physiotherapist for Leprosy Project
Occupational Therapist for Leprosy Project
Project Director for Tuberculosis Leprosy Project
Technical Directors for Tuberculosis Leprosy Project
Office Manager/Trainer for Tuberculosis Leprosy Project
Medical Officer for Tuberculosis Leprosy Project
Chest Physician for Tuberculosis Leprosy Project
Clinic Manager for Tuberculosis Leprosy Project
Theatre Sister
Midwives
Nurse Tutor
Psychiatrist

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Director of Projects
School Teacher
Research Co-ordinator
Office Manager
Co-ordinator - Community Health Project

Physiotherapist
Occupational Therapists
Special Education Teacher
Special Education Teacher /
Recreational Therapist
Medical Director
Social Worker
Preschool Teacher
Midwife
Nurse (Primary Health Care)
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