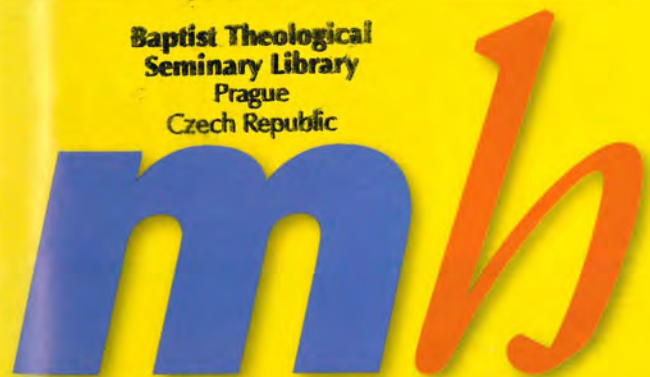


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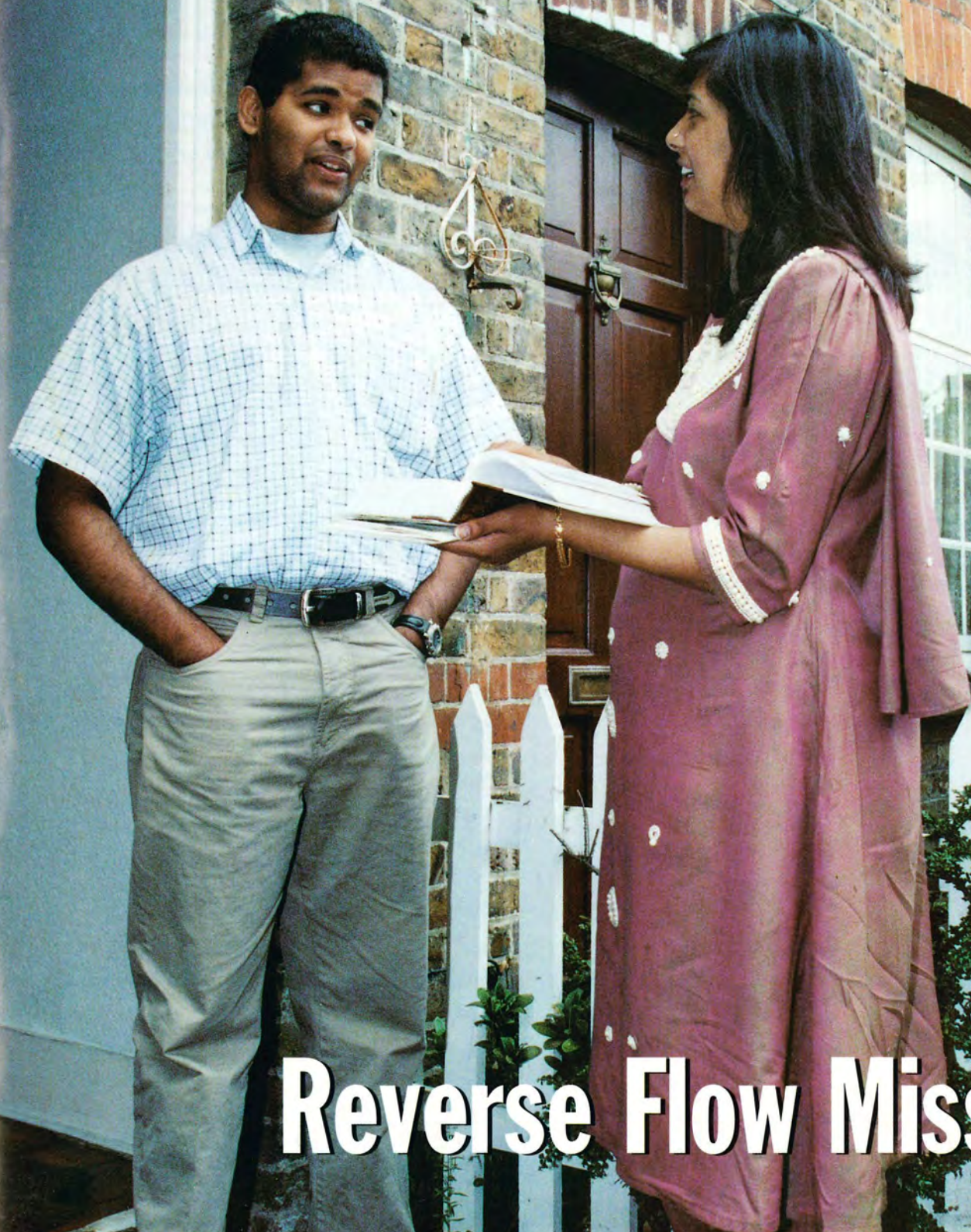


**News** around the world

**Focus** on Macenta

**Action teams** abroad

**international**



# Reverse Flow Mission

**Ted Hale** - Pastors abroad - visits Jamaica



# Prayer Support for Mission



## Worldwide Prayer Tape

The BMS's monthly prayer programme. Information, news, plus up to date interviews from the cutting edge of mission. Listen to it at home, in the car, on your personal stereo - or use it in your housegroup or prayer partnership. All it costs you is a postage stamp every month. The subscription to **WORLDWIDE** is **FREE**.

For more details on Worldwide, contact Becky Fisher, Audio-Visual Dept

## Prayer Guide

Only available - and **FREE** - with your January/February, May/June, and September/October *m*h!

Now more up-to-date, and more accessible.

The Prayer Guide takes a topic or country per week, and each day gives you an opportunity to pray for BMS personnel and the challenges that confront them at the present time. Partnership bodies, UK events and retired missionaries are also remembered.

Make use of your Prayer Guide for personal prayer, and in leading prayer times in church services and meetings.

A special abridged pulpit copy of the Prayer Guide called *At A Glance* is also available for your church.

## Prayer Letters

Support the work and ministry of specific BMS personnel by receiving their prayer letters. Use these letters, which give greater detail of situations and needs, to pray for your chosen missionaries on a regular basis.

For more details on Prayer Guide and Prayer Letters, contact Diane Hayward, Publicity Secretary  
Baptist Missionary Society, PO Box 49, Didcot, Oxon OX11 8XA - Tel: 01235 512077



# contents

JAN KENDALL



Yes, the *mb* editorial panel and a few missiologists have done it again - we've put God in a box for this issue and stuck a label on it: 'reverse flow mission'. And what we mean by that is when traditional 'receiving' countries become 'sending' countries in terms of missionary personnel.

It really is exciting how the Holy Spirit has envisioned people groups in specific areas to take the gospel to other people groups near and far, and what is even more exciting is that they don't need First World people to help them do it.

Of course, as soon as you begin to compartmentalise God you come up against the truth that God's people have been discovering for thousands of years: God's thoughts are not our thoughts; neither are his ways our ways. And he would not be God if that were not the case!

Please, Lord, carry on surprising us and doing the unthinkable amongst us!

We are continuing with the popular feature 'Our Town', and this time we're visiting Macenta in Guinea, where Doctors Mark and Andrea Hotchkin are working. We had great fun researching this as Mark's photos went missing in the post and we found that Guinea did not even have a Tourist Office in the UK! But we came up trumps, as you'll see when you turn to pages 20 to 23.

This issue comes again with a BMS prayer guide to take you through to the end of the year and a Christmas catalogue, giving you lots of ideas as to how you can solve your Christmas present and card problem AND support world mission at the same time. How about giving a year's subscription to *mb* as a Christmas present? There could not be an easier way to introduce a friend to all that God is doing worldwide!

Jan

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4

FEATURES  
**FROM EL SALVADOR TO LONDON**

**A man with a mission**

Chris Pope tells the story



6

**BACK TO MY OWN PEOPLE**

**An Italian in Tirana**

Saverio Guarna talks about his ministry



8

**MIZO MISSIONARIES IN NEPAL**

**Global relationships**

Two couples from a large sending base

10

**LOVE ON THE ROAD**

**Delivering aid**

From Hong Kong to Albania

NEWS

12

**BMS NEWS**

14

**WORLD NEWS**

16

**WORLD MISSION LINK**

REGULARS

18

**CENTRE SPREAD**

Englishman Ian Crossley returns to the UK

20

**OUR TOWN**

Macenta, Guinea

26

**PASTORS ABROAD**

Ted Hale visits Jamaica

28

**TAKE TWO**

Mission file of facts, figures and background

30

**ACTION TEAMS**

Martin, ex Challenge UK, reflects

32

**MISSIONARY DIGEST**

Prayer points to support BMS colleagues

35

**JOHN PASSMORE**

The last word



COVER IMAGE

PHOTO: BEN PARSONS



**NEXT ISSUE NOV-DEC**

**Health and healing**

Health issues and health care around the world



# Bran is good for you!!!

FROM EL SALVADOR  
TO LONDON -  
**CHRIS POPE MET  
HENRY BRAN, MAN  
WITH A MISSION**



“**T**ry it for two weeks and you’ll notice the difference. It changed my life!” confides the businessman to his colleague. What is this wonder substance?

Bran! But while the breakfast companies compete for your money with their particular brands of bran, there is one Bran which we could all benefit from - the sort that comes in the form of Henry Bran, a missionary from El Salvador to Hackney, south east London! Yes you read that correctly. But Henry and his ministry are very different to what our usual understanding of a missionary is. So, who is he, what is he doing here, and how does he challenge our usual understanding of mission?

The first way Henry differs from a usual missionary is that he received or became aware of his “calling” after moving country. “My parents brought me here when I was seventeen to escape the political war there”, he states undramatically. Looking back however, Henry definitely sees God’s hand of guidance and protection at work in bringing him to the country which would become his mission field. While certainly aware of God as he grew up in El Salvador where he describes the church as his “playground”, he only truly came to know Jesus when he was 14. It was this reality of knowing Jesus that stayed with him throughout two years of feeling alone until he found a sense of home at Frampton Park Baptist Church where he and his wife Claribel and their family still worship. “The thing I remember most”, he says, “is that I received such a warm







welcome, that I didn't feel like a foreigner anymore".

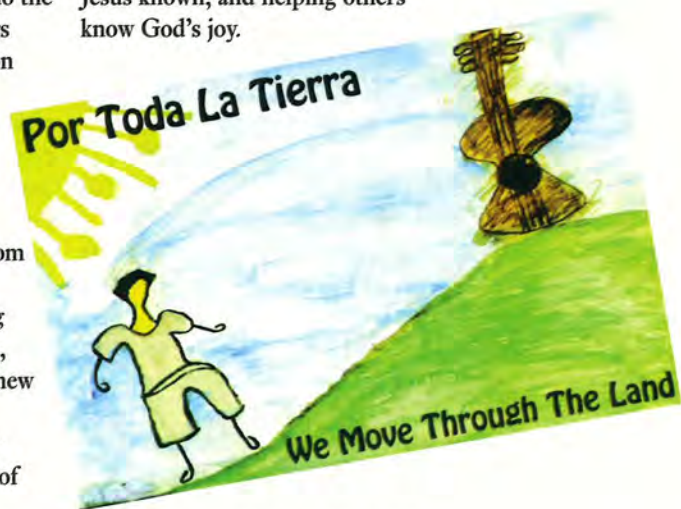
Although he only became aware of his calling some time after moving, from the moment he arrived in England, he was definitely a man with a mission. "I love my country, and I wanted to tell people about the suffering there so that they could try and do something about it". And carry out his mission he did - through music, song and poetry until God began to open his eyes to a far greater mission. "I was leaving people with hate. I wasn't building hope. But God began to show me that instead of focusing on El Salvador, the country, I had to start focusing on it's namesake, The Saviour!" It was at this time that Henry received his call, "The first thing God said was, "I want you to be my witness. Don't worry about it - I'll do the work." And despite concert bookings dwindling to nothing and persecution from various sources, this is what he continued to do. "My songs no longer focused on the suffering of my people. Instead they opened up the suffering of Christ and the salvation and hope which springs from that."

As if changing country and being given a new mission was not enough, Henry found himself being given a new mission field - children and young people. "Unlike El Salvador, fun for children here tends to be as a result of causing harm." Helping children discover "safe" fun is one of Henry's personal aims when working with young people, in addition to his own self-confessed capacity for fun and enjoyment. Today, Henry's main ministry is working with children aged 7-15 with an organisation called "Pathway" where he is involved in organising and running daily lunch time and after school clubs at several schools in the Hackney area. "I like seeing them smiling and enjoying themselves. I'm not asking them for a commitment, I'm helping them discover a friend!"

Henry also learns much from what the children have to teach us as well. "Children really believe. It's as simple as that. Kid's are ready to go and just do it. We're not." Smiling even wider than usual, Henry recounts the story of one little girl who when asked why she was walking down a straight pavement her

eyes closed and hands opened, replied "When I do this, I feel Jesus holding my hand". After trying themselves and having felt nothing, the little girl just turned to them and said, "Ah, but have you ever given your life to Jesus? How can he hold your hand if you haven't?". "They are excellent evangelists" he beams. It also seems they are excellent prayer-warriors because Henry lists his 12 year old daughter Alicia as his principal prayer support!

In addition to his perpetual smile, Henry oozes creativity. But as with all things Henry, his creativity - be it in writing songs, poems, books, music, painting guitars or playing fund raising concerts for the South American Missionary Society with whom he has links, is solely for the two-fold purpose of making Jesus known, and helping others know God's joy.



And as ever, Henry has some unique words of advice on the whole subject of mission. "Firstly," he says, "mission can come at any time so you need to be ready; mission starts now not just at your call". "Secondly, we know we are going to meet Jesus so why do we need to worry about it in the future?"

Two weeks it took for the businessman in the advertisement to notice the difference bran had made in his life. It took less than two hours for me to see the difference Henry Bran, and Jesus at work in his life, could make to anybody. Despite my revulsion of all things Alpen, I can certainly say in all sincerity, "Yes, Bran is good for you!" •

**Chris Pope**

is Youth pastor at Tunbridge Wells Baptist Church



# An Italian in Tirana



I SET OUT TO FIND  
HOW ITALIAN  
**SAVERIO GUARNA**  
FELT ABOUT BEING  
SENT OUT TO MINISTER  
IN A NEIGHBOURING  
'FOREIGN' LAND,  
AND FOUND INSTEAD  
THAT I HAD COME TO  
THE INTERVIEW  
WITH A LOT OF  
MISCONCEPTIONS

**"S**o why did you and Betsy go to Albania?"

A simple question? Maybe not for a former President of the Italian Baptist Union to answer, someone who had a lot to offer to his own country, but Saverio Guarna did not hesitate.

"I was in Romania, at an EBF Council meeting, when I first heard about Albania," he said. "It was in 1991, just after Albania had started to open up. Someone gave an invitation to go there, and I felt I had to go. I felt I had to go to my own people."

It is this conviction that pervades both his and his wife Betsy's thinking, that

Italians and Albanians are one people, and that in going to Albania, Saverio was going back to his own people.

Saverio grew up in a well-to-do Catholic family that expected its sons to become lawyers or doctors. He opted for law. At the age of 22, while studying at Rome University he first started to attend a Baptist church. "After one year" he said, "I had a kind of experience, a definite physical experience, and the Lord challenged me. I believe this was when I was born again. I spoke with my pastor. I was baptised and I felt called to the ministry." So he gave up the family tradition, and went to study at Ruschlikon Seminary in Switzerland. His family never forgave him.

Saverio's homeland, Italy, is a needy country spiritually speaking. It is reckoned that only 1,500 of its 33,000 communities have an evangelical witness. Seventy eight per cent of people claim allegiance to the Roman Catholic church and Protestants make up just one per cent of the population.

British and American Baptist missionaries have been involved in missionary work in Italy ever since it was unified in the 1850s. Betsy, Saverio's wife, was born in Rome, the daughter of American missionary parents.

Saverio developed his thoughts. "I grew up with the concept that Albanians were Italians" he said, "and that in going to Albania, I was going back to my own people. There are a lot of similarities between these two people."

There has been a two way exchange between the two countries for hundreds of years. It was in the latter part of the 15th century, that some 200,000 Albanians fled to Southern Italy from a Turkish invasion. They settled there, and can still be seen today living in small mountain communities, still speaking a form of Albanian, a distinct people, with their own dress, religion (Orthodox Christianity), and customs.

"Going back to Albania today" said Saverio, "is like travelling back in time to Italy in the 1940s, when I was growing up as a child. They cook like my grandmother did, on one burner. They eat the same sort of food as we did then,



things like pulses. They have strong feelings of friendship, of jealousy and loyalty. When I was a teenager, to be a friend was almost a holy thing. If you betrayed a friend, you had made an enemy for life. Marriages were arranged; girls did not go to school - they had to stay at home and sew. That's what Albania is like today.

"Albanians like Italians; they do not feel the same about any of their other neighbours, who have constantly threatened them and nibbled away at their borders. They don't even complain about the time, under the Fascist regime, when the Italians occupied Albania, because that was the time they got their bridges and the main buildings were put up in Tirana. It was a time of prosperity."

Now Saverio and Betsy have returned to Tirana after a long period of absence, following their evacuation in March. They realise they are going into a situation which has changed - especially in regard to missionary work. The ideas, expectations and perspectives with which they worked in the last three years have been tested by a church which has managed to continue its ministry without them. Therefore they have gone back in a different position to serve under the leadership of the church. ●

Jan Kendall is editor of *mb*



# On the receiving end

**JOHN TREHARNE TELLS HOW HE IS GETTING USED TO WALES RECEIVING MISSIONARY PERSONNEL FROM OVERSEAS**

**S**ome would say that it's easier to give than to receive, and that it's easier to send than to receive missionaries. However, one of the results of a church survey, "The challenge to change", taken this spring, showed that Wales is a missionary field, whether we like it or not. The whole spectrum of church-goers represents nine per cent of the population.

We must thank the Lord that his church in other countries is stronger at the moment and that there are possibilities of partnership in mission. The Baptist Union of Wales has been developing links with the Southern Baptist Convention of the USA for some years with journeymen coming over to



help some of the English-speaking churches. This has developed later to include longer-term missionaries involved in church-planting and administrative/pastoral work. The partnership took another step forward in 1996 with the arrival of a missionary youth-worker and church-adviser, coming to work with Welsh-speaking churches.

The youth worker, Mickey Ary, came with his wife Ronda and children Micah and Chase. The church-adviser is John Robinson.

They came to the Caernarfon area initially with different intentions: Mickey with a view to working with four churches in the area and John coming to learn the language and moving to the Swansea area of South Wales to work out of the Union offices.



The local Arfon Association did not feel that they could support the project, and are still actively seeking a Welsh-speaking youth-worker for the North Wales associations. They were concerned about the possible erosive influence of foreign workers on culture and language in a country which is fighting that very stiff battle.

Two pastors in the area felt that there was such a dire need of evangelisation among youth, that any help which might be offered should be accepted, but they also made a stipulation that learning the language was a priority.

The workers came and set out to study and learn the language. They have succeeded to differing degrees because of differing linguistic capabilities and confidence, but all have worked hard at it. There is an added problem in Wales, in that everyone can speak English, though it may be their second language. That means that the process of learning is

slower, because it is not absolutely necessary for everyday life.

On top of that, there was quite a culture shock in store for the workers regarding church-life. Our churches are pretty traditional and formal, with a predominantly elderly congregation, and everything going on in a foreign language.

However, the work has started slowly with a team of Baptists coming to help with American football clinics, and a youth rally during the Easter holidays of 1997. Good contact was made with local youth, and this has been followed up with other youth events, and we hope to be setting up a steady youth meeting shortly.

John Robinson has also been giving valuable help to the church in Caernarfon with their work.

There are tensions, difficulties and frustrations. The great needs are for openness and love between the workers and the local leaders, and that does not come without much effort on both sides. Then, adaptability is essential, and once again this is needed with the workers and the churches.

However, partnership in mission has been a very enriching process for me as a pastor and leader in the local situation. We continue praying that the Lord will enable us to be mission-orientated, and sow and reap fruit in his kingdom. ●

**John Treharne** is minister of Caersalem Baptist Church, Caernarfon and Caffaria Baptist Church, Penygroes.

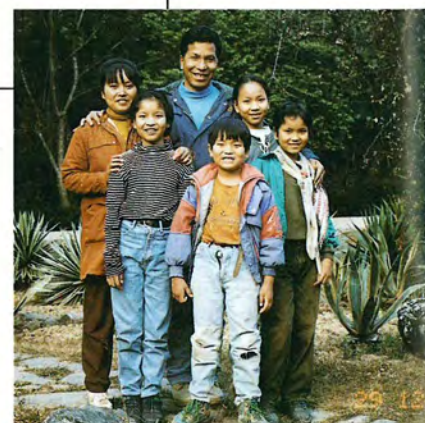






**DAVID KERRIGAN**  
TALKS ABOUT TWO  
BMS COUPLES YOU  
WON'T HAVE MET ON  
HOME ASSIGNMENT

# The complex Web





**M**any years ago, Copernicus caused a lot of trouble when he suggested that the world may not be the centre of our solar system. Those who found it hardest to forgive him for shattering their comfortable worldview were the leaders of the Christian Church!

In recent years, there has been something of a Copernican revolution in our understanding of mission. For generations, we have thought of mission as a venture which radiated out from our lands, so we spoke in terms of sending (people from here), of going (from here), teaching and baptising (the people over there). These activities are just as much a part of mission today, but were things ever really that simple? Well, they certainly aren't today! Today's mission canvas is not a series of lines radiating out from the traditional old world, but a complex web of relationships which together represent the whole church worldwide simultaneously fulfilling the commission to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Ringa and Madiki Pachuau hail from Mizoram in north east India. With their four children, Jennifer, Kim-Kim, Te-Te and Zuala, they have been a part of the BMS family for some years now. Through our partnership with the Baptist Church of Mizoram, who themselves have several hundred Mizo people working throughout India in various capacities, we have been able to help them further their work in Nepal, whilst they help us to pursue our commitment to the people of Nepal. Their base is in Kathmandu where Ringa has been working with the National Churches Fellowship (NCF), using his

teaching skills in the field of Non-formal Education. (NFE). In many cases NFE begins with literacy classes in remote villages where the majority of the population, and often all the women, have not learnt to read or write. From a foundation of basic literacy, village committees continue to work together and address issues such as health and sanitation, women's rights, and the importance of schooling for their children.

The Bible speaks of the beauty of "the feet of those who bring good news" and in a land where walking for two or three days is required to reach some villages, the "good news" is indeed brought in by foot. Ringa tells of a visit last year,

"That evening I shared the gospel with the church members in the Nepali language for more than 30 minutes. After the sharing one Nepali boy came out and said he had decided to accept Christ as his personal Saviour and Lord. He was inducted into the church by an elder. This was in the eastern region of Nepal".

Our second Mizoram family are Tlana and Madini Hnamler, engineer and teacher respectively. Tlana spent his first period in Nepal constructing a suspension bridge across a river which had claimed many lives in the years gone by. More recently he has been involved in other construction work, churches and training centres, but through it all there shines a love for the Lord and the people of Nepal. Last year their first child died within hours of the birth, and now they are expecting again in November of this year.

What difference does it make having as part of our mission family, those from other nations? Firstly, it reminds us that

mission today is not uni-directional. We have as much to learn as we will ever have to share. This is something we often say, but living and working alongside colleagues whose background and experiences are so different to ours is a very enriching experience.

Secondly, in a continent like Asia where so often it is hard to see progress in our work, the presence of Mizoram missionaries alongside reminds us that there are places where the gospel has really taken hold and brought about unimaginable change. The Baptist Church of Mizoram's own publicity material tells of how in less than a century, the gospel was brought to Mizoram by BMS missionaries and others, to a people who were then headhunters, but now as many as 90 per cent of the people are committed Christians, and mission is at the very heart of the church's life.

Thirdly, working alongside our Mizoram friends is to catch something of a very uncomplicated, thoroughly refreshing, absolutely genuine love of Jesus which shines through their daily lives. To spend time in their company, in their homes and in the midst of their life together is to experience the beauty of the diverse, multicultural family that is the Church of Christ. ●

**David Kerrigan** is BMS Regional Representative for Asia, with special responsibility for Nepal, Thailand and Indonesia.



Tlana and Madini Hnamler



Ringa and Madiki Pachuau





# Love on the road

ONE MAN TURNS  
HIS LIFE AROUND  
- AND HEADS  
FOR ALBANIA.  
**JENNY BARRETT**  
TELLS THE STORY

**C**hristmas 1994: 3,000 ft up a mountain, three miles from the nearest house. As their breath turns to ice in the sub zero temperatures, three lonely figures struggle to restart the engine . . .

Mr Rolls Royce and his companions slept in the lorry that night. Quite a change for the man who, some twenty years earlier, had been earning his nickname importing luxury cars to Hong Kong. But in 1988, a company reorganisation had brought to an abrupt end his time abroad, his lavish lifestyle - and his marriage.

But the biggest change was becoming a Christian, thanks to the Alpha course at his local church, Holy Trinity Brompton. Instead of feathering his own nest, Chris Blake began to use his energy and expertise to help others. As part of a church group, he made a series of trips delivering aid to Romania. Then, in December 91, the focus shifted.

An item on the evening TV news featured two Albanian babies, forced to share the same hospital incubator. Convinced God wanted him to act, Chris began to make enquiries, but it was at a Rotary lunch that, out of the blue, he was approached for help and advice on sending supplies to - Albania.

The Albania Aid Appeal (AAA) now takes up all Chris's time. With spontaneous offers of money, goods and help coming in thick and fast, deliveries by articulated truck are this year up to one a month. Artificial limbs, wheelchairs and medicines for hospitals, food, clothing and stationery for schools and churches - Chris's cargo has even included Land Rovers and a much needed tractor. Thanks to AAA, an orphanage has been replumbed, while another building project needing windows got a full 2.2 km of wood, 2.2 km of battening, and reams of plastic sheeting.



## Mike Pilavachi



Go!

Before his ascension, Jesus said to his disciples "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore into all the world and make disciples of every nation, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

I have recently read through the Acts of the Apostles. Whilst reading, I was struck by the profound differences between the life of the early Church and the state of my church. "Never a dull moment" would seem a good catchphrase to describe the story of the first believers. What is the difference between then and now, and why?

What hit me most in Acts was the fact that the disciples did things. They went. They acted. It has been said that the Acts of the Apostles should have been called the Acts of the Holy Spirit. I disagree. Smith Wigglesworth said the Acts of the Apostles was given its name because the apostles acted! Jesus said "Go" and so they went. It was that simple.

Today, many Christians are rightly praying and fasting for revival. A number have travelled to various "revival centres" such as Toronto in Canada, Pensacola in Florida and Sunderland here in the UK. In many ways this is understandable. Numerous seekers after God will travel to wherever they believe a more intimate and powerful encounter with Him can be found. However, let us not kid ourselves. Revival will not come when we go across the ocean to receive a blessing but when we go across the street to be a blessing. We are the answer to our own prayers. Every one of us has been commanded to "Go". Not to go to conferences or rallies on "going", not to go to prayer meetings on "going", not to read books on "going", but to actually go. Go to where the non-Christians are.

In an age when we see increasing numbers of missionaries coming to our own nation, we need to discover the missionary zeal of the early Church. We need to ask ourselves what part of the word "go" do we have a problem with?

There are many different ways in which we can go. We need to discover what particular form of ministry we are called to. One thing is clear from scripture: we are all called to do something. You cannot be a Christian and be called to nothing, it is not an option. The biblical way to seek and have our needs met is to seek and meet the needs of others.

"Give and it will be given to you, pressed down, shaken together, running over, it will be poured into your lap." The first Christians believed this and acted on it. Will we?

**Mike Pilavachi** heads up the Soul Survivor team and pastors a congregation in Watford specially aimed at reaching young people



But every journey has its dangers, not least the unpredictability of the young men hanging around at makeshift roadblocks, showing off their rifles. Once, when an angry mob gathered to threaten him as he unloaded supplies in a town square, all Chris could do was take a deep breath, walk slowly and calmly back to his truck (quietly singing the Lord's Prayer as he went), get in and drive away - knowing all the while that their eyes and guns were fixed on him.

To stop on the road is to invite the attention of bandit gangs. But contaminated fuel makes mechanical breakdown a regular hazard - and Chris is no mechanic! If he waits long enough, help of a sort will eventually appear on the deserted road and, some way is always found to get the engine going again . . .

In October 1995, Chris himself went in for a major service: diagnosed with bowel cancer, he underwent extensive surgery and six months of chemotherapy treatment. But the loading and shipping went on. By the grace of God, a man who once took out a \$750,000 life insurance policy in case of his own suicide now lives every day to the full for the people of Albania. ●



## Project 96 Update

### ARISE AND BUILD!

Raising money for church planting and evangelism in Zimbabwe.

As at 30 April 1997, the total raised was £18,855.21



## First missionaries leave for Portugal

BMS personnel Kevin and Linda Donaghy, with infant Anna, have left the UK to begin a new phase of ministry in Portugal. Their arrival cements the partnership agreement with the Portuguese Baptist Convention drawn up in 1993 - they are the first BMS missionaries to work in this country.



arrival cements the partnership agreement with the Portuguese Baptist Convention drawn up in 1993 - they are the first BMS missionaries

to work in this country.

Portugal is a nation of ten million people, 56 Baptist churches, 46 Baptist ministers, and a huge growth in cults such as JW's and Mormons.

Kevin and Linda, who previously worked with BMS in Brazil, will spend their first six months language training in Lisbon, and then will be seeking a church planting situation.

## Help for Bangladesh

The BMS Relief Fund has sent £5,000 to help 550 families whose homes and livelihoods were hit by a hurricane earlier this year. The effects of the hurricane were mainly felt in the Chittagong area of Bangladesh, affecting the tribal church people of the Bandarban, Nanier Char, Rangamati and Pankho areas. The 550 families had the roofs of their houses blown off, and orchards used for growing cashew nuts, papayas, pineapples and jack fruits were flattened and uprooted. Forty churches were also devastated, and roofs and windows at Chandraghona Hospital were destroyed.

The money has been used to buy goods to help with immediate relief, such as dry

food, rice, candles, clothes and seedlings.



News in Brief

# News

people aged 16 to 35 from all parts of Britain will explore:

- concepts of mission
- ways of reaching the world for Christ
- what a mission agency in the 21st century should be like
- how BMS and young people in churches can work together.

The consultation will help construct a vision for how mission will be effected in the years to come, rather than be a "BMS preach". It will probably take place in a weekend conference in 1998 or 1999.

The concept will involve a whole generation in mission, who might otherwise miss out. It will also help to build a wider support base for BMS and mission awareness amongst young people.

## General Committee Feedback

### BMS JOINS JUBILEE 2000

BMS General Committee has voted to join Jubilee 2000, the organisation campaigning for the cancellation of world debt of the poorest countries by the year 2000. The recommendation brought to General Committee by BMS's Justice and Peace Advisory Group, will involve members in signing what is hoped will be the largest petition in the world - with 17 million signatures. (At present the record stands at 13 million signatures for a petition signed in Korea.) A representative from Jubilee 2000 will be invited to address the BMS October 1997 General Committee.

## GENERAL COMMITTEE REORGANISATION DEFERRED

More time is needed for BMS General Committee to decide its future structure. It had originally been hoped to bring proposals for changing the size and frequency of General Committee meetings to the June meeting, but discussions between BMS and the Charity Commission had been inconclusive and more time was needed before a definite recommendation could be brought. The proposals include reducing the size of its membership from 204 to 118 and meeting twice a year instead of three times, to allow more time for a variety of activities and to save on costs.

### NEW YOUTH CONSULTATION

Proposals for a national consultation on mission for young people have been drawn up by BMS General Director Alistair Brown. Together with BMS, about 200 young





## Action Team Evening - General Committee will never be the same again!

When Jimmy Nhatarikwa, member of the UK Action Team, started the evening with a very loud, "Give us a J; give us an E; give us an S", those gathered at General Committee knew missionary events would never be the same again.

It was a time of culture shock - not for the Actions Teams, recently returned from their six months overseas and two months touring the UK - but for those gathered at Leamington Spa Baptist Church, who had come to the evening fresh from grappling with policy issues and directors' reports.

All eight Action Teams were let loose at General Committee, assaulting their audience with a cacophony of noise. This was the first time ever that they had had a chance to tell BMS's governing body what Action Teams were all about. They did this through drama, songs, multi media, and a fashion show in which they involved members of the audience.

It was a chance for Jo Chidgey (Jamaica Team) to tell of a Rastafarian young man with a criminal record she had met in Jamaica, how she had prayed with him and sent him a bible. It was a chance for Cath Ley (Brazil Team) to tell how after doing

door to door evangelism work, the church they had been inviting people to was packed. "All they needed was an invitation" she said, "and they came along." And it was a chance for Cath Crump (Malta Team) to tell of Michael, a Roman Catholic who asked "How can I become a Christian?" After she prayed with him, he committed his life to Christ. The Team have now heard that his mother has become a Christian also.



Several young people testified of a career change as a result of their year out. Ruth Bidnell (Jamaica Team) said "I enjoyed teaching so much while I was in Jamaica that I am now going to take up teaching after university". Leigh Cumming (Thailand Team), already qualified in social work, told how she now wants to work with AIDS patients and terminally ill people following her experience in hospices and with AIDS patients in Thailand.

The evening was organised by outgoing Youth and Children's Co-ordinator, Phil Marsden.

The whole evening was a fitting tribute to Phil, who has now left BMS to take up a job as Youth Co-ordinator at Queen's Park Baptist Church, Glasgow.

## Baptist House News

### Goodbye Sian Williams

Sian left BMS in August after 12 years with the Society. She began work at BMS in 1985 as Promotion Assistant in what was then the Promotion department, where she wrote LOOK magazine. Sian became Junior Education Secretary, and then in 1989 Promotion Co-ordinator; and it was during this time that new initiatives such as the Pimu Plan for young people, the 28:19 Tour, and the 28:19 Action Team programme were unwrapped. Latterly, as Director for Missionaries, Sian introduced more emphasis on pastoral care, and inaugurated the Missionaries Allowances Working Group.

Sian is now embarking upon a new phase of ministry.



### Andy Wilson



Barnabas Project Co-ordinator Andy Wilson left BMS at the end of July. Andy has been responsible for getting this new scheme off the ground. The Barnabas Project enables volunteers of all ages to work overseas for anything from three months to two years in a project or task needed by a partner body. Previously Andy and his wife Jenny, who is a doctor, had served in Cameroon for two years with BMS. For the time being Andy has returned to his former occupation: repairing and restoring cars.

### Anthony Viney

Graphic designer Anthony Viney has left BMS after a period of seven years. Anthony was responsible for half the design output in this time: anything from posters, leaflets, booklets, projects, mugs, the BMS web site, to all *mh* design. He is now progressing his career with a publishing company.



### Welcome New Co-ordinator Manager



Phil Hindle, currently the BMS Co-ordinator for South and South-West England, has been appointed the new Co-ordinator Manager, with effect from 1 October 1997, following Revd Derek Mucklow's retirement. Phil joined the team of BMS Co-ordinators in January 1996, having previously worked as a Corporate Product manager with AT&T, BCS-E based in Redditch.

Born in Africa, Phil was first involved with BMS as far back as 1971 when he became a Christian at one of their summer schools.

### Andy Smith

Andy has continued to astound everyone with the speed of his recovery. He is now back in the Audio-Visual section of the Department for Constituency Support on a part-time basis.

Thank you for your prayers, and please keep praying!



Copies of the BMS Annual Report and Accounts 1996 are available. For your free copy write to Rob Varnes, BMS, Didcot, or telephone him on 01235 512077.

**BMS**  
news



## Honduras

Plans by local businessmen, supported by the Catholic hierarchy, to build a huge statue of Christ on a hill overlooking Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, have provoked protests from local evangelical leaders. The evangelical leaders are protesting because the government has promised to contribute \$27,000 towards the cost. The church leaders say they do not object to the statue, but oppose the government's use of public funds for religious purposes. (LAP/ENIB)

## East Timor

Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo of East Timor has called on the world's churches to campaign on behalf of the East Timorese, who, he said, continued to be denied basic human rights following Indonesia's occupation of the eastern end of the Timor island. The bishop said "Every day young people are imprisoned and tortured, causing physical and psychological suffering." (ENIB)

## Zambia

A senior Roman Catholic priest in Zambia has warned that, unless a solution is found to poverty across his country, there is a risk of turmoil similar to that experienced in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire). He spoke of an increase in violent crime in Zambia and said it was an indication of worse political and social strife to come if nothing was done to reduce poverty. (ENIB)

## Iraq

The medical system in Iraq has been devastated by the international embargo imposed against the country in 1990, according to a team of church-related health specialists led by James Jennings, a Southern Baptist, who visited Iraq earlier this year. Iraq had previously had a very good health system, but it had now deteriorated, and was worse than many developing countries. According to a UNICEF survey 27.5 per cent of children under five in Iraq are chronically malnourished. (ENIB)

## South Africa

The Salvation Army in South Africa has admitted to the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission that it kept quiet about human rights abuses during the apartheid era. "With people of all kinds of political persuasion in our ranks, we chose to remain silent, a sin of omission, which we deeply regret", the submission said. (ENIB)

# News

## Poverty Increasing in Central America

A public opinion survey, commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has revealed widespread disenchantment with politics and government, discontent with economic conditions, and little hope for future prospects. The poll was conducted in

Science Faculty, said that the results of the poll square with increasing levels of social risk and marginalisation in the region. He also pointed to the case of El Salvador, which has experienced five straight years of robust economic growth, but has not produced a single increase in real wages in that time.

The discontent in Central America is all the more alarming as it is now a region at peace, with democratic governments in place. (LAP)

## Zimbabwe Churches: raising awareness

Churches in Zimbabwe, concerned about the high rate of HIV/AIDS infection, are campaigning to raise awareness among young people about the virus. Zimbabwe is one of the African countries worst affected by HIV/AIDS. Up to 50 per cent of some age groups are HIV-positive, and statistics indicate there are 500 AIDS-related deaths every week in Zimbabwe. In June the United Methodist Church organised a march through the streets of Harare, the capital, with banners carrying messages informing the younger generations of the



Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama and also showed widespread alarm over increasing poverty, crime, drug trafficking and official corruption. The survey, conducted by a Costa Rican firm, interviewed 1,000 adults in each country. More than 60 per cent in every country, and ranging as high as 90 per cent in Honduras, said that poverty had increased in their country. Carlos Sojo, a researcher for the Latin American Social



News in Brief



prevalence of AIDS. "No Premarital Sex, Turn to Jesus", was the message on some of the banners.

Family AIDS Caring Trust (FACT) is a Christian organisation encouraging abstinence outside marriage, and faithfulness within it. It also supports and co-operates with other groups involved in community-based care for people affected by the virus. Churches are also playing a major role caring for people with AIDS. Churches run most of the orphanages and hospices caring for people who have had the virus, or have had their families destroyed by it.

A recent study found that in the rural areas of Zimbabwe as many as 50 per cent of the 15 to 50 age group were HIV-positive. Within the next decade, life expectancy in Zimbabwe is expected to drop from the current level of 55.3 to 30.4 years for males, and from 58.6 to 31.7 years for females. Other figures show that one in ten of Zimbabwe's 11.5 million people is HIV-positive. (ENIB)

## Pacific Island cult's prophecy opens door to the gospel

A missionary has unwittingly fulfilled a strange prophecy, and has put an end to a 50 year wait for members of a bizarre cult on the island of Tanna - one of the remote Vanuatu islands in the South Pacific.

John Rush, the director of the Pacific Ruby, a YWAM ship, was hailed by the people of Tanna as John Frum - the benefactor they had been waiting for since the end of the Second World War. Frum had been an American serviceman, who had left the area at the end of the war, promising to return with supplies, and to tell them more about God.

Up to 15,000 people were part of the John Frum group, who had built landing strips and docks for the anticipated reappearance. Fearing it would impede their

benefactor's return they resisted help from outsiders. They modelled their villages after military bases and marched with bamboo replica rifles as they awaited the arrival of a white ship.

Rush made two trips to the island; he addressed villagers, and told them: "We cannot put our hope in America . . . we have learned to put our hope and trust in Jesus Christ. He is the only answer to our problems."

Since then local Christians on the island have been able to follow up those first contacts. Rush believes that the John Frum prophecy was used by God to open hearts to the Christian message.

(YWAM News)

### Alistair Brown

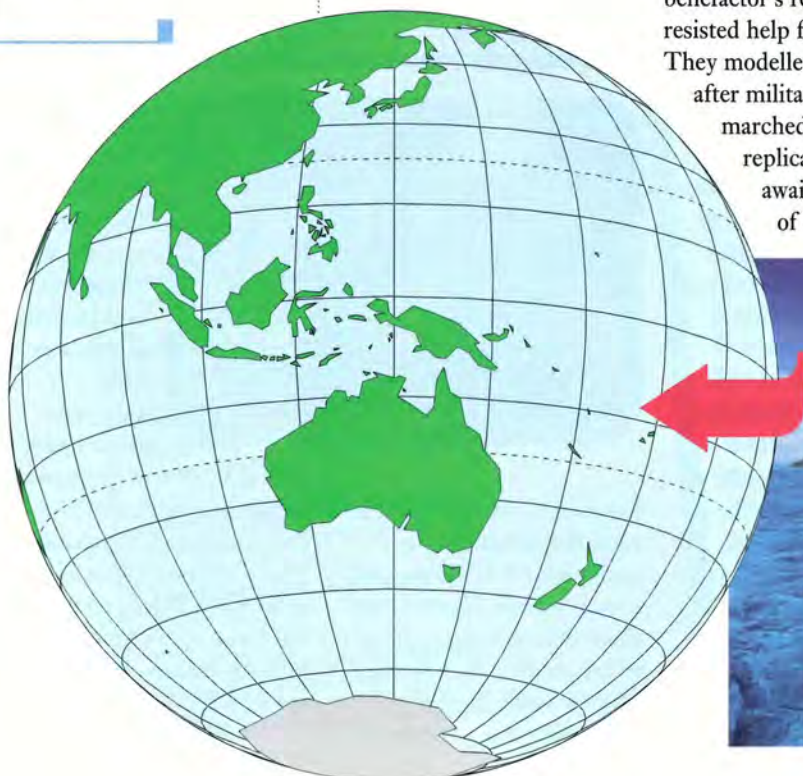


#### Suffer the little children

**I don't know the name for the spinning machine in the picture, with its brightly coloured bobbins of thread. But I do know the Indian child working it is only about ten years of age.**

**That little girl was no prisoner, but the UN estimates that 250 million children are being forced to work for their keep. Children as young as three are reported in factories producing matches and fireworks. In agriculture, children mix, load and apply highly toxic pesticides. In ceramics factories, children carry molten loads of glass, working in temperatures up to 45°C in noise levels as high as 100 decibels.**

**Mission includes speaking for the voiceless and acting for the powerless. We pray for God's rule on earth as it is in heaven. That means tackling evils like these, helping youngsters out of real slavery. Freedom, love and hope are gifts God meant all his children to have.**





It's September, the beginning of the church year in a lot of places. Many people are planning programmes taking them over the next few months. Is world mission there? Has it been included in the church diary, or the Women's meeting programme or the Young People's events?

Having ascertained world mission is on the programme, what do you do next?

Every month the World Mission Link postbag receives requests for speakers - Link-Up visits, BMS weekends, Association events, Mission Sundays, mid-week meetings, youth meetings, women's meetings, and conferences.

We try to fulfil all requests BUT it does help if you follow these simple guidelines:

- Always contact us at least three months before the event; six months before is even better - BMS speakers are busy people with full diaries.
- Check that you are contacting the right person. World Mission Link has three parts - Link-Up, Mission Education meetings, and Teams. While Link-Up bookings should come to the World Mission Link Organiser at Didcot all other requests should go first to the BMS Co-ordinator for your area (see panel).
- Give as many details as possible - date and time obviously but also the type of meeting, whether you have a special theme. If you want someone for an Asian evening and we book someone with experience in Brazil disappointment will follow!

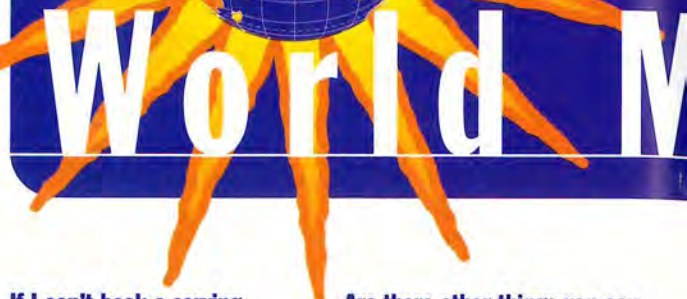
*BMS Co-ordinators*

- Derek Clark - Scotland - 0141 775 1201  
 Jim Clarke - Central & Eastern England - 01353 778984  
 Phil Hindle - South & South West England - 01823 698977  
 Gareth Hutchinson - South Wales - 01792 360909  
 Theo Lambourne - Midlands - 0116 271 3633  
 Cath Mawson - North England - 01274 487341  
 Derek Mucklow - London & South East - 0181 393 6017 (until end Sept)  
 Delyth Wyn Davies - North & Central Wales - 01766 512957

## Dear Audrey

**If I follow your guidelines will I always be able to book a serving missionary?**

With the exception of missionaries working in Western Europe, all Home Assignments (the name given to the time missionaries spend in the UK) have two parts. One part is spent being with family, home church and friends; having medical check-ups; re-charging the batteries physically, mentally and emotionally. This part of the Home Assignment occupies the first and last month of the time in the UK. The other part of Home Assignment is spent working and being in the churches, and involves Link-Up visits, conferences, retreats, and sometimes further training. Fitting all these requests and needs into the time available means that for most missionaries their time in this country is so fully booked that even arranging one visit to a non-Link-Up church is not possible.



**If I can't book a serving missionary who can I book?**

Members of BMS staff at Didcot, people on the BMS Speakers List, BMS Scholarship Holders studying in this country - people who are committed to world mission, are up-to-date on the work of BMS and can often speak from the experience of having lived and worked overseas. Where we cannot provide a serving missionary we can, and do, provide speakers with a depth and range of experience, people who will help your group or church in its task of supporting world mission.

**Are there other things you can provide to help us get the church involved in world mission?**

Yes. Browse through the BMS Resource Catalogue - you'll find videos, slides, cassettes, information sheets, materials for children, books and ideas for meetings, and a great deal more. All you have to do is write to or telephone Didcot and ask to speak to Rob Vaines, Resources Assistant. And, if you can't find your Resource Catalogue - give us a ring and we'll see you get a new one.

## Arnesby welcomes Chernobyl children

The Christian Conference Centre attached to Arnesby Baptist Church, Leicestershire was home for a month to 22 children aged 8 to 14 from Belarus, all of whom had been affected by the Chernobyl disaster.

The children were brought to the UK by the Leicestershire-based charity 'Chernobyl Children Care', the leader of which is a member of the Elim Pentecostal Church. The children, most of whom come from a church background, started their day with a bible study and Christian videos in Russian and English. They enjoyed outings to



Father Christmas and the Central TV cameras were there! People from local churches helped with food preparation and saw pale,

London, a safari park, a farm park, and an ambulance station as well as old people's homes, schools, churches and three visits to Gartree prison, where on their last visit the prisoners gave them a real Christmas party - and both

grey faces turn to having rosy cheeks as a result of improved diet and vitamin supplements. These children have a life expectancy of only 30 years, but their stay in Arnesby will prolong their lives by two or three years.



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

# Mission Link

## Dates for your Diary

### Events and Meetings

**Tuesday - Friday 9 - 12 September**  
**Wales WMA Conference, Aberystwyth**  
Contact Delyth Wyn Davies 01766 512957

**Tuesday 16 September**  
**Missionary Secretaries Workshop, Alperton Baptist Church**  
Contact Veronica Campbell 0181 450 3516

**Wednesday - Thursday 17-18 September**  
**Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire WMA annual meetings**  
Contact Mavis Gabriel 01597 824598 - Radnorshire  
Barbara Powell 01696 412452 - Montgomeryshire

**Sunday 28 September**  
**Kent Baptist Association BMS Presentation**  
Contact Graham Thomson 01303 252916

**Tuesday 30 September**  
**Edinburgh and Lothians Baptist Missionary Auxiliary -  
church representatives meeting,**  
**Morningside Baptist Church**  
Contact John Barclay 0131 229 3084

**Wednesday 1 October**  
**Prayer Concert, Immanuel Baptist Church, Southsea**  
Contact Leslie Gregory 01705 257305

**Wednesday 1 October**  
**West Glamorgan Welsh Association WMA meeting, Bridgend**  
Contact Avril Jones 01656 734086

**Wednesday 1 October**  
**BMS Women's Prayer Fellowship, Adelaides, Bath St,  
Glasgow**  
Contact Freda Kennedy 0141 632 0883

**Saturday 4 October**  
**Cardiff Auxiliary BMS meeting, Barry**  
Contact Beryl Davies 01222 756426

**Saturday 4 October**  
**Womens Lunch, Adelaides, Bath St, Glasgow**  
Contact Freda Kennedy 0141 632 0883

**Saturday - Sunday 4-5 October**  
**Burnley District BMS Weekend**  
Contact Hilda Pate 01282 774025

**Monday 13 October**  
**BMS Women's Missionary Fellowship, Adelaides, Bath St,  
Glasgow**  
Contact Jan Watson 0141 882 1201

**Saturday 25 October**  
**Shropshire BMS Autumn Conference**  
Contact Theo Lambourne 0116 2713633

**Wednesday 29 October**  
**Zaire Evening, Chipping Campden**  
Contact Phil Hindle 01823 698977

**Friday 31 October**  
**BMS Dinner at Scottish BU Assembly,  
Queens Park Baptist Church**  
Tickets Ellen Robb 0141 639 8919

## BMS Co-ordinator opens garden to the public



Jim Clarke, BMS Co-ordinator for Central and Eastern England, and his wife Eileen opened their one acre garden to the public, to raise money for BMS in June.

Baptists from as far afield as Hitchin, Hunstanton and Southend came to visit their garden at Dingley Dell.

Jim and Eileen's son and daughter-in-law, Anthony and Amanda, prepared lunch for around 100 people, and the 28:19 Brazil Action Team also spoke of their recent experiences.

The day raised over £900 for BMS.

## Aliens join forces with BMS

Friendly invaders took over Shipley Baptist Church, Bradford one Saturday in June for a Star Wars Day. Their mission: to raise money for BMS Project 97. All three Star Wars films were shown, with the Project 97 and other Christian videos in between. The day lasted an astronomical 12-and-a-half hours, and so fortifying out-of-this-world food, drinks and ice-cream were beamed in. When they went back to their space-ships, the aliens were able to hand over £42 towards Project 97.

## WML summer events



Gwent Welsh Baptists celebrate nearly 100 years of the 'Zenana' tradition



Northern Association Baptists have fun on their Family Day.



# Mission's



**I**t's a long way from the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia to the gently sloping Sussex Downs. And the contrasting landscapes sum up the shock of such a transatlantic move for Baptist pastor Ian Crossley. "I had to re-learn the British way of life" recalls the Surrey-born church leader, who'd spent the previous five-and-a-half years living in the United States. "I found out it's certainly true what they say about culture shock!"

The image of seafaring missionaries returning to their former sending countries was apt for him too. Ian is a qualified sailing instructor.

He'd gone Stateside to study. In the early 80s he attended Word of Life Bible College, New York State, then went on to Liberty Baptist University in Virginia.

Ian became a member of Berean Baptist Church, Lynchburg. And it was there he later heard some interesting news from the UK-based Christian Youth Enterprises (CYE).

The charity he'd been involved with during most of the 70s was buying the old Sussex Police Cadet Training Centre near Chichester as an evangelistic sail training facility. They wanted someone to take the helm. Ian went for it.

"As a small charity they needed the money to fund the post" explains the 40-year-old preacher. His church agreed to help finance his ministry. So in 1986, buoyed up with the support of

his fellowship, Ian returned to the UK with his American wife, Cindy.

For the next three years he combined his full-time job as centre manager with nearly 35 outside speaking engagements in a year. "I'd trained for the pastoral ministry," says Ian, "and long term that was my goal."

Among his local preaching venues was Westbourne Baptist Church, situated in a West Sussex village of 2,000 people. They'd been without a pastor for 25 years, and invited him to be a candidate. In 1989 they called him to the pastorate.

"I was still doing 80 hours a week at the centre," says Ian, "so that was a practical problem." In early 1990 the pressure lifted slightly when he became part-time at the Centre as their chief instructor - while continuing as Westbourne's pastor.

The shift made a difference in the US church. "Their response was supportive" Ian remembers. Even though their supporters were fully behind him at the Centre and providing two-thirds of his income, they were thrilled he was moving to a church-based ministry.

Berean Baptist Church - among other churches and individuals in the States - still provide more than half Ian's funding. The remainder comes mainly from Westbourne Baptist Church.

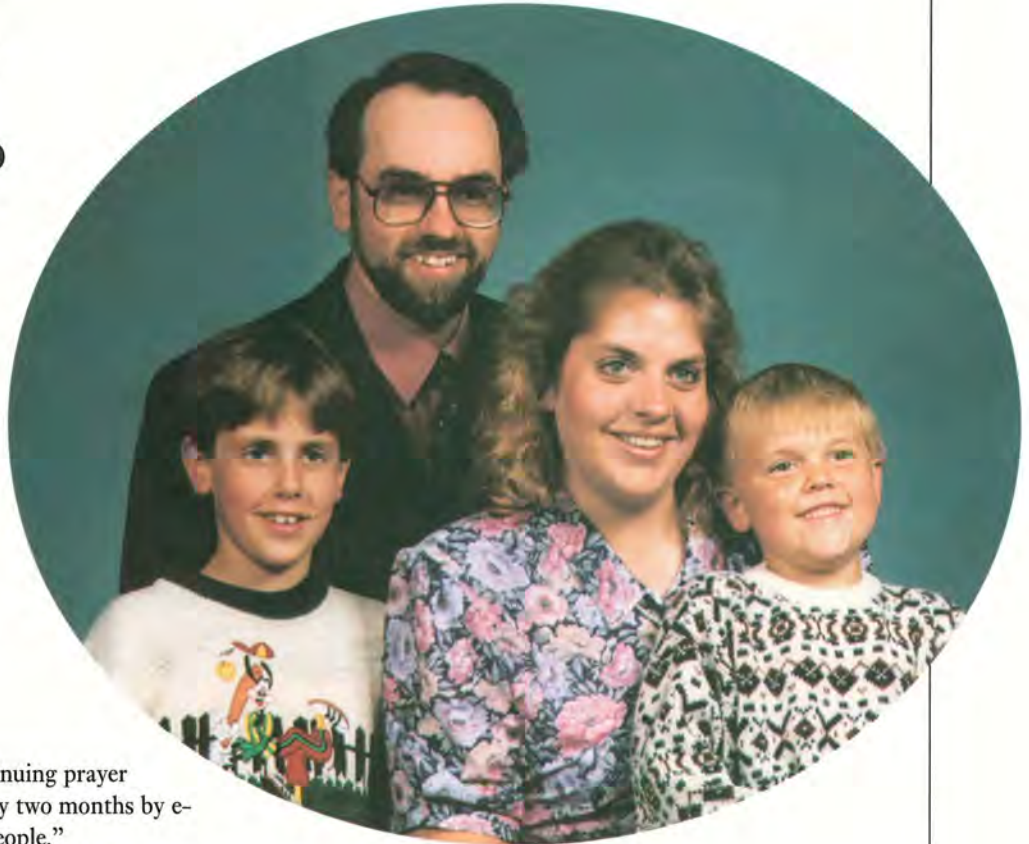
Ian and Cindy - who works on a multimedia evangelistic



# coming home!

ENGLISHMAN IAN CROSSLEY RETURNED FROM THE STATES - ON A TRANSATLANTIC MISSION WAVE.

**SHARON BARNARD** AND **CLIVE PRICE** TELL THE STORY . . .



project - also value their churches' continuing prayer support. "We send out a newsletter every two months by e-mail" he says, "and it's sent on to 200 people."

The Crossleys and their sons Nathan (11) and Tim (8) are also encouraged by occasional visits from American supporters. "Some may be business people who've saved up air miles to pay a visit" says Ian. "Others are church leaders."

The American link helped raise the church's profile locally. Westbourne have run summer missions and a holiday Bible club with the aid of their US visitors.

Ian believes in a continuous cross-cultural flow of mission work. Occasionally they return to America to visit supporters. Lengthy family trips are harder to fit in around their sons' education. So, when Ian goes back to North America this autumn, he'll go alone.

Just as American churches back Ian, Westbourne has set up standing orders to filter some 14 per cent of their income to missionaries. Total giving, including one-off gifts, is much higher, amounting to about 25 per cent of church income.

Established in 1867, the church supports six missionaries and societies including Pat Woolhouse in the Congo with BMS, the Baptist Home Mission Fund, and overseas nationals like a Spurgeons-trained Bulgarian couple now ministering in their country.

Since 1995, Ian has been off the water to concentrate full-time on his pastoral ministry. He's also involved with Walk Thru the Bible Ministries - who run interactive seminars providing Christians with a unique overview of scripture - and occasionally helps out at the sailing centre on a voluntary basis.

But it's not all work - or dry land for that matter. Every Thursday, on his day off, Ian can be found out on the water off Thorney Island racing his Solo dinghy. His is among a number of stories that show how the tide has turned for mission work, as the traditional "sending countries" welcome back their "exiled" evangelists. ●

**Sharon Barnard** is a freelance editor and writer, and has worked for missionary organisations. **Clive Price** is an editorial consultant to some of Britain's leading Christian magazines and organisations. They are both based in West Sussex.



# Macenta

A SERIES EDITED BY  
**JAN KENDALL** THAT  
LOOKS AT TOWNS AND  
CITIES AROUND THE  
WORLD WHERE BMS  
PERSONNEL ARE  
WORKING

BY **MARK AND ANDREA HOTCHKIN**

## Geography

Tropical rain forest	(deforestation around town)
Rainfall	3500 mm per year
Temperature	24-32°C
Staple diet	Rice, red palm oil
Cash crops	Coffee, tea, cola nuts

## Population Statistics

Population	80,000 in Macenta Town	
	300,000 in Macenta Prefecture (County)	
Life expectancy	45 years	
Childhood mortality	under 5 years	25%
Religious faith	Muslim	75%
	Animist	21%
	Christian: Catholic	2%
	Protestant	2%



## Introduction

Macenta is situated in the Loma Hills of the Forest Region of Guinea just eight miles from the Liberian border. It had a population of 40,000 until 1990 but since then has doubled in size mainly due to refugees and displaced people from the Liberian civil war.

## People

The first generation of protestant Christians at Macenta are now old people. Their children, grandchildren and neighbours are members of the church. However the Christian community is almost completely confined to the Forest people, Toma and Kissi. The majority of the townspeople are

Malinké who have migrated from the northern savannah bringing with them their Islamic faith.

## Everything stops for prayer

As I turned the corner in the Landrover I saw that the road was blocked by rows and rows of people kneeling in prayer. It was time for evening prayers before breaking the daily fast during the holy month of Ramadan. There was no room to pass but I was in a hurry - a mother needed a caesarian section at the hospital so the nursing assistant accompanying me got down and asked if we could be let through . . . No, we were politely told to wait.

Macenta is a predominantly Muslim town, not that you would immediately





recognise it as such. The women wear brightly coloured clothes, are never veiled and the many traditional mosques blend in amongst the houses being simply built of mud bricks without minarets. However, you don't have to live here long before you realise the importance of people's faith as they seek to submit to the will of God. Everything stops for prayer.

At 1.00 pm you will find the hospital director, the gardener, the visitors and even the patients with their prayer mat unrolled prostrating themselves before God. Wherever they are in the office, corridors or on the wards, it's a way of life. On Friday all who can go to the mosque and routine work stops at mid-day.

During Ramadan evening prayer is more important than usual and the local mosques are too small to hold all the faithful so they spill out onto the road. The final day of the fast thousands gather in the football stadium dressed in their best flowing robes to pray together.

There is a new big mosque in town; another is under construction. These are gifts from the people of Saudi Arabia along with the one tarmac road that runs through the town on the way to the regional capital of Nzerekore.

## Time

In May, the church organised the new annual March for Jesus. Sunday morning it was announced to the 400 people present to assemble at 3.00pm precisely. We arrived to take part at 3.45pm and wondered where everyone had gone. They hadn't, they were yet to arrive.. By 5.00pm we were organised and 100 of us set off to march round the town singing and proclaiming Jesus as Lord. But the only people who showed any reaction were the taxi drivers who sounded their horns when we blocked the main street.

Timing is a delicate subject for those of European origin - it is easy for us to get upset by the lack of organisation and

the delays. So we try to turn up as late as everyone else, not always successfully.

On Christmas Eve the various choirs and prayer groups put on a programme of songs and drama scheduled to begin at 7.00 pm. We turned up at 7.30 to find the church already bulging with 600 people and we had to lean through the window to get a view. Naturally the performance didn't begin until after 8.00 pm but for once people judged it worthwhile to turn up early!

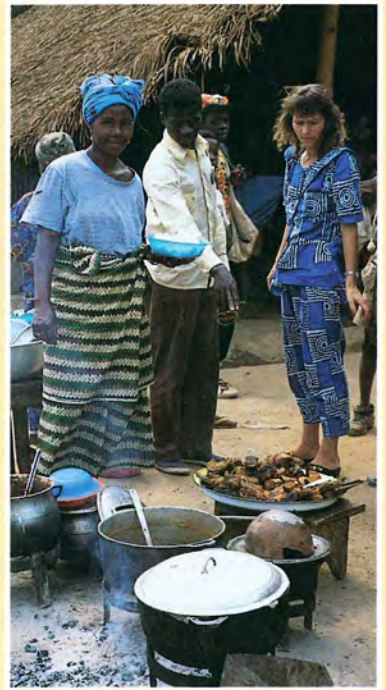
*Continued on Page 22*





# Our town

M a c e n t a



The police try in vain to make the traffic go round the temporary roundabout and enjoy blowing their whistles when it doesn't.

There are plenty of snacks if you are feeling hungry: doughnuts, kebabs, sweetcorn and even a bottle of Coke, now down in price in a Government attempt to stimulate the economy.

If what you have eaten doesn't agree with you, don't worry. You can always buy some pills from one of the many children who have a tray of medicines on their head. Antibiotics, painkillers, sedatives - one or two of the red and black capsules is the current favourite.

Market day is the highlight of the week. Everyone is there: the female nurses mysteriously finish their work before mid-day. They can't resist a bargain any more than you.

At last evening comes, and the cars and taxis are loaded up: people on seats, children in the boot and the apprentices sat on the roof hanging onto the goods. After a good day's shopping they are heading back to the calm of village life.

## Time

The wind starts, the wooden shutters blow back and forth, our house is dark although it is only 4 o'clock. I rush out to get the nappies from the washing line. It's



## Market Day

Thursday morning the sun has just risen and already the neighbours can be heard pounding rice and chopping wood. They want to get the chores done quickly so that they can join the increasing stream of people heading down the mudbaked road towards town. There are people with huge bowls of oranges and bananas, stacks of French bread, trays of eggs, you name it you will see it, all effortlessly balanced on the head. It's market day.

By ten o'clock the centre of town is a heaving mass of humanity buying and selling. Old ladies with little piles of

onions, tomatoes and hot peppers supply the essential ingredients for a Guinean sauce. Women are selling by the scoop polished imported rice, rejagie rice or country rice to complete the bare essentials. Young traders vie for your attention with wheelbarrows piled high with a curious mixture of matches, razor blades, batteries, cough sweets, soap and ball point pens. Members of a local cooperative have come with hand printed material and are happy for you to stop and browse. The price - would that be the first price, the last price or the white man's price you are wanting? Hagglng is the norm for everything except basic foodstuffs.





going to rain. At the height of the rainy season, May and June, you can almost set your watch by it. Lashing down it drowns out all conversation as it drums on the tin roof. Soon the dirt roads are awash, the half finished concrete drains filled to overflowing. An hour later the road is dry again.

Macenta certainly doesn't have a water problem - if you use quantity as your measure. Quality is another matter.

Above the town on a low hill is a large reservoir and piped water is available at a

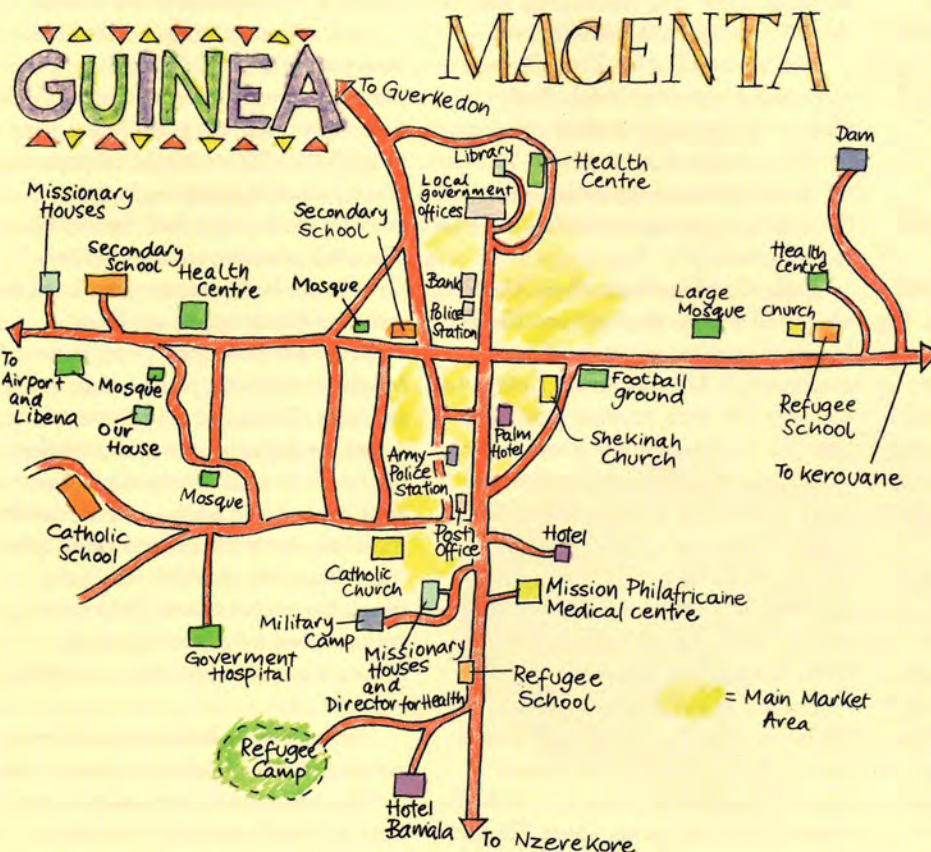


price - 500,000 FG (£350) for a standpipe in our back yard and 7000 FG each month for the water used.

Communal taps were placed around the town but are mainly disconnected due to non payment of bills. Who wants to pay for something that is free? Our neighbours like most people have dug a well and found water at two to five metres. They use the water for washing and are fortunate to get their drinking water from our tap.

Most people drink well water, faecal contamination is common (which spreads intestinal worms) and each dry season there are sporadic cases of typhoid. We hope that there will not be another cholera epidemic like that which killed hundreds of people in 1995.

The high rainfall should ensure that the small hydroelectric dam on the edge of town will supply plentiful electricity. But the lack of spare parts and frequent break downs mean that even those rich enough to have a single light bulb to illuminate their homes have to use kerosene lamps. Of course there is no street lighting so after dark the wayside stalls are lit up by flickering candles and lamps.



## Leisure

An occasional generator can be heard, usually supplying power for a video or satellite TV club. Posters advertise the films, the more violent the better, only 200 FG entry. A Cannes-winning African film was advertised for one evening, only to be immediately replaced by Dead Commando Massacre 5.

Consequently, little boys practice martial arts in the streets when not pursuing the number one sport, football. Which brings us to perhaps the least violent show in town: Manchester United versus Liverpool - live by satellite.

It's a strange world! ●



**T H E D E M O C R A T I C R**  
**C O**



**THE WEEK HOLLYWOOD  
HIT MBANKANA BY  
OWEN CLARK**

**W**ell, not quite Hollywood, but the nearest that Mbankana will get to it for some time. The BMS video team! Rather, the TANDEM team of Terry and Barbara Page making a video for BMS.

Brazil. Thailand. And now Zaire (Congo). In seven days. Theme? "Reaching the Unevangelised". Schedule? As first proposed, impossible! Until cut down to size. Itinerary? Kinshasa - Mbanza-Ngungu - Kimpese - Kinshasa - Bateke plateau - Kinshasa. Fly home shattered.

The Bateke plateau slot was to portray evangelism and a baptism. These needed to be authentic events, and also meet the requirements of the schedule: evangelism on Wednesday afternoon, and a baptism on Thursday morning.

District Evangelist Mputu and Pastor Mbieme at Bwantaba were keen. No problem with evangelism! Members would canvass nearby villages to ensure a good turn-out. Mputu would do his stuff. The villagers must behave naturally, not ham it up. And not look at the camera!

At Mbankana a baptismal class was under way. About a dozen. The event would have to be at nine o'clock on a

Thursday morning? Why not? A suitable spot on a local river would be identified nearer the time. The whole thing must be cleared with the local Administrator.

The weeks rolled by. Terry, Barbara and equipment arrived safely. Early filming went to plan - Pastor Loso doing his thing. Lower Zaire and back. We set off for the plateau a day early, leaving Steve to bring the team and Pastor Kiyedi to Bwantaba.

With Mbankana leader Papa Albert we visited sites for the baptism. The river Nzonzimi nearby was too small and overgrown. A fine spot on the Lufimi was too deep and swift. Another didn't give space for both camera and people. The women's bathing place too shallow and rocky. Back to the main road, and down to the bridge, where lorries often stop. The men's bathing spot. Public, chest-deep and with enough calm water to be safe. A bit of a clamber down over tree roots, especially for Papa Andre.

Famous as a powerful sorcerer over the whole area, Papa Andre had been at death's door in his mud hut. Pastor Mbieme had visited and prayed with him several times, and he got better. He gave all his charms and fetishes to the pastor,

saying God had healed him. Now he wanted to follow Jesus. People did not believe it, but he attended the classes.

Back at Bwantaba, by 4 o'clock we were getting anxious. Villagers were gathering near the chief's compound. No sign of Steve and the team. Belesi went through the village with the megaphone. People began to come, not in their everyday clothes, but their Sunday best. The chief wore his overcoat and bus-driver's hat. If the camera crew failed to arrive we'd have egg on our faces.

Belesi got the singing going, and Mputu, also looking smarter than usual, got ready. The sound of an approaching vehicle produced a buzz of expectation. As it drew to a halt Terry and Barbara leapt out and into action - tripod, camera, wires, big, fuzzy mike appearing in quick succession. One eye at his lens Terry swung his camera round. The crowd stiffened, but stared fixedly ahead. Mputu warmed to his theme, and they began to relax.

Shooting from various angles Terry got on with his job, while Mputu did his. Barbara wielded the fuzzy mike in one hand and a still camera in the other. Mputu broke into song. Terry scuttled to



# REPUBLIC OF CONGO

## A Fair Attempt

a new position. Mputu made his appeal. The response was massive. The wheat would have to be sorted from the chaff later. Mputu gave the benediction. Terry was shooting the large, red ball of a sun going down. All agreed it had been a great occasion.

Next morning filming started in Mbankana at the stick-and-palm frond church. Little Chimane animated the singing outside. Pastor Kiyedi prepared the candidates. They would process to the main road singing, go down the busy street, pass the market stalls and the Civil Guard barrier, then descend the long, steep hill to the river.

The video team went ahead to film them coming, but the procession took a short cut and came out further down. Whoops! Never mind. Go on and get set up on the river bank. A bit of local colour - woman carrying log on head, another washing pots at water's edge. All was ready as the procession arrived.

A brief word, and the two pastors climbed down into the water with a slight shiver, setting their feet on the sandy bottom. Candidates were lined up and helped down, two at a time. Special care with Papa Andre! We sang lustily. Curious spectators gathered. The baptised went off into the bushes to change. Papa Andre gave his testimony to camera. A woman screamed, "Why are you baptising him? He's a wicked old man, a sorcerer!" Papa Andre looked her

in the eye. "I've given it all up for Jesus," he said.

Back up the hill. Shot of a bullock-cart stuck in sand. The procession coming up through town. Papa Andre buying fish from market women. An interview with the Administrator. Time had gone, and the team had to hit the road. Kinshasa waited yet. "Goodbye Terry and Barbara. Good journey. See you some time!"

All of a sudden they were gone, and all was quiet. Back to the church to encourage the newly baptised. Had it been an authentic experience for them? Had the video team got what they were after? Who was to say? All that we knew was that a fair attempt had been made to satisfy the needs of both parties. ●

**Barbara wielded the fuzzy mike in one hand and a still camera in the other. Mputu broke into song. Terry scuttled to a new position. Mputu made his appeal. The response was massive. The wheat would have to be sorted from the chaff later.**







**TED AND DEE HALE SPENT A SABBATICAL IN JAMAICA AS GUESTS OF THE JAMAICA BAPTIST UNION.**

## Smiles

**M**y wife, Dee, and I spent three months in Jamaica; we were placed with Revd Dr Heckford Sharpe, pastor to four Baptist churches in and around Montego Bay and President of the Jamaica Baptist Union. Most of our time was spent up in the hills twelve miles inland from Montego Bay in a country district called Maldon. We were deeply privileged to share the lives, and just a little of the lifestyle of people who live in the countryside of Jamaica - and the first thing to say about the people we met was that they made us feel at home and genuinely seemed to feel that they were privileged by our visit to them!

The majority of Jamaicans are trapped in poverty, and everyone's life is impoverished by the third world status of the island. Jamaica has been devastated by earthquakes and hurricanes, by both banana

blight and the failure of traditional markets for its produce, and, of course, it has crippling debts. It desperately needs whatever income it can generate to renew its own infrastructure. The provision of decent roads and public transport, freely available education to secondary level for all, a reliable energy supply, and clean running water should not be seen as luxuries in the late twentieth century. Pictures of little children carrying water-containers on their heads may be appealing, but the poverty they represent is appalling!

Jamaica is further blighted by the mass emigration of its ablest workers to the UK, the USA and Canada in an attempt to better themselves. The instability this causes in family relationships adds to the historically-based causes of social instability associated with slavery. In spite of many years reading the stories of

**For many Jamaicans life is unnecessarily and destructively very hard, and death is premature.**





# that mask the pain

Moses, I had never realised how the experience of enslavement and poverty degrades a people and affects their sense of self worth. Inescapable poverty encourages a spirit of hopelessness and opens the doors to the violence, drug-trafficking and corruption at all levels of society which mars Jamaica's life.

If I have painted a depressing picture of Jamaica, it is right to do so, and although I want to offer some positive aspect of its life as well, I would not want any reader to think, "Oh it's really alright then. It's not as bad as all that!" For many Jamaicans life is unnecessarily and destructively very hard, and death is premature.

And yet I would do Jamaicans an injustice if I did not report that Jamaica is a land of smiles, of countless resilient people who will sweat in the sun for hours of what amounts to £2, for good neighbours, caring parents,

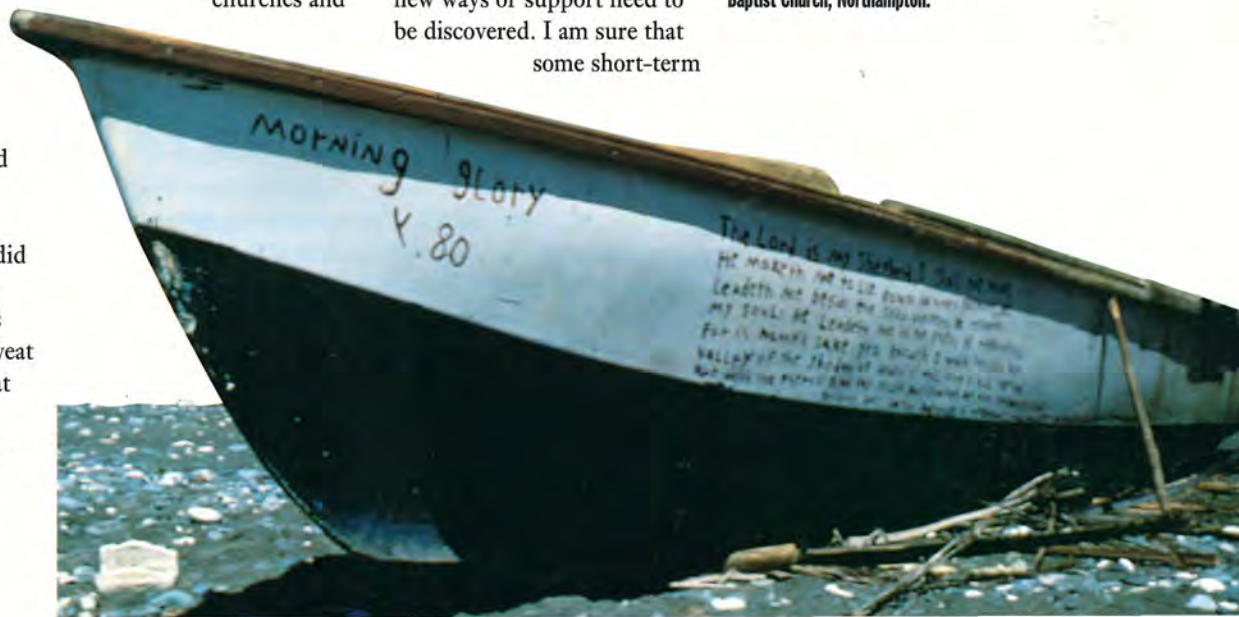
nurses and doctors staying to serve their country when greater rewards are available elsewhere, devoted hard working pastors and prayerful, faithful church members. Almost every Baptist church we visited had educational and social programmes as part of their life. In the midst of poverty of all kinds the richness of the gospel is offered in word and deed, and compassion is shown in practical ways such as counselling or even financial help within the limited means available to the churches. In Kingston especially we saw churches and

church members literally working in the firing line and offering a costly witness to peace, justice, truth, hope and reconciliation in the face of much that opposed them, but they are often hindered by lack of money. American backers can do more harm than good by their fickle support, but is anyone else willing to offer the kind of "help with no strings" which Jamaicans need?

The BMS is much respected for its past involvement in the cause of emancipation, and for the supply of personnel; but now new ways of support need to be discovered. I am sure that some short-term

placements will be an encouragement; vigorous campaigning for fair trading and debt-release is essential, and small tokens of support such as sending a few surplus hymn-books are appreciated; but I somehow sense that until by God's grace we all see ourselves as co-workers with Christ, each with the dignity of a child of God, and with a responsibility for each other, the Jamaican smile will continue to mask much Jamaican pain. ●

**Ted Hale** is minister of Abbey Centre Baptist Church, Northampton.





TAKE  
2

## Wanted - old Baptist hymn books

Jamaican Baptists would like to receive redundant Baptist hymn books, in good condition.

Previously 600 were collected and sent to Jamaica; the books have all been distributed to grateful churches, and they will gladly receive any more that you can send.

Poverty in Jamaica is such that churches do not have the funds to replace their 19th century US hymn books en masse; neither can they afford ones specially produced for them in the UK.

Further information available from Ted Hale, 134 Towcester Road, Northampton, NN4 8LH. Tel 01604 762305.

## Question to Ponder

Is 'reverse flow' the best way of describing the movement of missionaries from 'receiving' to 'sending' countries?

Does it imply a hidden agenda in describing who goes where?

## Letter to the Editor

The Daily Telegraph magazine published a report covering the last days of President Mobutu's reign in Zaire. It describes what those of us who have visited Zaire know only too well, that Mobutu's presidency was a disaster for the suffering millions of Zaire. For 30 years the whole crumbling structure of Mobutu's regime was based on nepotism, corruption and intimidation.

Everyone, including BMS missionaries of yesterday and today, knew that Mobutu's reign was rotten to the core and built on lies. But nobody would have learned about this from BMS missionaries on deputation. The Society played Mobutu's game in maintaining the conspiracy of silence concerning the real situation in Zaire.

BMS has a truly noble record in campaigning for human rights. If we sought to be a voice for Indian widows, Jamaican slaves, Angolan refugees etc where was our voice when Mobutu stamped over the poor in Zaire?

I will no doubt be told that if BMS and CBFZ had publicly denounced Mobutu's regime, we would have been unable to support the national church. But this policy of quietism was not pursued by Livingstone, Carey, Knibb, Bonhoeffer, and Martin Luther King. Was there not a clear conflict between morality and expediency here?

Ron Armstrong  
Clevedon, Avon

### FACTS AND FIGURES

Country	Protestant Missionaries to (ratio)	% of population already reckoned to be Christian (Prot)	Protestant Missionaries from
<b>AFRICA</b>			
Angola	103 (1:97,000 people)	84.6% (19.8%)	9
Cent Af Rep	208 (1:14,000 people)	83% (47.2%)	14
Dem Rep of Congo	1,406 (1:25,000 people)	95.9% (36%)	2,086
Guinea	187 (1:36,800 people)	4.5% (0.58%)	8
Zimbabwe	630 (1:15,400 people)	61.7% (33%)	240
<b>ASIA</b>			
Bangladesh	316 (1:366,000 people)	0.44% (0.23%)	127
India	766 (1:1,076,000 people)	2.61% (1.91%)	11,284
Indonesia	1,595 (1:114,000 people)	12.5% (9.3%)	1,512
Nepal	582 (1:31,000 people)	0.58% (0.56%)	155
Sri Lanka	117 (1:147,000 people)	7.6% (0.92%)	159
Thailand	1,293 (1:43,100 people)	1% (0.43%)	117
<b>EUROPE</b>			
Albania	182 (1:18,800 people)	18% (0.06%)	n/a
Belgium	571 (1:17,400 people)	89.3% (0.8%)	60
France	1,224 (1:45,900 people)	71.5% (1.77%)	452
Italy	462 (1:124,000 people)	80.1% (0.82%)	197
Portugal	335 (1:30,700 people)	96% (1.24%)	168
UK	1,021 (1:56,200 people)	66.5% (53.2%)	7,012
<b>MIDDLE EAST</b>			
Egypt	217 (1:249,000 people)	14.2% (0.85%)	75
Iran	0	0.4% (0.03%)	7
Jordan	103 (1:32,600 people)	4.69% (0.46%)	16
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>			
Canada	403 (1:65,800 people)	83.5% (32.2%)	5,432
USA	2,320 (1:107,000 people)	86.5% (51.3%)	59,074
<b>CENTRAL &amp; SOUTHERN AMERICA</b>			
Brazil	3,381 (1:44,500 people)	92.4% (21.6%)	2,755
El Salvador	102 (1:51,500 people)	97.5% (20.6%)	130
Jamaica	209 (1:12,000 people)	86% (69.8%)	45
Trinidad & Tob	96 (1:13,800 people)	59.8% (28%)	32
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>			
Australia	726 (1:23,100 people)	70.6% (39.6%)	3,543

All statistics from Operation World

## The Man With The Bird On His Head

For those of you who would like to read the full story of John Rush's visit to Tanna, unwittingly fulfilling a strange prophecy (see pages 14/15), the book *The Man With The Bird On His Head* is published by YWAM Publishing, PO Box 55787, Seattle, WA 98155, USA.

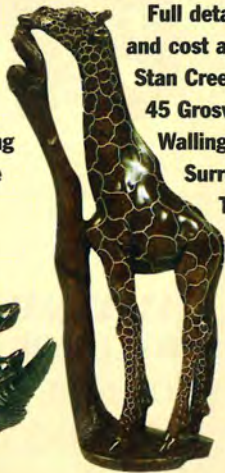
The book takes its title from a curious carving John Rush saw during his visit - a man with a bird on his head. He asked what the piece meant, and was told that it signified the man was a messenger, who came from far away with news.



## Zimbabwe Carvings

A limited quantity of soapstone carvings have been imported from Zimbabwe with the aim of encouraging a group of young men who might otherwise be unemployed, and to raise funds for BMS work there. Most of the

carvings represent animals from Africa and include hippos, elephants, rhinos, lions, hares and tortoises.



Full details of sizes and cost available from Stan Crees, 45 Grosvenor Road, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 0EN. Tel 0181 647 2441



## One World Week

God made the world, and cares for every one of his creatures, wherever they live and whatever their creed or colour. That is the message of One World Week, a week long grass-roots programme sponsored by all the mainline UK churches and church agencies, including the BU. It is a week of events and activities designed to stimulate thought and action about the world and its peoples, and to get people actively doing something about some of the problems of injustice and inequality which confront us all.

One World Week is a local programme, in other words each local community or church group has complete freedom to interpret the theme for the year in whatever way they think is appropriate. It is a wonderful way to get people involved in "mission", and can be tremendous fun.

One World Week takes place this year between 19 and 26 October and the theme is "stretching the limits" (the limits of our vision, our faith, our love, our mission). An action kit full of ideas, suggestions, information and worship resources is available for £4.75 from the office at One World Week, PO Box 2555, Reading, Berks, RG1 4PS. Tel 0118 939 4933.

*(Contributed by Hugh Doyle who is the BU representative on the OWW management committee and writes the worship resources for this year's action pack.)*

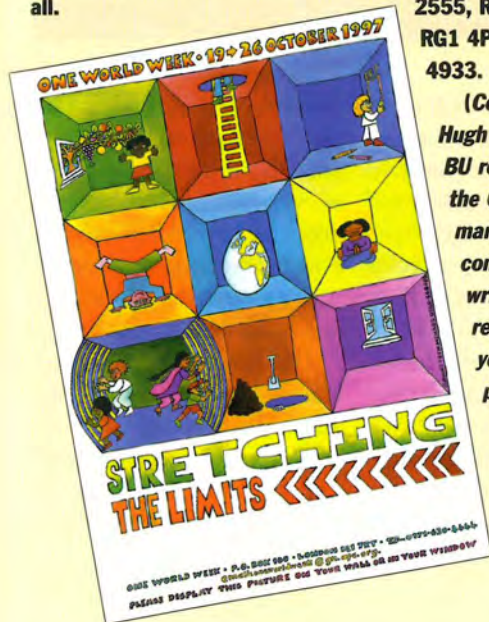


PHOTO: SEAN SPRAGUE/PANOS PICTURES

## Rural Credit Schemes

"How can you say the poor are not credit-worthy?" asks the founder of the Grameen Bank (meaning "rural" bank) of Bangladesh.

The Grameen Bank began in 1976 as an experiment with a radical idea - that poor people supplied with working capital could generate productive self employment without external assistance. Over 80% of clients are women, and the repayment rate is 98%. Now the Grameen is the country's fourth largest bank, making small loans to more than two million people who were previously considered "unbankable".

In the past, it would have been impossible for a woman from a poor rural community in Bangladesh to amass enough money to buy a sewing machine but, with a loan provided by the community bank, she is able to clothe her family, make goods to sell for profit, repay the loan and gain self worth and self sufficiency.

The Methodist Relief and Development Fund in Britain

is working with the Methodist Church in Haiti, one of the world's poorest countries, to provide community banking schemes. Since 1993, twelve community banks have been established and levels of repayment are always close to 100 per cent. Each community bank is effectively an association of small businesses and may be made up of up to 50 women who meet weekly to receive or repay loans and establish voluntary savings. Help is also provided with basic literacy and numeracy skills. The women are largely involved in growing produce and trading at the local markets.

Please send your card of encouragement to the women working hard to help themselves, their families and their communities in Haiti c/o Mrs Inette Durandis, Coordination des Programmes de Developpement, Bureau COD, Delmas 95 No 15, Freres, PO Box 6, Port au Prince, Haiti. If possible, write in French and ask that your greeting be passed to a member of one of the community banking schemes.





# Reverse

**MARTIN SAMANGAYA** CAME FROM ZIMBABWE TO THE UK TWO YEARS AGO TO BE PART OF A 28:19 ACTION TEAM. HE REFLECTS ON HIS TIME AS A MISSIONARY THEN - AND NOW.



**W**hen my pastor asked me if I wanted to be part of a missionary team that would travel around the UK aiming to motivate and challenge young people, I wondered what I had to offer the young people in the UK.

At that point in time, my image of a missionary was that of a very much respected elderly white couple, working in Africa, struggling with the native language and always maintaining a smiling face. There was also the fact that, having grown up in Zimbabwe, we have always been a recipient of things from the Western world. It never occurred to me that the Western countries had any

need for missionary work - it was as if their sole aim was to send missionaries to Africa because their own country had no need for missionary work. It was for these reasons that I was puzzled as to why I was asked to join the 28:19 Action Team.

I'm glad to say that I did come to the UK to join the team. I had been fortunate that God had prepared me beforehand, through my work with the Scripture Union in Zimbabwe, for the work I was to do with Nick and Karen who were the other members of the team.

My time on the 28:19 Action Team was certainly a challenge and an eye opener. I

was surprised at the lack of interest in the Bible and the Church amongst the young people. During our talks I noticed that certain Bible stories and verses, which I presumed that everyone knew, were often unknown to the young people we worked with. I also discovered that in some schools you could not talk openly about Christianity. I sensed that "church" for a lot of the young people was

perceived as being boring, for old people, and where you sang long hymns. I could now see why mission work was necessary in the UK - this was evident by the amount of young people who are losing interest in the church.

Our missionary status was often quite hard for the young people to grasp, as we did not meet the stereotyped image of a missionary, or a Christian either (ie we weren't boring,



# flow action



and we didn't sing long hymns)! For a lot of the youngsters we were able to change that image, and we presented the Bible to them in an exciting way, which will hopefully remain with them for a long time.

The diversity of our backgrounds and culture helped our work as a team. We were able to share our different Christian experiences with others. It became valuable as we had opportunities to speak about God's love when people asked us about ourselves and our respective countries. Personally, the idea of

working with two young people from different backgrounds and cultures helped me to be flexible, open-minded and to respect others' opinions and contributions.

Now, two years on from the Challenge UK 28:19 Action Team, I am still here in England, completing my nursing training at St James University Hospital in Leeds (popular for its television programme "Jimmy's"). The

concept of being a missionary in the UK remained with me after the Action Team programme ended. During my work in the hospitals, I come across people with a variety of different problems and illnesses who are often worried and anxious. As a Christian I always make the most of opportunities to chat with them and, most importantly, to lend a listening ear. I feel that I can do this

genuinely and not out of duty. Work with young people has continued and I have become an active member in my church's youth work.

It is legitimate to acknowledge the fact the "reverse flow mission" is valuable, in that people can learn to appreciate different cultures and learn from each other. The experiences of the 28:19 Challenge UK Action Team will remain with me forever. I sometimes wish every young person could have the same opportunity as myself. ●



# Prayer focus



News from BMS colleagues and partners around the world to complement the BMS Prayer Guide

Around the world

## Albania



Gill and Glyn Jones

After attending AEP meetings in Switzerland, Gill and Glyn Jones returned to Albania on 12 July for their last term of service before returning to the UK in October.

In response to pleas from their church in Bregu i Lumit, Ryder and Heather Rogers returned to Albania on 15 July. But they won't be taking over. Back in May, Ryder and Heather left Eda (26) and Skender (24) in charge of biblical teaching, with Velma (18) looking after the prayer life of the church and Flutura (17) heading up a worship group of 13-24 year olds. Despite their youth and inexperience, these and other Albanian nationals have proved themselves more than equal to the task of church leadership. The priority of BMS workers returning to the country is to make sure those leadership roles continue to flourish.

By 1 August, Saverio and Betsy Guarna were back in Tirana, having stopped off on the way to visit Betsy's mother in Rome.



Ryder and Heather Rogers

David and Yvonne Wheeler also returned in August. Their ministry straddles the continents: BMS missionaries in Bangladesh from 1977 to 1985, they then moved to India, where David worked as an engineer on large scale projects supported by aid from the British Government. By 1994, they felt God was calling them to Europe, so they rejoined BMS and moved to Albania.

Yvonne's work centres round the ABC clinic, a family practice in Tirana with ECG ultrasound, emergency and basic laboratory services. Because all the full time staff are Christians, the Clinic is able to offer training and advice in mission alongside its other services (the Albanian Evangelical Alliance rents part of the upper floor). Because expat companies pay for their employees to be treated at the clinic, needy local people can be treated free of charge - regular collections of warm clothes help them through the vicious Albanian winters.

Thanks to David's organisational skills, the 300 year old Baptist Centre in Tirana has a new roof and a new set of wiring! Further afield, irrigation and forestry projects in and around Kruje and the refurbished isolation block at the Vlore General Hospital owe much to David's expertise - even workmen building a much-needed road into the mountains would look to him to arbitrate in their many disputes (the subject, says David, of frequent silent prayer!).



Saverio and Betsy Guarna

### Please pray

- for continued peace after the June elections - an opportunity to rebuild the economy, combat lawlessness and restore the control of weapons
- for the work of the ABC clinic, that by pooling resources it can continue to bring healing and hope to the local community
- that David's road will be kept in reasonable condition, so that the good news of Jesus can travel along it to the many mountain villages
- for relationships within the team and between the team and their colleagues - that grace and understanding would grow as expatriate Christian workers seek to stand alongside their Albanian friends through a difficult time.



**FRANCE**



**Catherine and Robert Atkins  
TOULOUSE**

- for peace and protection from crime as the church in Toulouse continues to grow

As John and Sue Wilson prepare to celebrate the tenth anniversary of their church in Morsang-sur-Orge, new projects are still abounding.



**John and Sue Wilson  
MORSANG-SUR-ORGE**

May saw a month's outreach on the streets of Morsang, helped by a Baptist team from America. And, following a promising first run, the enquirers' course is being developed further so as to keep up interest without pushing them too hard. For Sue to keep teaching English, they've had to set up a local branch of the ABEJ, the national association which regulates cultural and social projects. But at least this means they can now set up a clothing bank as another point of contact and help to the local community.

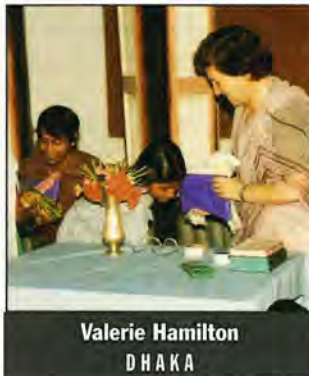
**Please pray**

- for the Atkins' ministry, bringing hope to people from all walks of life

**Please pray**

- for John, Sue and their children - Jessica, Kelly, Tommy and infant Bonny.
- for the Hadley family which moved south to St Etienne in August to help Pastor Luc Sadorge with church planting.

**BANGLADESH**



**Valerie Hamilton  
DHAKA**

Politics and the weather seem to be heightening curiosity about Christianity in this Muslim country. Visitors to the annual meeting of the local Baptist Association in Dhaka said they had received such help from Christians following the recent cyclone, they were longing to find out more about the Christian faith!

Valerie Hamilton's retirement leaves a big hole in Baptist ministry to the children of Bangladesh: working full time to coordinate Sunday School activities across the country,

she also set the national curriculum for Christian education in schools - compulsory for those with an ethnic Christian background.

But she leaves behind a highly motivated team, trained and inspired to carry on the children's camps and RE teacher training. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Baptist Sangha (BBS) will continue to identify and develop potential full time workers, backed up by church placements and correspondence courses from the College of Christian Theology at Sarvar.

**Please pray**

- that Christians would continue to match words with action, making a difference for Jesus in ordinary people's lives.
- for Valerie as she adjusts to her new life, and for those stepping into her shoes
- that the Sunday School work will continue to flourish, shaping the new generation in Bangladesh
- that young Bangladeshi Christians would respond to God's call to ministry
- for efforts by the BBS to streamline office administration at its base in Mirpur near Dhaka: government regulations result in quantities of paperwork - may that never hinder the central task of making Jesus known.

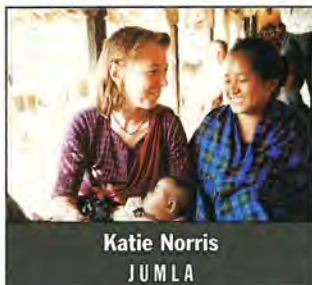


# Prayer focus



**Around the world**

## NEPAL



**Katie Norris**  
JUMLA

Converted in Afghanistan, baptised in Nepal - now Katie Norris is giving something back to her beloved Asia. At the Karnali Technical School in Jumla, her job is to motivate both students and teachers, keeping a close eye as new ideas and methods dreamt up at special workshops are introduced to the classroom.

Five hours' walk away, pupils from the Karnali Community Skill Training office in Talphi gather on flat rooftops to sit exams which Katie has helped to develop. As well as being taught to read and write, adults and children in nine villages are learning to do simple maths and look after their health. For the first time, social issues such as child marriage are being raised and openly discussed; parents are given the chance to consider

how sending their children to work in the fields may blight their education and their future.

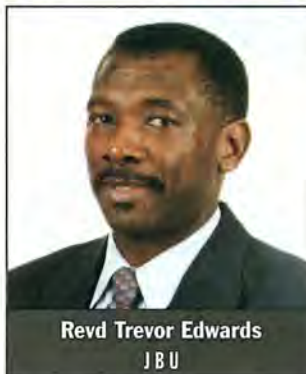
Overall, KCST's ambition is to transform the negative image local people have of themselves and their village, proving to them that, irrespective of outside intervention, the possibility of change for the better is in their hands.

### Please pray

- that God would give Katie both wisdom and stamina: all this activity and responsibility makes it difficult to set priorities - she feels drawn more to the village work, but wants to be sure the other projects don't end up by being neglected.

- for an increased sense of community in Jumla: it's easy enough to meet people in Jumla - every day Katie opens her door to people who will either want to sell her firewood, potatoes, or wild berries, or want her to give them clothes or even work. But getting to know them is a different matter. Please pray that Katie will make good dependable friends at home and at work.

## JAMAICA



**Revd Trevor Edwards**  
JBU

In his address to the BUGB Baptist Assembly in May, Revd Trevor Edwards called on church leaders and members alike to be, like the antidote to a society fast losing its sense of hope.

Trevor is Secretary General of the Jamaica Baptist Union and has pastored an inner city church which became the base for a far-reaching social action programme, is now Vice Chairman of the international Association for Baptist Action in Mission (ABAM) - established with the help of BMS. But, far from complacent, Trevor suggests that today's Christians are still danger of "passing by on the other side", indifferent to the injustices created by their own

way of life. For example, by abolishing expensive quota systems, the World Trade Organisation brings instant ruin to small-scale producers (eg the banana growers of the Windward Islands).

According to Trevor, decisions like this are an opportunity for the Church to "take risks in the name of Christ", bringing to the powerless the moral and material support they need, and challenging the powerful with creative, constructive alternatives which honour all those involved.

### Please pray

- that God would continue to guide Trevor and his colleagues at JBU, making them an effective witness to his message of resurrection life.

- for an end to racism and selfishness in international trade; that the individuals and organisations concerned would recognise all people as created equal in the image of God - and provide for them accordingly.

- that the Church in the UK as in Jamaica would be generous and brave in sharing its gifts to enrich other people's lives.

## Checkout

### Departures (September)

Tim Lehane and Alison MacLean to Nepal  
Chris and Sarah Mattock to Italy  
David and Cath Meikle to Brazil

### Arrivals (September)

Margaret Gibbs from Nepal  
David and Sheila Brown from Brazil  
Margot Bafende from Democratic Republic of Congo  
John and Rena Mellor from Democratic Republic of Congo

### Arrivals (October)

Derek Punchard from Brazil  
David Kerrigan from Sri Lanka  
Joy Knapman from Sri Lanka  
Glyn and Gill Jones from Albania

### Overseas Visits

Alistair Brown to Albania and Croatia  
Derek Rumbol to Democratic Republic of Congo  
John Passmore to Albania, Croatia, Cyprus and France  
Jim Clarke to Brazil

## Corrections

From July/August 1997, page 11,

For more information on John Corbett's book Where There is no Telephone, the correct web site address is:

<http://www.reliefweb.int/library/vtint/toc.html>

Page 34, Chris & Sarah Mattock's flat is in fact large, and has lots of room for visitors!

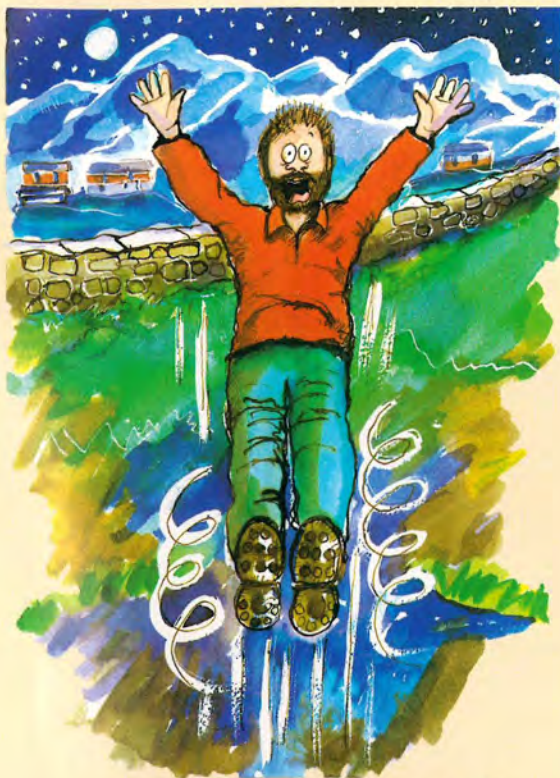
Pages 4-5 of Harvest insert, July/August 1997

The arrows from Angola and Zaire boxes should of course have been the other way round.



# Travel Tales

## *On top of the world*



I was listening to a talk recently where we were asked the question, 'Why do people climb Mt Everest?' Of course the answer is, 'Because it's there.'

I saw Everest once, from a distance during a holiday in

Nepal. Among the many peaks all jostling for position one was pointed out and I was assured that it was Everest.

Not for me

though, mountaineering, with or without ropes or oxygen or anything else for that matter. Even if it is there, I'll let someone else go up!

We did however go on a more gentle trek and even then reached thirteen thousand feet which is somewhat higher than my native Dartmoor. The first day started off with a walk along a valley following the

course of a dry river bed. I was just wondering where all the hills were when we hit one and the final two hours of the day seemed to be straight up. At the top of that climb was our hotel for the night. We had been told that the word hotel was not altogether an accurate description for a stone built, thatched two storey building where if we purchased a rice meal we could sleep for free in the upstairs loft, along with all the other trekkers and Nepali porters.

If the sleeping arrangements left quite a lot to be desired, the facilities were non-existent. We had become used to the early morning search for a bush in some villages in Bangladesh, but hadn't expected to be continuing that habit on holiday, especially when staying in a hotel. Add to that a daily, hot curry and you can begin to understand some of the discomfort of the holiday.

There was one night, for instance, when, armed with a torch, I ventured out and seeing a low stone wall thought the other side might be a suitable place. I vaulted the wall and . . . disappeared. I should have looked over first. I was fortunate that I landed on a path only about 20 feet down the mountain side and not in the valley bottom.

Along the route we met or passed some large organised groups. They were escorted by many porters who carried tents, tables and chairs, food and cooking utensils. We mingled with one such group, all admiring the wonderful view in the clear early morning

light. Imagine our surprise when someone came up to us and announced, 'Hello, I'm Tensing.' He lost interest in us though, as soon as he discovered that we were not part of the trek organised by his tour company. Still, though I didn't pay for the privilege, I can say I've been up a mountain with probably the most famous Sherpa of them all.

The next night, we sat on our hotel veranda, replete with rice and lentils, watching busy porters erecting a tent, laying the table and cooking the evening meal. We looked on enviously as the courses were served and wondered who the two pampered young men were.

A while later, as it began to get dark, one of our group, a young female, returned to the veranda all of a quiver. Naturally we asked what was the cause of her agitation to which she replied that she was sure she had just met Richard Chamberlain. (For those whose memories don't stretch back that far, he played a young doctor in an American TV serial a bit like the forerunner to ER. He followed that with film roles such as Fr Ralph de Bricassart in 'The Thorn Birds' and the Prince in 'The Slipper and the Rose').

'Wow. What did you say to him?' we asked, thinking this was her great moment to have an in depth conversation with this famous heart throb.

'Well, he wanted to know where the bathroom was.' 'Yes, and....' 'I told him it was over there behind those bushes!' ●

## JOHN PASSMORE

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



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