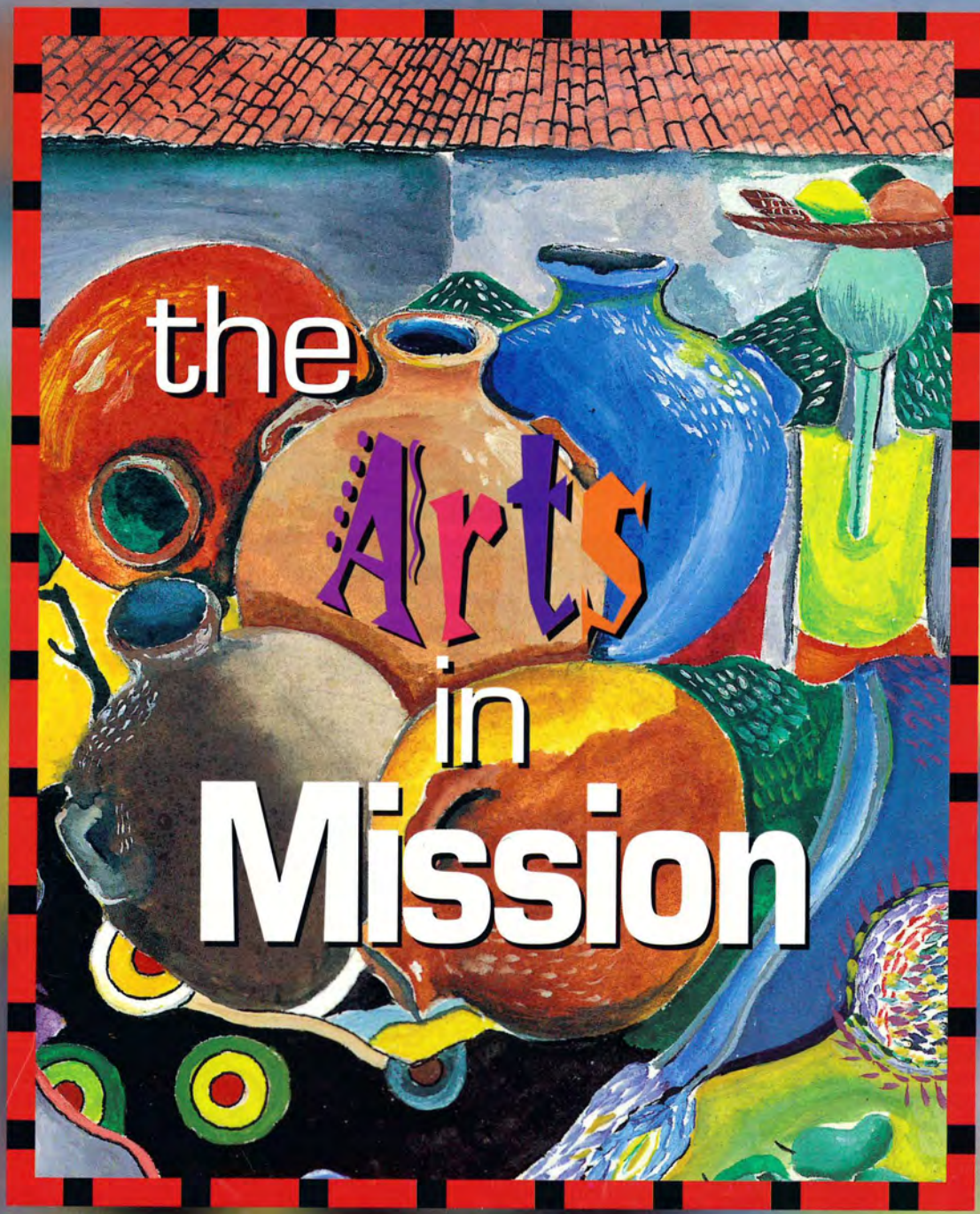


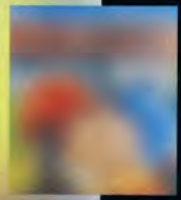
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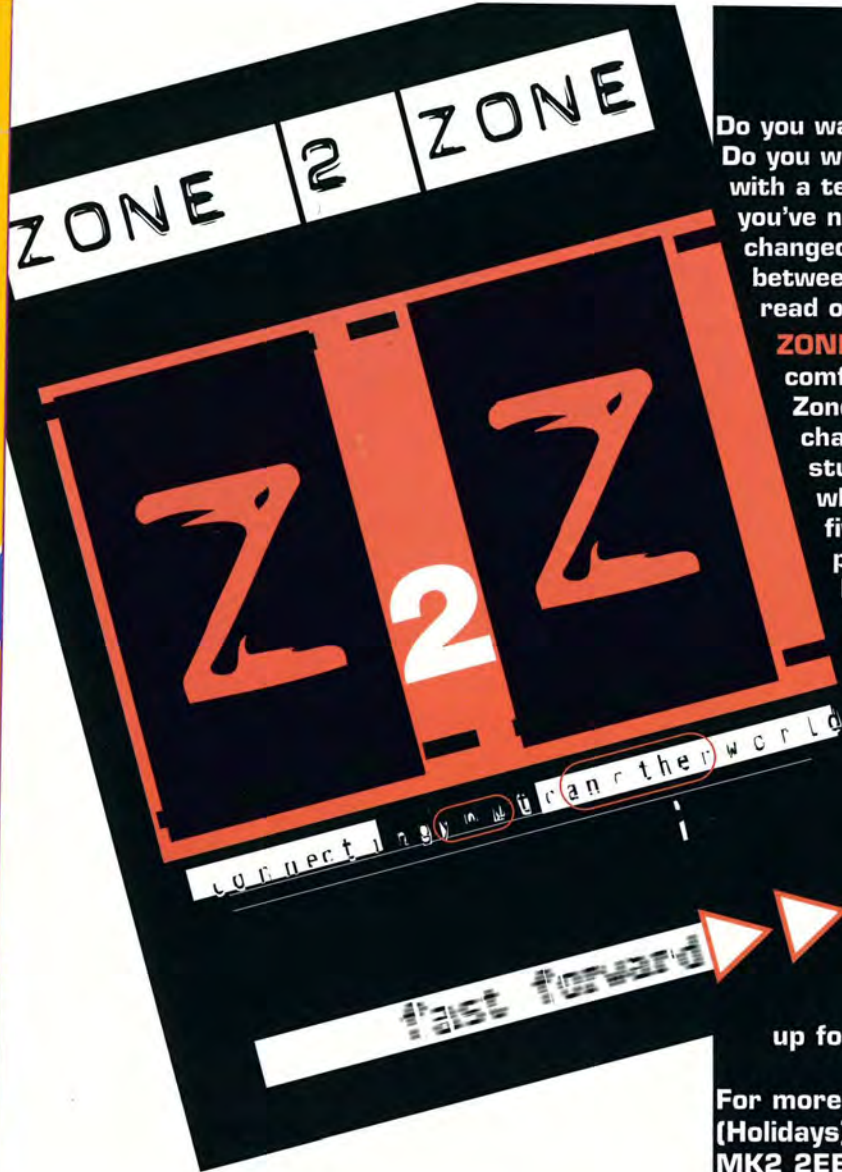
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Do you want to get stuck into mission on your own doorstep? Do you want to live in a different part of the UK for a week with a team of people and discover things about yourself you've never known? Are you prepared to be challenged and changed? If you said YES to all of these and if you are aged between 14 and 18, or you know someone who is, then read on...

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Already a lot of interest is being shown in this joint publication between BMS, Scripture Union and World Vision.

To order: please use form on page 35.

"Excellent material. In some places it is very strong meat and challenges our complacency." Stephen Gaukroger

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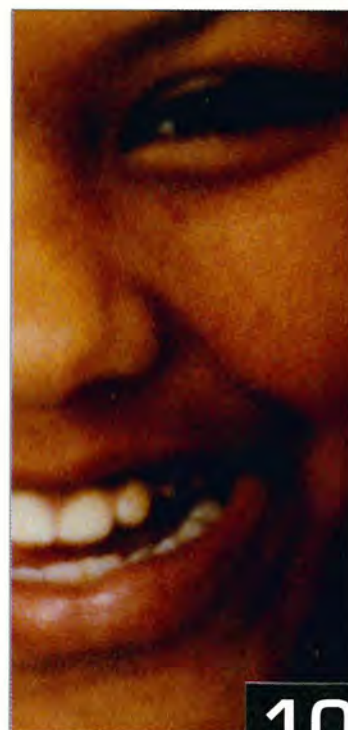
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14



17



10



Welcome to the March/April issue of *mb*. This time we're looking at the part the Arts play in mission. I hope that is something which excites you, and that you don't immediately switch off, thinking 'This has got nothing to do with me'.

Thinking about the Arts immediately takes us into the area of creativity, and we're all creative – whether that's how we think of ourselves or not – because each one of us is made in the image of our Creator God. Some of us are very obviously and overtly creative, and others can see this, for example, in the way we look, the way we decorate our homes, and the things we do in our spare time. For others we may need to look a bit harder and deeper, but the need to create and bring ideas and concepts into a full existence will be there. And the wonderful thing is that God loves us, warts and all, and he sees beyond the warts – because of what Jesus has accomplished for us – to someone who is outwardly and inwardly beautiful, and reaching their full potential.

If that can happen in the life of an individual, think of the impact of a community of people filled with the Spirit of God, and seeking to use all their creative talents and abilities to worship God and reach out to others! Hopefully you'll get inspiration from Fiona Pimlott's article about working with children (page 10), and will feel encouraged when you read how Howard Bradley and Jonny Anstead, two former Action Teamers, are now using creative and dramatic skills to share the gospel all over the UK (page 16). Meanwhile overseas, John Clark tells of a vision-turned-reality when the Easter story is enacted on streets of Fortaleza, Brazil (page 12), and Mike Quantick tells how the Salvadorean people, who have suffered so much in the past, express themselves through their art (page 14). And don't forget, if you want to follow up any of the stories, or need additional information about BMS, just fill in the coupon on page 35, and send it in to us.

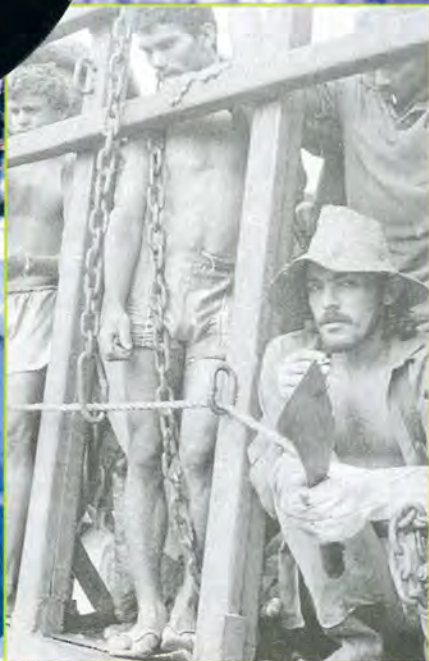
With best wishes,

Jan



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WORLD



ANTI SLAVERY INTERNATIONAL

World Call to end bonded labour

It is estimated that there are around 20 million bonded labourers in the world today. Also known as debt bondage, it is the most widely-used means of enslaving people, and it happens when a loan cannot be repaid, and so the person is forced to give their labour as a means of repayment.

Bonded labour is illegal in India, but conservative estimates recognise at least

ten million bonded labourers in the country. Most of the work they do is hard manual labour in fields or brick kilns. To pay off an initial debt they sometimes toil all their lives, and endure physical attacks that often amount to torture.

The initial debt can begin when people are locked into a cycle of bonded labour. When a man comes to marry he may have no money to pay for his wedding because his father was bonded to a landlord, and had no money to pass on. So the bridegroom will borrow from the landlord maybe something like 6,200 rupees (£87). With a minimum wage of 35 rupees (50p) a day it should take 177 days'

NEWS

work to pay off an interest-free loan. But the newly married couple receive no payment from the landlord for their work – just enough food to keep themselves alive. So it can be that years and years later they are still working for the same landlord. When they are sick, they still have to work, or risk being beaten repeatedly.

In 1999 Anti-Slavery International gave their Anti-Slavery Award to Vivek and Vidyullata Pandit, a couple who have worked for 20 years on bonded labour and other rural rights issues. They have released more than 1,500 bonded labourers, and have set up a rural development agency. None of the bonded labourers they have been responsible for releasing have returned to bondage, and their organisation of the rural poor is leading to sustainable change. Vivek is pleased by the recognition of their work, but says "Poor people should possess power and should rule, and to some extent they have achieved this in this region... but we believe that nobody is free until everybody is free."

BMS is officially supporting Anti-Slavery International's campaign to outlaw bonded labour.

You will find a postcard in this issue of *mb*, part of Anti-Slavery's two-year campaign against bonded labour. Please send your postcard to Mary Robinson, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, urging the UN to take effective action to eliminate bonded labour.

Bolivia Evangelicals establish presence

More than 138,000 people attended a four-day Bolivia for Christ rally organised by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association at the end of last year. Almost 20,000 made professions of faith.

The crusade director, Norm Mydske, said that the number of people making first-time professions of faith in Christ "was extremely high" compared to other events. More than 60 per cent of the people who filled out decision cards "indicated they made decisions for salvation."

The children's programme, too, was especially put together in a way that children could understand, the organisers said. More than 32,000 children attended the high-energy stage performance and on the Saturday alone 4,233 children responded to an invitation to become



news in brief ● news in brief ● news in brief ● news in brief ● news in brief

Nigeria

As a third Nigerian state has started to make moves towards officially implementing strict Koranic laws, the country's leading Christian organisation has threatened to mount a legal challenge, claiming that Koranic law is unconstitutional and jeopardises the unity of the country. The Christian Association of Nigeria said it had written to the Nigerian Attorney General asking him to challenge the imposition. (ENI)

Pakistan

Christians rode a 'Peace Train' through 12 cities across Pakistan. Scores of people took part in the journey, which lasted five days, taking them from the Afghan border to Karachi on the Arabian Sea. In the larger cities the travellers met with local Christians and held marches, whilst in the smaller cities they gave gospel drama shows and handed out videos and publications. The Pakistan Bible Society provided 100,000 special folders of materials, and Campus Crusade for Christ provided thousands of 'Jesus' videos. (CDN/Religion Today)

USA

The World Bank is reported to have said that an international plan to cut poverty in half by 2015 is unlikely to meet its goal. In a report on the aftershocks of the global financial crisis, Uri Dadush, Director of the Bank's development prospects said, "The picture that emerges at the turn of the century is one of stalled progress for the poor, and of rising numbers of poor people in most developing regions. While the global economy is clearly on the mend... the fact is that many developing countries throughout the world remain in a very difficult situation." (CDN)

Sweden

To mark the new millennium the Swedish Parliament has commissioned a new translation of the Bible into Swedish. This is the first official translation since the 1500s. The new translation was formally presented to Parliament at the end of last year; it has been the subject of much discussion in the media, with a series of five-minute readings being broadcast on TV in the run-up to its publication. (CDN)

Southern Africa

Pastors in southern Africa are overwhelmed by the AIDS crisis there. The Society of International Ministries reported that nearly 12 million Africans have died from the disease, and there are an estimated 5,500 funerals a day in southern Africa alone. Pastors are spending all the time performing funerals, visiting the sick and counselling grieving families that they do not have time to prepare or preach sermons. The emotional toll of so many deaths is making church members despondent. (CDN)

LATIN AMERICA PRESS



Christians.

The large number of commitments reflects a 40-year trend towards evangelical Christianity in Bolivia. In 1960 evangelicals made up less than one per cent of the population, whereas today some ten to 15 per cent of the people belong to evangelical churches. Evangelicals began an intense effort to evangelise Bolivia in the early 1960s, offering a personal faith and vibrant worship.

These findings are supported by figures from the Bolivian Bible Society, which recorded record sales of Bibles in 1998. Some 140,000 Bibles were sold, about 50,000 more than in the previous year.

The rally was hosted by some 350 evangelical, Pentecostal and charismatic churches representing 23 Protestant denominations. Organisers trained 10,000 counsellors, ushers and children's workers to minister to the crowds that filled the 45,000-seat Ramon Tahuichi Aguilera Stadium.

Bolivia is one of three Latin American countries where Catholicism remains the official religion. The Catholic Church has been critical of the new churches but is starting to accept that Pentecostal and evangelical churches are not sects, but "churches with all the wealth of Christianity" according to Bishop Moises Morales at last year's Bolivian Bishop's Conference. (CDN/Religion Today)

Congo Floods cause fears



Concern is growing in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Congo Republic as the River Congo is rising, and is at its highest level since 1903.



This is causing serious problems in the low-lying areas of both Kinshasa and Brazzaville though the town centres have not been directly affected.

In Kinshasa some 5,000 people have been evacuated and moved beyond the airport to a farm on higher ground.

It is anticipated that the river will continue to rise, eventually affecting over half the local districts in Kinshasa.

One immediate problem is that two of the major water processing plants have been flooded. Kinshasa gets its water from the River Congo, and then treats it before distribution around the city. Some areas of the city have therefore been without drinking water, and unconfirmed cases of cholera have been reported.

The River Congo is high because of heavy rains upriver in the Equator Region of Congo and in the Central African Republic where rainfall has been heavier than usual in the last 12 months. When the rainy season hit Kinshasa last November, the level of the river was largely unaffected, but the drainage ditches, which had been neglected for years, caused extra water to lie around.

Some had spoken out about the high level of water in recent months, but their voices were largely unheeded. People did not realise just how high the water level was, and both governments had been preoccupied with civil war, so had made no preparations to cope with the floods.

BMS currently has seven personnel in the Democratic Republic of Congo. All of them are reported to be safe.

Russia Help for street children

Aid workers in Russia plan to establish a halfway-house in Chita as emergency short-term accommodation for street children, who have been rescued from their life on



the streets, but whose situations still need assessment before a permanent home can be found for them.

Estimates vary widely concerning the total number of children living on the streets in the Russian Federation, but most people agree they number at least one million. In Chita alone, where winter temperatures can fall as low as minus 40°C, there are at least 1,000 street children, who sleep under cardboard boxes in the market square, in the basements of blocks of flats along with the household rubbish, or underground, taking it in turns to sleep on mattresses slung across pipes that carry the heating from the centrally controlled power stations across the city.

Most of these children are 'social orphans', who have run away from home because their alcoholic parents have beaten them, or have refused to let them into the home until they bring some food with them. (ARRC)

Burundi Thousands trapped in squalid camps

A mission worker has spoken out about the appalling conditions in the country's detention camps, where hundreds of thousands of people are trapped – without food, shelter or sanitation. As many as 800,000 Hutu civilians have been forced into detention camps outside Bujumbura, the capital. Burundi's Tutsi-dominated government hopes the strategy will thwart attacks by Hutu rebels entrenched around the city.

Southern Baptist agricultural evangelist David Brandon said that

many observers considered these settlements to be little more than death camps. "Starvation is a reality," he said, "diseases are increasing and thousands of people are lying in a foetal position, waiting to die." He added "Humanitarian aid organisations are not doing anything because of the United Nations killings." This was a reference to an attack in which two UN aid officials were killed while visiting a detention camp. Whilst the government blamed the attack on Hutu rebels, others believed the attack was co-ordinated by Tutsi-dominated soldiers to force aid agencies to leave, and put more more pressure on the rebels. In fact the UN did reduce its staff drastically after the assault and other aid groups suspended their operations.

Brandon found himself in a helpless situation as people were starving to



Alistair Brown



Reflects.....

In case it isn't obvious the picture is of teabags hung out to dry on the washing line. They're put there by my missionary friend Barbara. As I explained to a church where I showed the photo, you can tell how experienced missionaries are by the number of times they re-use teabags. When missionaries are new, they can't make them last more than three. By the second term of service they can get life out of them – even after six or seven cups. But a real pro uses them ten times, though by then she just pops one in her mouth and sucks. It was a joke, one I thought worth the effort involved in pinning up all those tea bags. I waited for the laugh. It never came. The audience believed me.

And they believed me because they really thought missionaries used teabags over and over again. These good church people didn't reuse their teabags, but surely missionaries didn't mind. I told that to other missionaries. "I'm not surprised they thought that," one said, "because I've been sent used teabags from home with a note saying they hope I'll enjoy what flavour's left." By now at least six missionaries have told me similar things. And it's not just teabags. Some have been sent tights with holes, so they can mend and wear them.

I know people mean well when they do these things. But it's not how missionaries should be treated. The 'keep 'em poor, keep 'em humble' mindset that demeans Christian workers needs to change. A simple gospel lifestyle for all God's people is right, whether here or far away. No-one should be asked to live on scraps others are finished with. God's servants deserve better. And that includes a new openness about living costs and a financial commitment to match our words of encouragement and prayer. I hope we've grown up enough to give them those. ●

Alistair Brown is General Director of BMS



death in camps to which he had no access. "People have been surviving by selling anything they can," he said, "And by stealing from local fields or from others in the camps. Now the rainy season has started, which will drastically increase dysentery and cholera and weaken everyone, as most have no shelter whatsoever."

He went on to observe the situation from Kenya, having had to leave Burundi because of unrelated visa complications. "We heard several stories about how people were praising God for delivering them from starvation. Some of them hadn't had any food in three days. The greatest value was in the empowerment of the local Christians to help. They were only a step above the families they helped in terms of food security." (CDN/IMB)

Uzbekistan Baptist registration refused

Local authorities in the town of Urgench in south-western Uzbekistan have given a breathing space of 'a couple of days' for the local Baptist church to correct the inadequacies in its application after first of all refusing registration to the church.

As far back as September 1999, the local church in Urgench collected together all the documents necessary for registration, the Baptist

Union of Central Asia reported.

Two months later the officials at the Department of Justice in Urgench returned the documents to the leader of the community, Oleg Vader, with an accompanying letter pointing out the failure to conform with legislation, and stating that the church's documents would not be considered. One of the reasons given was that the house in which the believers met was not acceptable to the Justice Department authorities, though it is not clear why. The letter recommended that the church find an alternative place to meet – an impossible request given the three-month timescale for the church to resubmit its application.

The church believes this was just an excuse for the local authorities to reject the application. It also maintains the vast amount of money spent on submitting the application was now lost – the registration fee for an individual community is 50 times the minimum monthly wage. (Keston)



PEOPLE INTERNATIONAL



Vinoth Ramachandra

The Fellowship and the Cross

The cross of Christ has broken down all social and political barriers, so that one new humanity is born out of the old fragmented, alienated race (Eph 2:14-18; Gal 3:28 etc). Accepting Christ as Lord, therefore, involves commitment to a new community through which all our prior loyalties are re-defined.

In some parts of Asia, national citizenship is defined in terms of religious affiliation; so that those who embrace the cross of Christ lose many of their civic rights. Many Christians who have come from Muslim, Hindu or Buddhist backgrounds have experienced rejection by their families. Christians in some parts of the Two-Thirds World have been imprisoned, beaten, had their travel restricted, and even been killed because they dared to disobey unjust laws. In multi-ethnic societies, Christians who have dared to speak out about the sins of their own ethnic group have been stigmatised and intimidated by their neighbours. North American or Western European Christians who have espoused the cause of minority groups, challenged the wastefulness and greed of their societies, or who have challenged their governments' policies abroad, have often been marginalised by their own churches as well as by the mass media.

One way of avoiding such conflicts is by putting 'church growth' at the forefront of our missionary calling. Many 'church growth' advocates see the planting of 'homogeneous' churches as the secret of evangelistic advance. People, after all, would prefer to meet with others who share their interests and cultural values. It would lessen the possibility of tension and conflict. But would such practice be consistent with a gospel that challenges cultural pride and calls people into the deeper fellowship of the cross? ●

Vinoth Ramachandra is South Asia Regional Secretary of IFES.



Lee Bray's diary



LEE BRAY accompanied BMS President Andrew Green on a journey to Bangladesh and Thailand. Continuing the extracts from his diary.

Tuesday 26

Roused at 5am. Today is a strike day in Dhaka, and we have to be across the city before 6am. By 5.55 there is still no sign of our driver. Venturing outside we find ourselves locked in behind a metal gate. The security guard is fast asleep in his hut, despite his radio, whistle, and musical clock. His dog patrols the courtyard and growls at us from the other side of the gate. Outside in the alley, we can hear our driver trying to call the guard. This would be comical if it weren't serious! After several minutes we manage to wake the guard (and probably others too!) He looks sheepish as he unlocks the gates. If this were reported he would lose his job! As we set off it is past 6.15. Our destination today (and over the next two days) is a Consultation involving BMS, LMS (a German mission) and BBS (the local Bangladesh Baptist Sangha). As it is so early we have a room with some beds to rest. We also share the room with some mosquitoes! We gather for breakfast - boiled eggs, bread, marmalade and hot, sweet tea. The Consultation will be conducted in English. I have no official capacity, so listen and learn. In the evening, after dinner, we rejoin the mosquitoes in our room. Sue reassures us there is no malaria in Dhaka, just an outbreak of denghi fever! We stay in the room until it is judged safe to drive back to the flat, shortly after 11pm. In bed that night the sounds outside begin to seem familiar, but I sleep little.



Wednesday 27

The day begins, as usual, with a cold shower, but not so early as yesterday. We travel through Dhaka at 8.30am. The Consultation ploughs on, but the local church seems to value it highly. That evening we are taken to Dhaka's smart hotel, The Sonargoan, for coffee. Dhaka by night has an air of magic. The hotel is quite different from the city - polished marble halls, fountains, walls of glass, shopping malls and restaurants, designed to give visitors the right impression, but the giveaway is the presence of soldiers outside. They are there to keep the beggars out.



Thursday 28

All of us have coffee and desserts for less than £3. Wake at 7am. Six hours sleep last night - wonderful! Consultation in the morning, and in the afternoon we visit the Blind School for Girls, whose first director was Veronica Campbell from Plymouth, where I grew up. I had no idea that I would be seeing the work established by the first missionary I ever knew. The school's most serious problem is its site. When built it was on raised ground in a largely undeveloped area. Since then Dhaka has grown. The result is that the site, which was at first on ground higher than its surroundings, is now on low ground and liable to flooding. It is considering whether to abandon the ground floor and build an extra one on top. There is no easy solution. Back at the Consultation we all participate in a closing act of worship. We each light a candle and these are placed in a circle around a larger 'Master candle', symbolising our unity in Christ. The act is moving in its simplicity. We have made some good friends, Bangladeshi and German.

To be continued next issue.

Fiona Pimlott explores the world of a child

tell me about this picture," I said to a five year old who had just spent three very intense minutes drawing a huge picture in blue crayon, and was now standing proudly in front of me.

"This is about Brazil," she replied.

Even though I couldn't quite decipher the illustration, there was a good chance it was about Brazil as I had spent the morning speaking to 40 children about street kids and favelas. Thinking I was onto a winning streak, I then pointed to a darker blue creation on the page. "That's where the really poor people live. They don't have houses like here and they live next to a rubbish dump."

"Excellent," I thought. This girl had really grasped this favela business. I moved my finger to the two stripy blue lines next to the favela. Committing the error that every teacher will gasp at, I then asked confidently, "And is this a ladder to get into the house?"

"That," she said, horrified, "Is a shark."

Children are the most creative people I know. Whether playing with toys or kicking a stone around the school yard, a child becomes totally absorbed in what they are doing. Our children have much to stimulate their interest in the abundance of toys the West produces. Yet children have this built in capacity to be creative with whatever they play with. Watch a girl in South Central Asia lovingly wrap some material around a piece of wood and you know that isn't a doll, it's a baby. See the competitive side to all eight-year-olds come to life when you watch boys in Africa play football with a ball made out of bags and with no boots on their feet, or watch street kids in Brazil play in and around an old car tyre and you know that imagination takes over - a child is hard at work being creative.

Over the past two years I have had the privilege of working with over 500 children aged between six and 12 who come along to the BMS WOW Action Days, and who have invited me into their Sunday classes to talk about

mission. The challenge to make anything relevant to a child forces the teacher or leader to be creative. Children learn by hands on 'doing', singing, competitions, craft, stories and comparison lifestyles. Mission is made real to them if they meet someone from another country and culture. Recently I took the BMS 28:19 UK Action Team with me to a WOW Action Day. The three Brazilians and one UK member each joined a small group of children and answered any questions the children had about Brazil. As I moved around the groups, I was amazed and encouraged to hear the children asking the team about food, insects, the government, traffic, weather, school, football and churches. Not only were the children listening intently to the replies, the group leaders were too!

The seven to 11 age range love competing against each other, so it's not uncommon in an Action Day to see teams of children attempting to transfer one square of raw jelly from one plate to another using a pair of chopsticks. Not only does this show children that a knife and fork aren't the only way to eat, it also illustrates good team work and encouraging each other, which is really what mission is all about.

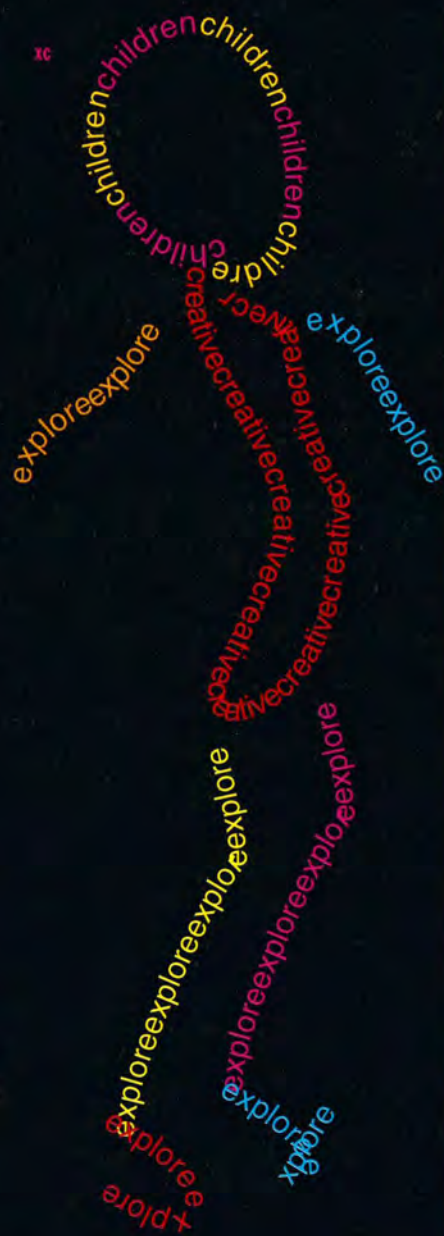
Simple action games called Traffic Lights or 'Simon Says' are excellent ways to talk about the command that Jesus gives to us in Matthew 28:19. If we are Christians, we have to listen to what Jesus asks us to do, and then we have to do it. For some people that means going to other parts of the world to tell others about Jesus. For others it means talking to friends and family in this country about him.

It is possible to be very creative in prayer with children. By writing prayers on the back of cardboard fish and laying the fish on a blue cloth, whilst some good readers in the group read out some prayers, we've been able to spend five minutes looking at the fish and praying for people in Bangladesh. Children then take the fish home to remind them to pray.

Sometimes we wonder just how much information children absorb. By

asking them to draw something about a specific country we have spoken about on an Action Day or in a Sunday service, we are encouraging them to really think about what they have heard. I have seen some great pictures of favelas (and sharks!), floods in Bangladesh, food in Thailand, street kids in India with moving prayers for these people who suddenly have become real to the children. Being creative is not difficult, but finding the time to be creative is something else! ●

Fiona Pimlott is BMS Youth and Children's Co-ordinator



Working
with
children
even



"it's not uncommon in an Action Day to see teams of children attempting to transfer one square of raw jelly from one plate to another using a pair of chopsticks"



Drama in the streets Drama in the streets

John Clark recounts how the Easter story is taken to the people of F

Good Friday. Fortaleza in the North-East of Brazil. Three degrees south of the equator. The daytime temperature approaches 36°C and the night-time isn't much below that.

It's four o'clock in the afternoon, and I'm on my way to Conjunto Esperança, a low to middle class area of Fortaleza, for the start of its home-grown version of the Oberammergau play, a joint effort by the local Baptist and Pentecostal church. It has been repeated every Easter for the past five years.

It's unusual to be a spectator for a play like this because passion plays have usually been the hallmark of the Roman Catholic Church. A replica of Jerusalem has been built in the interior of the North-East just for putting on such plays. It attracts thousands to its re-enactment of the Easter story.

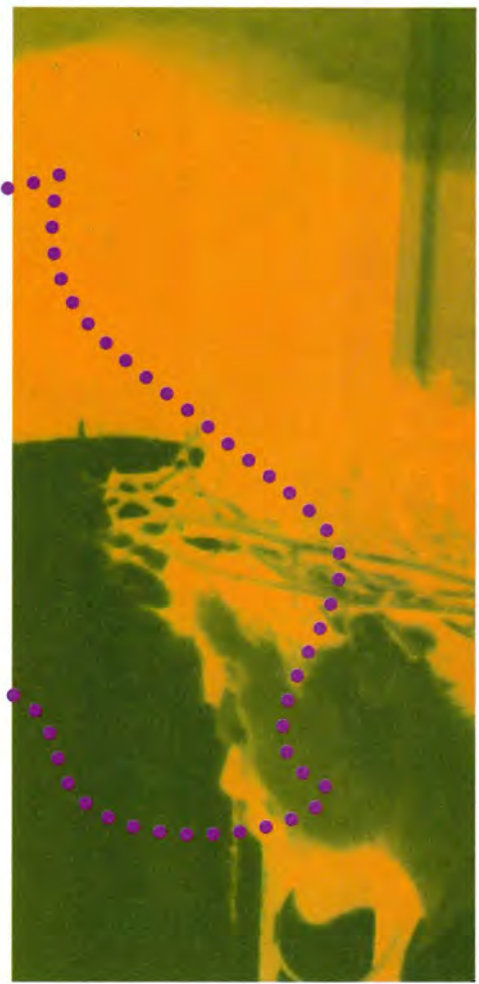
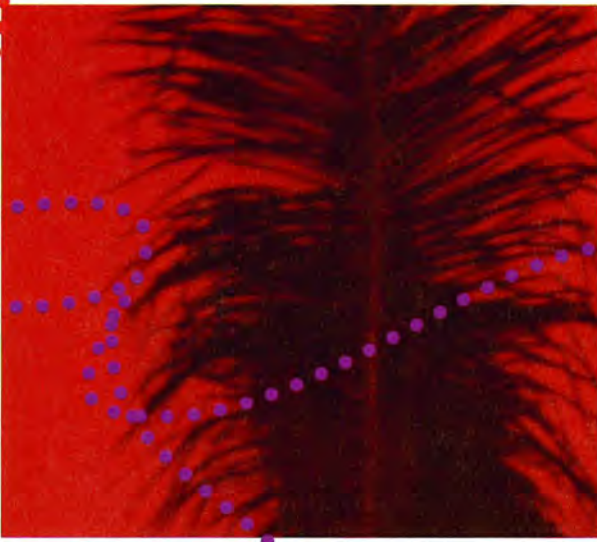
As I arrive and park the car near the Pentecostal church, the streets are already crowding with people. They're out in the streets, leaning against the cars. Others, arriving early, have got themselves prime viewing positions, looking from the outside, through the window openings in the concrete walls to what will take place inside the church.

It's 4.45pm, and really, something should have started happening by now, but the 'mañana' attitude pervades this part of Brazil. I find out that we're still waiting because the sound technician hasn't turned up yet.

A car comes down the road, and skids to a halt outside. It's Fabio, the sound technician. Others rally round to help him get

"we follow them, through the streets, a motley bunch of people, as it must have been that day in Jerusalem all those years ago"





ama
the...
Fortaleza



his kit out of the car. A quarter of an hour later, the play starts. Church members, looking very much like first century Jews, enact the trials and Last Supper of Jesus.

Jesus is played by Paulo and the rest of the disciples by men from the two churches. There's an air of authenticity about this local effort, as the men sit on the floor, at a low table, surrounded by palm trees and heat.

Suddenly the action is over at the Pentecostal church. 'Jesus' is taken through the streets to the Baptist church to be crucified! He is led by 'Roman soldiers' who constantly whip him. ('Jesus' is protected by a cardboard sheet strategically

placed under his robe.) He is followed by a jeering crowd and mourning disciples. Jesus is wearing a crown of thorns and carrying his cross. It was daylight when the play started; darkness has fallen now.

We follow them, through the streets, a motley bunch of people, as it must have been that day in Jerusalem all those years ago. Talking between ourselves, having people stare at us, or ignore us. A car with a loud speaker on top follows the procession. It has Ana Paula inside singing an Easter Song - A Via Dolorosa - the Painful Way. It's a walk that takes 15 minutes or so, and then we stop. We have arrived at Hope Baptist Church.

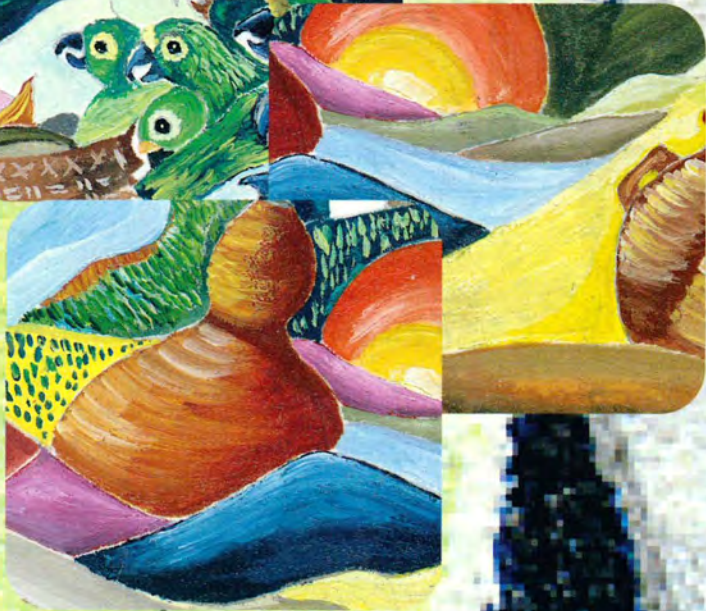
Jesus is crucified here in between the two thieves. Again, the realism and authenticity strike me. The piercing screams are real as the nails are hammered into the crosses. There is dejection, desolation and agony from the disciples as the crosses are laboriously lifted into place by the soldiers. Many of the congregation are in tears.

The baptistry set in the end wall of the church doubles up as the tomb where Jesus was laid. Then with a mighty thunder clap and lightning flashes, that frighten some of the children in the audience, the soldiers fall to the ground. "Are they dead?" asks one of the children. Then, in a blaze of rear-lit light Jesus rises again. By now it's black outside, and people are falling over each other at the door and windows, for a view of what is taking place inside the church.

In one sense, it's only a bit of local theatricals, but this story with the most dramatic of endings has really impacted upon the people of Fortaleza in a way that words alone could not have done. ●

John Clark is a BMS missionary and lecturer at the Theological Seminary at Fortaleza, Brazil.

doing what comes naturally



“in one of the suburbs of the city... they have persuaded former gang members to use their artistic talent to create picturesque wall murals instead of spraying indiscriminate graffiti”

Mike Quantick explains how the Salvadoreans use their inborn talents in mission

Salvadoreans have a wealth of artistic ability which they use to earn what little they can by making things such as clay pots and kitchen utensils to sell in the local market, or using paints to decorate anything from tiny beans to huge wall murals.

Christian groups in El Salvador have sought to harness this ability as they seek to reach out into the local communities. Fraterpaz, an ecumenical group working with disadvantaged groups fighting for peace and justice in El Salvador, is supporting a project working with gangs in the capital, San Salvador. In one of the suburbs of the city, which was until recently the central meeting place, they have persuaded former gang members to use their artistic talent to create picturesque wall murals instead of spraying indiscriminate graffiti throughout the community.

Wall murals can be seen almost anywhere where there is an expanse of wall in El Salvador, both inside and out. Centro Hogar is a project for pre school children – a huge wall mural graphically depicting life during the civil war once covered one wall. However as a new generation emerges, who have not experienced the atrocities of those before them, parts of that mural have been replaced by other images. Many churches and Christian institutions use large wall murals to decorate their buildings both inside and out. Each mural tells its own story – many of the history and heritage of the country; others portraying different aspects of the Christian story and message.

Simple bright bold colours typify Salvadorean art. Churches in El Salvador and around the world have wooden crosses of varying sizes decorated with brightly coloured pictures depicting both the Christian message and aspects of life within El Salvador. Each cross has its own story to tell, like the one that can be seen in the chapel at the UCA, the Jesuit university, where in 1989 six Jesuit priests and two women were brutally murdered. The cross carries the images of those who lost their lives.

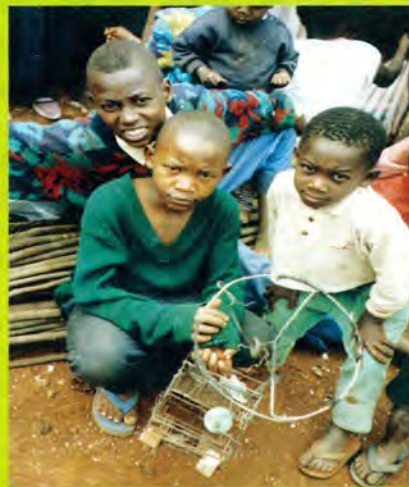
A young local artist Misael Castro is one of the inspirations behind the murals at El Cordero de Dios Baptist Church, in the suburb of Zacamil, San Salvador. One of his paintings – also reproduced on the wall outside the church – has been printed onto T-shirts, which have been sold not only in El Salvador but also in Florida and the UK to raise money to fund the outreach work the church is doing in the San Roque community situated on the lava slopes of the San Salvador volcano. Members visit the community, usually on Sunday afternoons, hold open air services and Bible studies and maintain a regular contact and support for a number of families living in little more than shacks on the hillside.

These Salvadoreans do not have much of this world's goods, but they are able to use their God-given gifts and abilities in one way or another, in the extension of his kingdom on earth. ●

Mike Quantick is BMS Administration Manager, and visited El Salvador in 1996 ●

Top Left Mural on the wall at San Salvador University
Others Original paintings by Misael Castro

Knitting "baby boots"



Take some bundles of rags, string, elastic bands and tape. Who needs a leather football when you can make your own! In Kathmandu I saw homeless children amusing themselves for hours with coat

hanger wire stretched and then hooked at one end around a rubber hoop, probably from a discarded washing machine. They would run around the market square in between the rich Western tourists who were holding on to their sophisticated camcorders and telephoto lenses.

There is undoubtedly an in-built creative ability in all of us, and given the right environment our creativity can start to flow. This is not surprising because we are made in the image of a God who wants to give expression to his creativity through his creation. However, until recent years there has been a tremendous suspicion of the arts from within mainstream church life, and in many ways we have lost the innovative creative spark which propelled expressions of Christian creativity above and beyond the competition. The church were the trend-setters; now we've become largely spectators relying on the select few who represent us on the stages of science, technology and the arts.

Everywhere Jesus went he demonstrated the creativity of God. He said, "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full", and he expressed this abundance on many occasions. He transformed the contents of six 30-gallon stone water jars into the best wine for the wedding reception. After an unproductive night of fishing, Jesus told his disciples to put the net on the other side of the boat, and suddenly the nets were breaking because of the volume of fish. There were 12 basket-loads of food left after the miraculous feeding of the 5,000 people on a hillside. The abundant life that Jesus came to bring flows out of the overflowing creativity of a God who makes every snowflake a different design, every fingerprint unique.

My mum used to spend every spare moment knitting garments for children in some of the poorest places on earth. "I'm only knitting baby boots", she used to say. But these became hundreds of little blessings that touched the lives of countless people she would never meet, with the love of God. Real evangelism is a natural overflow of all that God means to us and the way we exhibit this reveals something of the nature, character and purposes of God for his world. That's why recovering artistic expression, whether it be through music, drama, dance, craftwork, flower arranging, banner making, writing, sculpture, painting and knitting baby boots, should be a priority for the church in the 21st Century. ●

Steve Flashman is a Baptist minister and International Director of Soapbox Expeditions

steve
FLASHMAN



Paradise

m i s l a i d

Howard and Jonny got creative, by Jonny

for Howard Bradley and Jonny Anstead, 1999 was an unusual year. At the beginning of the year, they had been out of BMS Action Teams for six months.

(H: I'm bored. J: Me too. H: D'ya wanna start a theatre duo? J: OK then.)

Within a few months we had given ourselves the name of Paradise Mislaid and had written a show for and about Easter, called Sharp as Nails. The idea was to communicate the gospel in a relevant and accessible way. In practice, this translated as developing a very 'special' brand of

"H: D'ya wanna start a theatre duo? J: OK then"

comedy, which was to provide the basis for a gospel presentation, while aiming to give the audience the time of their lives. Weeks, at least.

The show was well received by its audiences. They chuckled in just about all the right places, but moreover, they listened to the gospel message. After the Easter tour, a new show was written, called Love 'n' Chips, for the summer break. Now a trio, a result of the addition of the third member Minni (a mannequin from Fenwicks of Tunbridge Wells), we toured more widely around the country. We performed in churches small and large, at holiday camps and so on. We also found ourselves entertaining at the Baptist festival, Leading Edge. People laughed. People cried. Alistair Brown, the General Director of BMS branded Paradise Mislaid as 'outrageous nonsense'. And hopefully, people thought about what they were watching.


It is anyone's guess what might happen in the world of Paradise Mislaid in the future. As ever, university commitments mean that there is never enough time to do all the things that we would like to do. Jonny's Russian course, for instance, meant that the planned Christmas Extravaganza was impossible. Maybe it'll find its way into the summer programme... We hope to be able to continue to tour in our holidays, maybe revisiting old venues. We would love to be able to perform at some of the bigger festivals too. ●

Jonny Anstead went to France and Howard Bradley to Brazil with BMS Action Teams 1997/98.

For more up to date information on tours, and for your own amusement, use the Paradise Mislaid website. The address is...

www.daspikey1.co.uk/paradisemislaid/index

Please remember them in your prayers as they plan shows etc, and also the people who hear the gospel through them!





SPECIAL REPORT

Alistair Brown visited Orissa where cyclone damage brought death to thousands of people. Here is his eyewitness report.

Reaping the whirlwind

fireflies flicker through the rapidly darkening sky. Villagers crowd around the lorry as the tailgate drops and they see the sacks. For ten minutes there's chaos, and then an old lady is brought forward. I ease a sack of beans and lentils on to her thin shoulders. She doesn't look up at me, but she nods gratefully. She slips away into the black of night to a hut with broken walls, a tarpaulin tied over sticks to shield the night chill.

That food and tarpaulin are survival for her and the other elderly people in that village. Their homes are flattened, their rice crops ruined by salt water from the coast. They are penniless people who will not live without the emergency help which BMS and others bring to them in rural Orissa.

Two cyclones devastated this poorest of the poor Indian state in October. On 17 October Ganjam and Gajapati districts were hit by what was officially termed a 'severe cyclone'. Twelve days later the whole state, but especially regions near the coast, were battered by a 'super cyclone'. Winds were often in excess of an unimaginable 200 mph. Waves 15 to 20 feet high swept ashore at vast speed, not stopping at places until 80 miles inland. Bodies were still being found weeks later. Torrential rain fell continuously for days causing serious flooding.

No-one can remember a cyclone like this. Trees snapped and houses were blown away. Animals suffocated in their thousands unable to breathe because of the ferocity of the gale. Few birds survived. Trees which still stood were stripped of their leaves. Villagers were stranded on small rises or clinging to any solid buildings. Surviving the cyclone meant real danger of death by starvation.

Relief workers reported great difficulty getting aid to remote villages in the first days after the storm. That was due partly to the vast numbers of trees blocking roads, but also because starving villagers raided relief lorries.

BMS Relief Fund help was sent instantly to India, and Madhu Singh, BMS Manager for India, travelled quickly to Orissa to assess the situation. Working with local Christians, food, emergency roofing and blankets were quickly made available, and a longer term programme of help devised.

I visited some three weeks after the cyclone. In places there was a return to near normality. In many other places life will never be the same.

In one village I'm shown a building that saved many lives. It's a dull-looking concrete club room, only some 25' long by 15' wide. When the floods came it was the only solid structure in the village. People rushed there and, incredibly 500 crammed inside. For a day and a half they stood pressed together, shivering, frightened, hungry, with flood water up to their waists. A baby of three months was crushed to death. Everyone else lived.

I watch a man mixing mud to rebuild the walls of his hut. He works the mud and water until the consistency is right, then flings it against the lattice wooden frame he has made to anchor the mud wall. I ask if I can try. About 30 crowd around to watch and laugh. Like a child building sandcastles I kneel on the ground, grab wet mud and smear it across the wall. Not very good. I try again, pricking my thumb on the sharp sticks and wondering for a split second what disease I might get from the mud. He rebukes my technique, and tells me to throw the mud against the framework. Okay, I fling it hard. Some holds, but a lot of the mud splatters back on me. The crowd roars with laughter, and so do I. We need to laugh in the midst of disaster.



“for a day and a half
they stood
pressed together,
shivering,
frightened,
hungry,
with flood water
up to their
waists”

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An emergency feeding programme has begun for some villages. They're too poor to buy food. In the short-term they have to be helped or they would have nothing. Local volunteers work with villagers in cooking rice, lentils and vegetables for hundreds in giant cauldrons.

I meet Kumari Moharana. She's a 30-year-old disabled woman, quite diminutive and not able to walk well. She's single and her parents who used to look after her died some years ago. She lives in a 10' by 6' house at the end of a row of small dwellings. Except Kumari's house isn't there any more. Villagers have crafted twigs over which polythene has been hung to give Kumari a little shelter. Our BMS help has gone with local Christians to that village, and Kumari's home and others are getting new tin roofs. Hers must wait until local help rebuilds her walls, but that will happen soon.

There are so many affected villages in remote areas it is inevitable that government help can't get there quickly. Our aid has reached some of those. We visit a woman heavily pregnant with her fourth child. She will feed her husband and three children first, and then eat whatever's left. If there's anything. She's seriously malnourished. We insist to the village head man that those with no homes get help first. He smiles; he agrees. We wonder what'll happen when we're not there. I kneel in the dust with children, drawing matchstick figures with a stick. Crazy man, they think. But their big bright eyes light up, and they give me gorgeous smiles.

Berhampur hospital gets our help, and also goes from it with a team going out to nearby villages. The women's and children's hospital was founded by BMS in 1907, and is now the property of the Church of North India. With missionary Betty Marsh there until last year it's well known. The hospital was right in the path of the circular winds of the first cyclone. For four hours the winds blasted from one direction. Trees crashed all over the compound, some into buildings where people huddled. With winds well beyond survival speed no-one could leave. Flood water poured into buildings and gradually rose to waist level. Student nurses crouched in the dark as electricity failed. In an instant the roof was ripped off their hostel. Around midnight the storm stopped almost immediately. For an hour and a half, there was complete stillness. Then again the cyclone, but blasting in the opposite direction. Through it all midwives attended women in the labour ward, and two babies were born. When the storm finally eased people saw the perimeter wall destroyed, signs flattened, vegetation ripped from the ground, trees fallen, roofs shredded, library scattered to the winds. But they lived. I told the bright smiling student nurses that people had heard of their ordeal and were praying for them.

Recovery will be a long process for Orissa. Winds wiped out almost all the coconut and betelnut trees and betel vines. In places 90 per cent of paddy crops were destroyed. The government is providing new coconut saplings to farmers but it will be three years before they'll bear fruit. Time must pass before fishermen at the coast can sell their catches - stories have circulated that fish ate human bodies floating in the water. No-one wants these fish now.

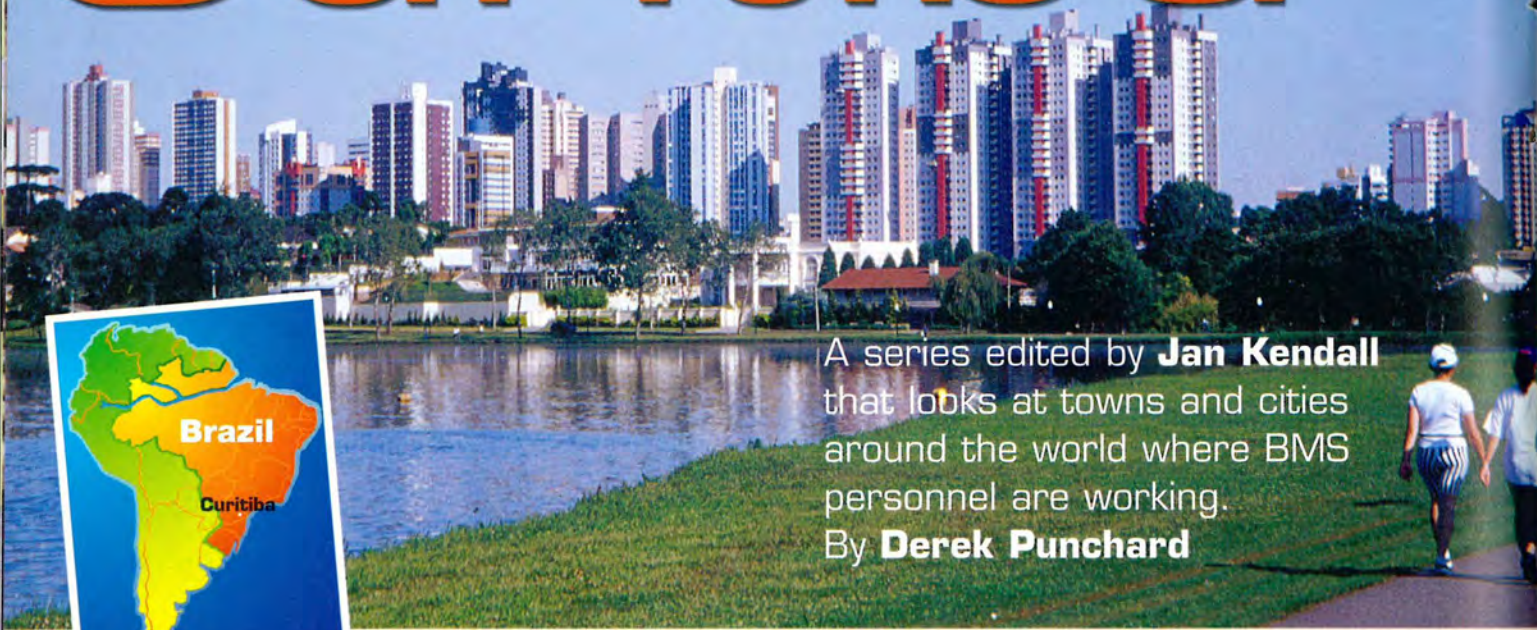
Homes can be rebuilt. Eventually new crops will grow. Other industries will recover. But breadwinners washed out to sea won't come back, and hundreds of thousands have lost hope. The suicide rate among survivors is high.

They need compassion, to know people care, to be shown there is something to live for. Both in body and spirit the local Christians with help from BMS supporters are doing that. It may make all the difference for the future. ●

Alistair Brown is General Director of BMS



Curitiba



A series edited by **Jan Kendall** that looks at towns and cities around the world where BMS personnel are working.
By **Derek Punchard**

Introduction

Curitiba is the capital of the state of Paraná in the south of Brazil. Its location and altitude of nearly 3,000 ft gives it pleasant summers and cool winters. It has been said that Curitiba is barely a Brazilian city – a view that has some basis with large numbers of immigrants from Poland, Italy, Germany, the Ukraine, Japan, Syria and Lebanon joining the earlier population of the descendants of Portuguese, negros and indians. The European immigrants began arriving in the second half of the 19th century.

History

The name Curitiba means 'many pine nuts'. In 1649, gold prospectors arrived at the River Ivo (in today's city centre), led by General Ebanô Pereira. After the

gold was exhausted, the town grew as a staging post for cattle drives from Rio Grande do Sul to São Paulo and Minas Gerais. In 1693 it was raised to the status of a town, became a city in 1842, and the capital of Paraná in 1851. In this century the city has grown from a population of 40,000 to over two million today.

First Impressions

- Modern with lots of new, high-rise buildings
- Three-section buses running on special roads with tube-type bus stops
- Lots of public squares & parks
- Well-preserved, historic areas from colonial times, and typical European-style houses
- A changeable climate, with sharp changes – even on the same day

Above: Houses and apartments overlooking lake, Barigui Park

Below: Paraná Pine – symbol of Paraná, alongside new apartments





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Economy

The town's economy grew with timber and erva mate (green tea) production. From an economy based on coffee, in recent years the economy has diversified with all forms of commerce, industry and services including car, lorry and bus manufacturing by Volvo, Volkswagen/Audi, Chrysler and Renault. It boasts the oldest Federal University in Brazil, and the largest and best equipped theatre in the country. On average the citizens of Curitiba enjoy Brazil's highest standard of living, with health, education and public transport facilities that are the envy of other parts of the country. There are favelas, but they are well-hidden, and because of the cool, damp winters are sturdier than those in the cities to the north.

There are 12 museums in the city, 14 parks, a zoo, botanical gardens, a central park with a mini-zoo, and a planetarium. It is known as the ecological capital of Brazil, because of its extensive green areas. The "24 hour street" has shops and cafés open 24 hours a day, as are several supermarkets.

Transport

Much of the city centre is closed to traffic. Planners and engineers from all over Brazil, and, indeed, other cities of the world, descend on Curitiba to discover more about its modern and efficient public transport system. Pedestrians and buses are given priority, and the



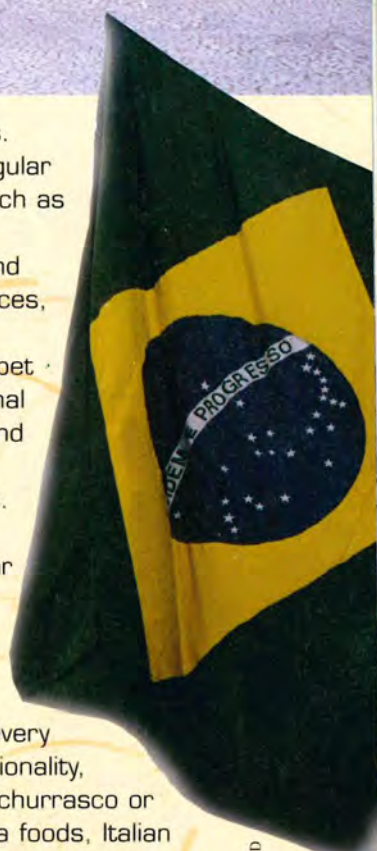
bus stops look like they've come from outer space!

The city covers an area of 431square kms, there are 246 branches of banks, 522 schools, 40 hospitals, 93 hotels, 8,000 factories, and eight newspapers.

Leisure activities

Outings to the many parks and the zoo are popular. There are 117 km of cycle tracks and several for jogging. Many parks and clubs have facilities for barbeques, where families can take their picnic and barbeque the meat over

charcoal fires. There are regular exhibitions such as car shows, furnishings and home appliances, houses and apartments, pet shows, regional handicrafts and cottage industries etc. Eating out is very popular in the many large and small restaurants catering for every taste and nationality, including the churrasco or barbeque, sea foods, Italian and Chinese, and the usual MacDonalds and Pizza Hut.



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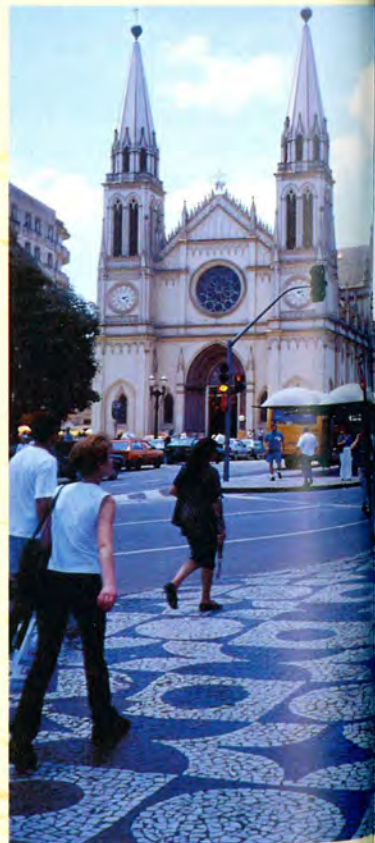
Curitiba



The Christian scene

In a traditionally Roman Catholic country, there is a cathedral in a central square, and large churches throughout the city, ranging from traditional churches promoting Mary worship, to more recent charismatic churches. Of the traditional historic

evangelical churches, the strongest are the Baptists, with over 100 churches and congregations, although there are a few Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregational, Lutheran and Anglican churches. Large numbers frequent the Pentecostal churches such as the Assemblies





The BMS in Curitiba

Curitiba has an important place in BMS history in Brazil, as the capital of the state where BMS worked exclusively in Brazil from 1953 to 1973. It has been home over the years to the Field Secretaries and other leaders, and where the BMS office is located, again, today. Some have worked with the Paraná Baptist Convention, others with the Seminary, with local churches and BMS administration. Yet others spent their period of language study there. ●

Far left: 1st Baptist Church

Roman Catholic Cathedral in Tiradentes Square

Left: Colonial buildings of old Curitiba

Below: Italia building in town centre - cleaning windows!

of God, Four Square Gospel, and the neo-Pentecostal churches such as the Universal Church. A feature of the past ten years has been the appearance of several community churches, many of the "faith churches" type of church, common in the United States. Spiritism, gnosticism, rosacruicism and several new age type movements are strong. The largest Baptist churches are the 1st church with 2300 members, and Bacacheri with 940. At the same time many of the other churches are situated in the poorer suburbs of the city, and many have medical, dental and social work, creches and pre-schools attending to the needs of the extremely poor in the community. There is a special work with the deaf community in several churches, and some work with street children.





“Isn't it exciting how **God** works things out in our lives?” say Clem and Elaine. “Unfortunately, we don't always realise at the time that the things which happen to us are part of **God's master plan.**”

the master



plan

... unravelled by **Clem** and **Elaine Mason**, new volunteers with BMS

Clem and Elaine had both been Christians for about 40 years and had always felt called to serve the Lord in the local church, rather than overseas. However, they are both interested in missionary work and Elaine has been both local church BMS Secretary and also the District Missionary Secretary, and has served on BMS General Committee. Over recent years they have become aware through sermons, comments from friends and inner compulsion that this was not the limit of God's plans for them.

About six years ago when they were 50, they first heard about the BMS volunteer scheme, and made the decision that when they retired they would offer for short term voluntary service with BMS. As Clem's normal retirement age was 60, they figured this

still left them plenty of time for everything else they wanted to do! In 1994 they took a once in a lifetime holiday to visit their Link missionaries in Nepal. They had a wonderful time with Tim and Alison Lehane – which also included the challenge to do something themselves with BMS. This was delightfully vague and they were happy to leave it that way!

Clearly this was not precise enough for God and so he decided to take a hand. Two years ago he made it possible for Clem to retire early and take immediate pension. And so they offered to BMS and said they were willing to go anywhere in the world that they could find a use for them. Clem's working life had been spent in insurance and administration and Elaine's in home-making, so they did not feel that they had anything particular to offer, but felt BMS could always say 'no'! They were accepted by

the Volunteer Board to go to Nepal to help the Nepali Baptists set up administrative and budgeting systems.

And so the pieces of God's jigsaw were once again falling into place.

Clem and Elaine say they are both very weak on languages and don't like excessive heat or damp. “Yet – we are going to Kathmandu in April for five months. We know a mere handful of Nepali words and our trip will cover the whole of the hot season and the whole of the monsoon season. However, if God was planning the trip all those years ago we are sure he will have thought of all this and made some plans. When we come back we will be able to tell you what they were – but until then we will just have to leave them in his hands.” ●

Clem and Elaine Mason come from Shirley Baptist Church, Southampton

getting into the action

The Nicaragua Action Team below are:
Isabel Gearty from Livingstone;
Rick Watts from Cambridge and Lorraine Pratt from Clacks

The 28:19 Action Teams are almost at the end of their six month overseas' assignments and will burst onto the UK Baptist Church scene, at the end of April.

The 1999/2000 Teams have been in Nicaragua, Thailand, France, Brazil, Albania, India and Bangladesh involved in a variety of work. Here we read about two of the teams

Nicaragua, by Isabel Gearty

The first weekend we arrived we were asked to go to a place called Tipitapa where we evangelised on the streets and I preached and shared my testimony at the evening evangelistic service. Six people were saved the first day. I thought it would have taken a long time before we would be allowed to preach but God has been so good and gave me this amazing privilege, and even a translator. Not even the language barrier will stop the work of the Holy Spirit! A week later the same happened again; Lorraine led three people to Christ in the

street, I led four and then

Rick encouraged three people to rededicate their lives to Christ. God is working in amazing ways through us.

One Sunday evening I led the service and preached an evangelistic message.

At the end they moved the communion table from the front as people started swarming down for the call. Only five people were left in their seats. Many people were saved and others rededicated themselves asking God to re-light the fire.

We attended an all-night evangelistic event where all three of us shared and challenged. Forty people came down for the call that night. I don't know about England but in Scotland we would call that revival!

Bangladesh, by Helen Rowbottom

The beginning of our time in Bangladesh was spent at the Centre for

the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) in Savar. CRP provides treatment and physical, emotional, social and economic rehabilitation for paralysed people and was set up in 1979 by Valerie Taylor, a British physiotherapist. It is the only specialised centre in Bangladesh for people with spinal cord injuries. As well as its medical services, the Centre offers a school for children with cerebral palsy, a training institute and various income generation projects.

During our time here we taught English to the degree students, patients and trainee special needs teachers. Our painting skills also came on a treat as we helped in the wood workshop painting rocking horses to sell to expatriates. Many afternoons were taken up with horse riding and activities with the children with special needs. It was difficult at first to see these bright children with no control over their bodies, but we have found working with them is very rewarding.

Our prayer for the rest of our Action Team year is that we will remain focused on God in all that we do, and have opportunities to share the gospel. ●

For details of Action Team Tour venues, see ad on back cover

The Bangladesh Team are: Josie Hoare from Bristol; Keren Poole from Godalming; Helen Rowbottom from Norwich; Becky Bowers from Waterlooville.





What the Bible says:

Possession of skills is a gift from God!

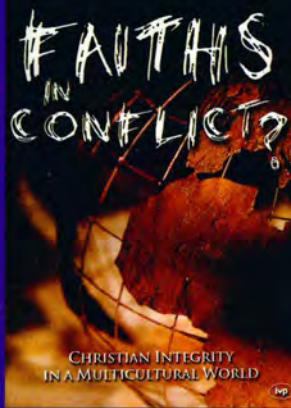
'Then the LORD said to Moses, See I have chosen Bezalel... and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts - to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship.' " **Exod 31: 1 - 5** (NIV)



A poll conducted in 60 countries at the end of the millennium revealed that:

- God is important to many people, but not of primary importance. Almost two-thirds of the world's people say God is quite significant in their lives, but much of that belief appears to be nominal.
- Worldwide, **87%** of people consider themselves part of a religion.
- Religiosity varies according to where you live. In West Africa, where Muslims are the largest group and the Catholic Church has made inroads, **99%** believe in God, 12 points above average. The least religious region is East Asia, which has **77%** believers. Figures for those who say they do not believe in any religion include: South Korea **46%**; Czech Republic **55%** and Hong Kong **64%**.
- If you've had a higher education you're more likely to have a lower level of belief. **52%** of college graduates are religious compared with **54%** of people with a secondary education and **70%** of those who have only completed primary school.
- Much of religion appears to be nominal. Although **87%** of respondents say they are followers of some religion, just **32%** practice their faith by attending services at least once a week, **35%** every now and then, and **33%** never or less than once a year. Women are more committed to attending than men. The attendance rate at services is higher for those under 24 years old.
- Among those who almost never go to church, the survey singled out people living in Western Europe (**48%**) and Eastern Europe (**44%**). But nine out of 10 West Africans and seven out of 10 Latin Americans attend church. Even though many people do not attend services, seven out of 10 respondents say they regularly meditate or pray in solitude.
- People in different cultures picture God in different ways. **45%** say they think of God as a person, while **30%** think of a force or spirit. Women, the elderly and people with less education tend to see God as a person. More-educated people prefer the idea of a spiritual force, or reject the notion of a superior being. Men are more prone to deny God's existence.
- **46%** of those surveyed said they believe there is more than one true religion, and **31%** think theirs is the only true faith. North Americans are the most open-minded and Europeans the most agnostic.

Source: Religion Today



Book Title: **Faiths in Conflict: Christian Integrity in a Multicultural World**

Author: **Vinoth Ramachandra**

Publisher: **IVP** (ISBN 0-85111-650-7)

Reviewer: **Simon Jones, BMS Co-ordinator for London & the South East**

No of pgs: **192**

Price: **£7.99**

Vinoth Ramachandra is one of the most creative and exciting Christian thinkers to have emerged in the past decade. This book cements his position as one of a handful of voices everyone really ought to pay attention to.

It is not an easy read. Ramachandra writes with considerable wit, style and irony, but his subject matter is intrinsically complex. The book, based on the 1998 London Lectures in Contemporary Christianity, repays careful study, however.

Born in Sri Lanka – where he still lives – Ramachandra trained in the natural sciences in Asia and London and now travels widely with IFES bringing him into close contact and dialogue with students of all faiths and none.

Out of that experience he has written a carefully argued book that demonstrates how Christians can maintain their integrity in a world of many lifestyles and religions. Furthermore he demonstrates why the central figure of the Christian faith remains a perplexing, engaging and attractive person to people of all cultures.

Ramachandra begins by looking at the worlds of Islam and Hinduism. He gets behind the headlines, challenging the stereotypes many of us have unwittingly bought into. But more than that, he explains the history of how these two faiths have taken the shape they have. His discussion of the rise of Hindu-based nationalism in India is fascinating and sets current events in a historical background that makes praying intelligently for India a whole lot easier.

He then paints a portrait of Jesus – a chapter worth the price of the book on its own – before moving on to look at how people with such different faiths can not only live together in a divided world, but engage in constructive, worldview challenging dialogue.

His conclusion that only secular democracy forms the basis for such a dialogue will be as unpopular among some conservative Christian groups in the west as it is among the mullahs of Iran. But this reviewer for one was convinced by his carefully argued case. I suspect our Baptist forbears, Thomas Helwys and John Smith, would also approve.

If you want to grasp how three-quarters of our neighbours view the world and how we can open the conversation that might lead more of them to meeting Jesus, read, ponder and live this book.

The Travellers' Good Health Guide

Ted Lankester



Book Title: **The Travellers' Good Health Guide**

Author: **Ted Lankester**

Publisher: **Sheldon Press**
(ISBN 0-85969-827-0)

Reviewer: **Wendy Price, BMS Medical Secretary**

No of pgs: **230**

Price: **£6.99**

If you are planning to visit exotic climes, travelling for pleasure and most certainly if you are going abroad for work, this book would be a good travelling companion. The thought of being ill while away from home can be very worrying but this guide puts your mind at rest about the small problems to the more complicated illnesses without causing any unnecessary alarm.

The book is written by Dr Ted Lankester who is the director of InterHealth, an international travel health centre that provides a wide range of services for overseas travellers. Before his involvement with InterHealth, Ted was a GP who has travelled widely and spent seven years setting up health programmes in the Himalayas so much of the book comes from personal experience.

There are sections in the book that explain what is safe to eat and drink, how to cope with stress, together with advice on travelling with children. It also explains how to prevent and treat many problems that affect travellers.

Whatever your destination, The Travellers' Good Health Guide would be of help to you so that you avoid any unnecessary problems and on the other hand, enable you to deal with anything that arose.

Happy travelling!



projects



prayer



people

PROJECTS UPDATE

**BMS youth projects:
SEX and Drugs,
Rock n' Roll**



This BMS youth project began life in 1998 with the first of the projects, SEX literally hitting the churches in the October.

This was

followed a year later by Drugs and Rock n' Roll will be available from October 2000. The projects have been received extremely well by youth leaders and their young people highlighting the need for these world wide issues to be constantly addressed in our churches and schools. Although not primarily a fundraising project, so far Sex, Drugs, Rock n' Roll has raised £982.69.

The projects are available free of charge from BMS, although a £2 donation would be gratefully received.



PRAYER FOCUS



**Martin and Katrina Butterworth:
Kathmandu, Nepal**





Nothing happens quickly in Nepal, which can be very frustrating for goal-orientated



Westerners. After 18 months of planning, talking and sending people for training, Martin and Katrina's church has finally started a 'Sunday school' (which meets on a Saturday, as does the church). There were 19 children on the first day and the women from the church are running the class, although it was the men who went on the training course - typical of Nepal according to Katrina and Martin. Katrina says, "It was tempting to just start up the 'Sunday school' myself. We see lots of examples of people from the West coming and setting up some good work, but as soon as they leave, the whole programme disintegrates. For something to be worthwhile, and lasting, it has to come from Nepalis".

This is also true of Martin's work as Quality Manager for Nepal Hydro-Electric (NHE). NHE actually requested someone to oversee quality control because they recognised they would not get contracts without reaching certain standards. However, Martin needs another engineer to work alongside him, freeing him to set up the systems NHE needs, but this has not happened. As far as his national colleagues are concerned, work is coming in and he is doing a good job. The frustration is in getting people to see further ahead.

Please pray:

-  That the new 'Sunday school' will thrive
-  That NHE will assign another engineer to work with Martin
-  For Martin's Nepali language study which he struggles with
-  Guidance for Katrina in how to use her time - juggling working at a clinic, the leprosy hospital and taking care of two small daughters, the needs are endless and a free doctor is always in demand



Bob and Ruth Ellett: Butwal, Nepal

Monsoon rains in 1998 brought devastating landslides to the Nepali town of Butwal and many lost their



homes. Thankfully the landslides at the end of 1999 were minimal but poverty forces many to remain in the path of future slips, suffering sleepless nights listening for the sound of falling rocks. The United Mission to Nepal would like to do more in the way of prevention of future slides and engineer Bob Ellett has been asked to evaluate areas in which UMN can best help. He says, "I would really value your prayers for judgement in this. There are many poor people who need to be helped and many real needs but I will need the wisdom of Solomon to cope with all the pressure."

Please pray:

P For the godly wisdom Bob is asking for

P For those living in fear of further landslides, that they would find peace in the God who is able to save and protect



**Wayne and Wendy Hadley:
La Talaudière, France**

Evangelism is not easy in France and Wayne and Wendy have had to come up with creative ideas for events to which people can be invited to meet with Christians and hear the gospel in a non-threatening way. One of the

most successful events was held in a local restaurant. Around 40 people attended, 15 of these non-church goers, and they came either at the invitation of people from the church or simply came in off the street for a meal and a drink. The church have found that people are at ease with the setting and they in turn feel at ease with singing gospel and giving testimony to the love of God in this setting.

Wayne was asked by another nearby church to help in a four-day evangelistic campaign. They went on the streets to sing and distribute tracts and invitations and had an open discussion evening about Who is Jesus? There was also a pizza evening at another local restaurant and many people were touched by the gospel. Thirty people from the church attended with a similar number of people with no church contact who listened to testimonies of lives changed by Jesus and even joined in with the singing and clapping. There were a number of contacts to be followed up and the church members were so encouraged that they want to do something similar again.

Please pray:

P For more and more new ideas of ways of reaching people in this difficult culture

P For continued desire to share with others

P For developing enthusiasm amongst church members to support such initiative so that the full burden will not fall to Wayne and Wendy



**John and Maria
Dyer: Natal,
Brazil**



John and Maria moved in January from Santa Catarina in southern Brazil, up to Natal in the North East. A major challenge in the North East is to train leaders for the churches of the interior, many of whom are unable to read or write. With this in mind, Maria has done a literacy course and will be very much involved in this stage of their work. This will require a whole new approach to the way in which the Dyers train leaders and they are asking for prayer for wisdom and understanding as they take up this challenge. In July, John sits for his PhD viva in London – the culmination of four years of research into theological education and the local church.

Please pray:

P That John and Maria would settle quickly into a new church, make new friends and build good relationships with their students

P For the wisdom they seek in knowing how to meet the specific educational needs of their new students

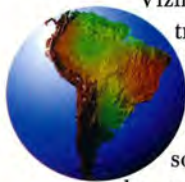
P For John's PhD viva – that he would be calm and would present himself and his research well



PEOPLE WORLDWIDE

Sidnei Borsol, Dois Vizinhos, Brazil

Now aged 27, Sidnei was born in Dois Vizinhos, the son of a traditional Italian family.



He describes his life as a state of constant agitation, always running after something, and then when

he reached it, always running after something else. He left his wife Juliana, and infant daughter Amanda because he thought he should move on in life.

One evening, three years ago, whilst in the town square drinking, he felt a great desire to go to church. He got in his car and felt he was being led, until he stopped in front of a Baptist church. He went in and found a meeting in progress, people praising God. During the second chorus a voice said to him, 'Kneel down, because from today your life will change.' He resisted, but the voice insisted. He fell to his knees, crying, and without fully understanding what had happened he realised it was God who was speaking to him and he found what he had been seeking all his life. He went home, and asked Jesus to take care of his life.

Three days later his wife and daughter returned, and he asked his wife to forgive him. In time she did, and also came to know Jesus.

Sidnei says, "I am now trying to



serve the Lord, and see it as my task to set aside a part of my wages for the distribution of Bibles, which I do joyfully. God is now revealing to me that he wants me to work with the teenagers of our church to bring them to a saving knowledge of Jesus."

Today, Sidnei and Juliana have another daughter, Emanuela.

From John Furmage, involved in church work with BMS in Dois Vizinhos, Brazil.



Jayamangal Mahananda

Jayamangal Mahananda Bolangir, India



Jayamangal was a Hindu but in 1993, after reading the Bible for eight years, God spoke to him in a very powerful way, and he accepted Jesus as his Saviour. Later he married a Christian girl, Anita, and they now have a three-year-old son, Raja, and a baby daughter - born 23 December 99. The spiritual qualities of Jayamangal have been recognised and he has been elected as a deacon in two congregations where he has been a member. At present he lives on the mission compound. He has trained as a stenographer. He has some part time work in the Diocese of Sambalpur and has been working with the hostels and sponsorship programme - a job now soon to end so he is looking for some more work that will enable him to manage his family and enable him to be more involved in the church work.

From Carole Whitmee, recently retired after over 30 years service with BMS in India.

People Wanted

Could this be you?

Bulgaria

Pastor

An experienced Pastor for pastoral and evangelistic work and training of leadership is needed by the Baptist Union of Bulgaria. Experience of church strategy and administration would be very useful in assisting the Union in its development and growth. You would need to learn the language, and a minimum of five years' commitment is being suggested. At present there are about 40 congregations and 12 full-time pastors, most of whom have had little formal training.

South Central Asia

Engineer

An engineer (micro hydro power) is required to help in the development of small scale hydro power schemes harnessing the region's considerable water resources to provide power to rural communities. You will also have research and development opportunities, for which relevant past experience would be particularly helpful.

South Central Asia

Education Consultant

Educational/Teacher Training Consultants needed. Two separate or overlapping posts for experienced educators of students with visual impairments, to advise on and contribute to planning, preparation and delivery of appropriate educational service to school-aged young people, through the training of national teachers and resources personnel. You would work as part of an international team.

South Central Asia

Health Director

Health Director required. This is a senior post. The person will be responsible for ensuring that programmes and projects within the Health Department follow mission goals and objectives. This involves long range planning, the monitoring of financial management and supporting health personnel in professional growth. Experience/training in managing health professionals would be essential. Experience in a multinational environment and/or in an overseas post desirable.

Nepal

Services Director

Services Director - to be based in INF Headquarters in Pokhara. The post holder will be responsible for all INF support services with the aim of enabling INF projects and personnel to 'get on with the job'. This includes computer, mechanical, building and electrical services, guest houses and a network of service offices providing logistical support. Qualifications required: Bachelor's degree plus two years' relevant experience. Personnel qualification preferred.

North Africa

Therapist

Special Education Teacher / Recreational Therapist needed to work with medical personnel attached to rehabilitation centre. You would help reorientate clients to appropriate programmes within the centre.

This is only a very small selection of the kind of vacancies we have available at any one time. Our 'People Wanted' list is changing all the time. Please contact us, and ask if we have anything for you. See page 35.



Baptist House News

Welcome to Julie Wilson Manager for Volunteer Development

Julie has taken on the newly-created post of Manager for Volunteer Development within the BMS Department for World Mission. She comes from a background in charity work, having worked for Oxfam as Campaigns Officer and Scope as Community Marketing Manager.



Julie spent her youth in Brighton Road Baptist Church, Horsham, and over the years she has been involved in leading Scripture Union and Crusader groups. She has also recently participated in short-term mission visits work in Africa, and in a YWAM Discipleship Training School in Australia.

On returning to the UK, Julie believed she was being called to continue with mission work. "Taking the BMS short-term programmes into the year 2000 and beyond will be a challenging and exciting opportunity," she said. "So many people in this generation are ready to 'just do it'. I'll have the privilege of helping develop effective and life-changing volunteer opportunities to allow people of all ages to serve God overseas."

Below and far left : stoves provided by Love in Action
Below: unloading wood from a lorry, also supplied by Love in Action



BMS Relief Fund Grants

Kosovo £39,250

Two grants, £6,550 and £32,700, have been given from the BMS Relief Fund to help Kosovan families get through the harsh winter. The smaller grant has paid for approximately 20,000 concrete blocks, which have been used to provide screening walls, to give families in shared accommodation some privacy. The larger grant has enabled Love in Action to buy 200 stoves and wood fuel, providing winter fuel for cooking and heat to villages to the north and east of Prishtina. A similar grant was

safe area because people have been killed or injured whilst trying to collect their own with unexploded mines and bombs still littering the land.

Chechnya £3,000

A BMS Relief Fund grant of £3,000 has been made to supply aid to 2,000 Chechen people (around 500 families), displaced by the conflict in Chechnya. The money has provided food, clothing and blankets and has been given via Hungarian Baptist Aid and Christian Mission Vera, in co-operation with Vladikavkaz Baptist Church.

Venezuela \$5,000

The heavy rains that brought floods and mudslides to the Caribbean coast of Venezuela caused tens of thousands of deaths and left at least half a million people homeless. BMS has given a Relief Fund grant of US \$5,000 to help in this crisis via Baptist World Aid/ National Baptist Convention of Venezuela.

Thailand £5,000

BMS supports the work of the Burma Border Consortium (BBC), an organisation which helps to meet the needs of around 120,000 refugees who have fled from Myanmar (Burma) to Thailand. BMS has given a relief grant of £5,000 to help with the BBC's programme of food, health and education for these refugees.

made two months previously assisting a different set of villages. Love in Action has been responsible for the hiring of lorries and workers to collect and transport the wood and stoves. The wood has been purchased from a

Signs and Blunders

Congratulations Ann!

BMS missionary Ann Bothamley has been made an MBE in this year's New Year's Honours List (Overseas section) for services to healthcare in India.

She first heard of the honour when the representative of the British High Commission in New Delhi rang her long-distance, while she was in the middle of a visit to a school in Vellore, India. She said "I had two seconds to make a response. I hesitated, and then I said 'yes'."

Ann, who has been a nurse and hostel parent with BMS in India since 1967, is very modest about her achievements. Speaking of her award she said, "This is an honour, and if I can witness through it to bring honour to the Lord, then I'll gladly accept it."



Ann and Marlene with hostel children



Check Out March/April 2000

March 2000

Arrivals

Derek Punchar to Curitiba, Brazil

Departures

Derek Punchar to Curitiba, Brazil

April 2000

Arrivals

Sue Headlam from Chandraghona, Bangladesh

Departures

Ken & Ruth Robb to South Central Asia

Ross and Martha King moved to Almaty, Kazakhstan, to teach business principles. As Christians they were also active in a small group of believers and enjoyed Bible studies. They also liked to give away Bibles. So when the Kings were invited to a traditional Kazakh wedding, they knew what they would give as a gift. Martha put all she had - 30 Bibles and 30 pieces of Christian literature, some designed for children and some for adults, into a canvas bag and they went to the wedding celebration.

At the appropriate time in the festivities, she started giving the children her gifts. Soon many eager children crowded around her. Then adults got interested and asked for books too. When the patriarch of the clan stood to make the customary toast to the bride and groom, he proudly held up his new Bible. In response the 200 other adults and children did the same - all waving Bibles and books they had received from Martha King's canvas bag.

She couldn't believe her eyes, but she could believe that it had happened. "I only had 30 copies of each when I left our apartment," she said. "But as long as people came wanting a book, there was something there for them... When the books ran out, no one else asked me for one." (EBPS)



Shortly after arriving in Bangladesh on our first term of service, I had to return to the airport to clear our personal effects through customs. Looking down the packing list of one of our barrels, the customs officer asked to see the boat we had in there - which left me mystified! "What boat?!" I said, and he pointed me to the list. "Oh, that" I said. "That's not a boat!" But there was no letting go - "It says a boat on your list!" So, with a muted groan and a sigh of resignation I started to unpack the whole barrel until I found the offending item. It was then his turn to be mystified... as I showed him the gravy boat we'd packed months earlier!

From David Kernigan,
BMS Director for Mission, and former BMS missionary.

world

mission link



'On your bike' for BMS

Members of Calne Baptist Church got on their bikes to raise funds for BMS, using the route along the new Millennium cycle path between Chippenham and Calne. No one was left out: the toddlers did a sponsored trike ride, up and down the church driveway.

Whilst the more energetic were biking, other members joined in a sponsored 'hymnathon' and one lady did a sponsored 'knitathon' which lasted the whole day. As the bikers returned to finish off the day with a cream tea, a church musician took requests for favourite hymns, subject to sponsorship, of course!

Everyone agreed they had had a really fun day, and altogether £1,077 was raised for BMS.



'On your bike' for BMS 'On your bike' for BMS 'On your bike' for BMS 'On your bike' for BMS

WALLINGTON MISSIONARY MART & AUCTIONS

A REGISTERED CHRISTIAN CHARITY

Spring cleaning?

Having a clear-out of furniture or household goods? Wallington Missionary Mart and Auctions are a registered charity who sell goods donated to them and hand back the proceeds to the mission agency of the donor's choice (after expenses have been deducted).

The Missionary Mart operates from a warehouse in Wallington, Surrey. They sell furniture, household items and clothing. Wallington Missionary Auctions hold auctions six times a year at Crusader

Hall, Wallington. Items such as antique furniture, jewellery, antique books, clocks, and porcelain are auctioned.

Last year £2,050 was donated to BMS through goods sold through Wallington Missionary Mart and Auctions.

If you would like more details on how you could contribute goods to sell or auction contact The Missionary Mart, 99 Woodmansterne Road, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey SM5 4EG. Tel no 0208 643 3616.



Using your gifts for God

Hillary Tenzing-Tooth, a member of Kirkintilloch Baptist Church, is someone who believes in being confident in sharing the gifts God has given her. She started her own craft business, Kara Crafts, four years ago. Kara is Greek for 'joy', and she aims to bring joy into people's lives by sharing how to be creative. Kara Crafts is a range of silk paintings, decorative glass, vases and candlesticks.

Face to Face

"It was the best missions presentation I have ever been to." That was a comment from one person attending the Face to Face roadshow when it visited Lancaster. Many others agreed with between 100 and 300 people asking for further information about world mission at each of the four venues visited. Face to Face was organised by local EMA representatives, bringing together different mission agencies in the region. Each event was in the form of an exhibition and a multi-media presentation with contributions from the various agencies, including BMS.



mb magazine

too good to keep to yourself

The Arts in Mission

Now it's your opportunity to find out more, to give, to pray and to go...

INFORMATION AND PRAYER RESOURCES

I would like to find out more about BMS work in:

- Brazil
- India

I would like to start receiving news/prayer letters from:

- John & Norma Clark
- Derek & Joanna Punchard
- Clem & Elaine Mason

so that I can pray for their part in making Jesus known worldwide.

GOING

I would like to find out more about:

- the vacancies advertised on page 31, especially(please state)
- other long-term vacancies
- being a BMS Volunteer
- overseas Action Teams (Year Teams)
- UK Year Action Teams
- Summer Teams

Giving to BMS

I would like to give financially to BMS. Please send me:

- Ways of Giving leaflet which tells me about all the different ways I can give
- how I can join the BMS Birthday Scheme
- details of the BMS Relief Fund
- I would like to order the BMS WOW DIY Action Pack (qty) @ £5.99 each (YC22)
- I would like to order Hope in Despair study booklet (qty) @ £2.50 each (BK09)

For both of the above please add p&p as follows: Orders under £10 add £1.50; between £10 & £30 add £2.40; orders over £30 FREE

Please fill in your details in the name and address section below and also complete payment details

Anything else not mentioned above (please specify)

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mb magazine - maybe you've had this copy given to you, and you'd like to start receiving it regularly, or you'd like to give someone else a copy as a gift that will last all year round. At only £9.90 and with a free **BMS Prayer Guide** three times a year it's excellent value!

If you want mb for yourself just fill in the payment details and the issue month and your name and address at the bottom of the page.

If you want to give mb as a gift please fill in the recipient's name in the space provided plus payment details and your own name and address at the bottom of the page.

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action team tour 2000

coming to a place near you!

The BMS 1999/2000 Youth Action Teams - newly returned from near and far - will be touring the UK during May and June.

Mark the nearest venue and put the date in your diary.

They are young people on fire for God - with stories to tell, songs to sing, prayers to pray.

Use the Action Team visit as an opportunity to get your young people even more excited about what God is doing in the world today and how they, too, could be part of the action!



Central and Eastern England

John Smith ☎ 01502 567686

Histon	1 - 8 May	Albania Team	☎ Lynne Collinwood	01223 234578
Ipswich	15 - 22 May	France Team	☎ Simon Harris	01473 719644
Gt Shelford	15 - 22 May	Thailand Team	☎ Jonathan Burrough	01223 842181
Berkhamstead	22 - 29 May	India Team	☎ TBC	
Weston Favell	22 - 29 May	Thailand Team	☎ Colin Wake	01604 787117
Norwich	22 - 29 May	Bangladesh Team	☎ Neil Walker	01603 451070
Princes Risborough	5 - 12 June	Nicaragua Team	☎ David Hughes	01844 346938
Westcliff-on-Sea	12 - 19 June	Albania Team	☎ Carole Jacobsen	01702 335248
Comberton	12 - 19 June	Nicaragua Team	☎ Chris Divall	01223 263193

London and South East of England

Simon Jones ☎ 020 7639 8717

Horsham	22 Apr - 1 May	Albania Team	☎ Nick Lea	01403 240606
Godalming	1 - 8 May	Bangladesh Team	☎ Martin Poole	01483 418562
Hillingdon Park	8 - 15 May	Thailand Team	☎ Reg Craig	01895 814424
Tottenham	29 May - 5 June	Nicaragua Team	☎ Wole Roberts	0181 3408400
Wimbledon	5 - 12 June	France Team	☎ TBC	
Ilford	12 - 19 June	Brazil Team	☎ Barry Cheesman	0181 220 7751
Northwood	12 - 19 June	Thailand Team	☎ TBC	

Midlands (England)

Theo Lambourne ☎ 0116 271 3633

Leominster	22 Apr - 1 May	France Team	☎ David Welford	01568 616393
TBC	22 April - 1 May	Thailand Team	☎ Theo Lambourne	0116 271 3633
Sutton Coldfield	1 - 8 May	Brazil Team	☎ John Creber	0121 308 1339
Oldbury	22 - 29 May	Brazil Team	☎ Mark Timmins	0121 422 7475
Whetstone	29 May - 5 June	Thailand Team	☎ Steve Christian	0116 247 7218
Scunthorpe	5 - 12 June	Albania Team	☎ Alan Pike	01724 865 332
Asby-de-la-Zouch	5 - 12 June	Bangladesh Team	☎ Church Office	01530 413721
Hucknall	12 - 19 June	Bangladesh Team	☎ Helen MacVicar	0115 963 2891

North of England

Cath Mawson ☎ 01274 487341

Stockton	22 Apr - 1 May	India Team	☎ Cath Mawson	01274 487341
Leeds	1 May - 8 May	France Team	☎ Cath Mawson	01274 487341
Morecombe	1 May - 8 May	Thailand Team	☎ Cath Mawson	01274 487341
Lancaster	8 May - 15 May	Brazil Team	☎ Cath Mawson	01274 487341
Scarborough	15 May - 22 May	Nicaragua Team	☎ Cath Mawson	01274 487341
Burnley	22 May - 29 May	Albania Team	☎ Cath Mawson	01274 487341
Durham	29 May - 5 June	India Team	☎ Cath Mawson	01274 487341
Oldham	12 - 19 June	India Team	☎ Cath Mawson	01274 487341

North and West Wales

Delyth Wyn Davies ☎ 01766 512957

TBC	22 April - 1 May	Brazil Team	☎ TBC	
Bangor	1 May - 8 May	India Team	☎ Eleri Jones	01248 364665
Wrecsam	22 May - 29 May	France Team	☎ Owain Llyr Evans	01978 842504
TBC	29 May - 12 June	Bangladesh Team	☎ TBC	

Scotland

Derek Clark ☎ 0141 775 1201

Portobello	22 Apr - 1 May	Nicaragua Team	☎ Don Currie	0131 669 3632
Tillicoultry	1 - 8 May	Nicaragua Team	☎ David Bowker	01786 825241
Livingston	8 - 15 May	Nicaragua Team	☎ Gavin Williamson	01506 432020
TBC	8 - 15 May	France Team	☎ TBC	
Aberdeen	15 - 22 May	Albania Team	☎ Robin Lochhead	01224 869455
Cornton	15 - 22 May	Brazil Team	☎ Miriam Young	01786 445098
Prestwick	5 - 12 June	India Team	☎ Foster Wright	01292 478025

South and Mid Wales

Nick Bradshaw ☎ 02920 703738

Penarth	22 April - 1 May	Bangladesh Team	☎ John James	01222 705598
Castleton	8 - 15 May	India Team	☎ Roger Foster	01633 680132
Swansea	22 - 29 May	Nicaragua Team	☎ TBC	
Bridgend	29 May - 5 June	Brazil Team	☎ Ian Howells	01656 768182
Caerphilly	29 May - 5 June	Albania Team	☎ Andrew Ireland	01222 889627
Pembrokeshire	5 - 12 June	Thailand Team	☎ Betty Smith	01437 751226
Cardiff	12 - 19 June	France Team	☎ Beryl Davies	01222 756426

South and West England

Phil Hindle ☎ 01823 698977

Windsor	8 - 15 May	Bangladesh Team	☎ Carol Edwards	01753 852876
Wincanton	8 - 15 May	Albania Team	☎ John Smith	01963 34327
Didcot	15 - 22 May	India Team	☎ Mark Wickenden	01235 510540
Hordean	15 - 22 May	Bangladesh Team	☎ Chris Woods	01705 367197
Eastleigh	29 May - 5 June	France Team	☎ Paul Wilton	01703 643426
Waterlooville	5 - 12 June	UK Team	☎ Leslie Gregory	01705 257305
Chipping Campden	5-12 June	Brazil Team	☎ Phil Deller	01386 840720