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contents

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the other front line.....

mh july : august 2000

■ features

10 Can God use accountants?

Tim Trimble asked BMS this question

12 Doorkeepers for God

When caring hospitality is really appreciated

13 "Is it boring?"

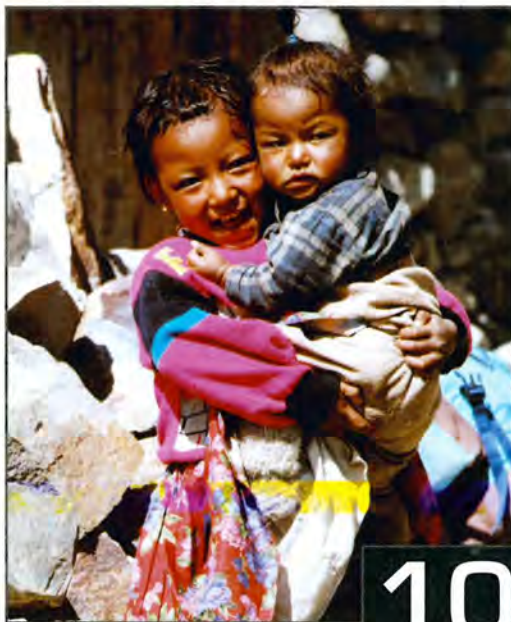
Geoff Bland is taken aback by this question

14 Four examples of the other front line

It all counts in God's work!

16 Over 1,000 students in 20 years

The necessary importance of learning another language



■ regulars

9 Lee Bray's Diary

Read Lee's notes of his journey to Bangladesh

20 Our Town

Featuring Vlore, Albania

24 BMS Volunteers & Action Teams

Nick Cady tells of his visit to Paradise Island

26 Take 2

Resources for leaders

28 People, Projects, Prayer

Latest news and updates



□ credits

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NEWS

with Sharia law in defiance of the agreement.

The need for a solution has led to calls for a national conference to determine the continued existence of the country. The President, Olusegun Obasanjo, who is a Christian, has said that breaking Nigeria into smaller countries was no solution and he defended his government's lukewarm response to the adoption of Sharia law. He said it was not a matter in which federal government should be involved. Sharia violates the rights of its citizens, he told the BBC, but it is up to individuals to take the states to court. (Newsroom, Open Doors)

North Korea Christians in concentration camps

A Korean pastor has spoken out against the repression of Christians in North Korea. The pastor, whose identity is withheld for security reasons, spoke of more than 100,000 Christians, amongst an estimated one million political prisoners, who 'vegetate' in concentration camps in the provinces of Ham Kyung and Ja Kang. The camps resemble paddocks or enclosures in open fields. No one knows how many people have died there; neither food nor medicine is provided to the prisoners, the pastor said.

Christians are considered major enemies by the North Korean leader Kim Jong-il, the pastor went on to say.

North Korea is officially atheist, and religious activities are virtually nonexistent.

One American group that takes Bibles into North Korea said that 2,289 Christian congregations with 300,000 members had disappeared since the 1950-53 war between North and South Korea. Anyone caught with a Bible is considered a South Korean spy and shot immediately, the pastor said. According to records 400 Christians were executed last year.

A spokesman for The Voice of the Martyrs said children were encouraged to turn in their parents if they caught them reading a Bible, and that "Christians were treated like animals and often killed for their faith."



OPEN DOORS



OPEN DOORS

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

Macedonia

Boris Trajkovski, a Methodist lay preacher from the centre-right Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity, has become the first Protestant president of this small Balkan republic. Less than one per cent of Macedonia's two million citizens are Protestant, but his rise to prominence has prompted deep resentment among some sectors of the population. Anti-Protestant graffiti has appeared on buildings in the capital, Skopje, and a Methodist church in a suburb has been stoned on several occasions. (ENI)

South Africa

Three successful Christian community radio stations were forced to close in early April for no apparent reason. The Independent Broadcasting Authority of South Africa refused to extend the stations' broadcasting licences and forced the stations to cease broadcasting. Members of the African Christian Democratic Party of South Africa claim that the IBA decision reflects a 'clear pattern' that the agency is reluctant to grant four-year licences to Christian radio stations. (CDN)

Philippines

Missionaries had long been trying to reach the Tulgao tribespeople, who live in a remote area of the Philippines, and are hostile to outsiders, according to the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism. Whilst visiting Tabuk, three boys broke into their van and were later arrested by the police. The missionaries visited the boys in prison; the boys put their faith in Jesus Christ and began to have weekly Bible studies. Once released, their parents invited the missionaries to hold evangelistic meetings for gangs in their neighbourhood, and the ringleader and several gang members became Christians. (CDN)

Angola

Six children who belonged to a Baptist church were stoned and crucified by the National Union for Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) rebels, according to sources of the Angolan Council of Christian Churches. The six were killed during an attack on the village of Beu, in the Uige province. They had been accused of complicity with the Angolan government. UNITA has murdered around 100 people throughout Angola since the beginning of the year, according to reports. (CDN)

India

Church groups in the Indian state of Orissa are taking legal action in the high court to suppress a regulation requiring people who want to change religion to seek official permission first. According to one church leader, a 'would-be' Christian from a remote village would have to pay at least 1,000 rupees (£15) for the preparation and submission of the affidavit and for police verification. (ENI)

The pastor said he had met the North Korean dictator, Kim, and considered him "a lunatic." Despite three million victims of famine from floods and repeated poor harvests, the regime has refused to allow humanitarian aid to be distributed systematically, but instead stockpiled it for military use in the event of war, he said.

The pastor was speaking earlier this year, at a conference in Germany. (Religion Today)

Sudan More bombing of the innocents

Further to the item in 'News in Brief' May/June 2000 *mb*, it has now been reported that the largest hospital in southern Sudan has been bombed twice in seven days by the government of Sudan. The human rights organisation, International Christian Concern (ICC), said that doctors were calling

it a miracle that although 12 bombs were dropped on the compound for the first attack, only two workers and 100 patients were killed. A week later 15 bombs exploded within 50 yards of the hospital but these did not cause any deaths nor significant damage to the hospital.

The civilian missionary hospital is situated in the small village of Lui, where it is run by the charity, Samaritan's Purse, and has treated over 100,000 people since 1997.

Steven Snyder, the President of ICC, has visited the hospital, and commented, "These people were not soldiers, but were mostly women and children. The government of Sudan, under the leadership of the National Islamic Front, is committing nothing less than barbaric butchery against these poor people in South Sudan. What will it take before the rest of the world becomes outraged?"

The President of Samaritan's Purse, Franklin Graham (son of Revd Billy Graham) also commented, "For more than 25 years, Samaritan's Purse has

helped people all over the world recover from wars of hatred, but this is the first time we've ever been so blatantly and continuously attacked by the government of the very people we are trying to help." But he went on to say, "Our medical staff (are) committed to staying."

(Christian Daily News)

Middle East Christian broadcasts now on daily basis

From April this year Christian broadcasting in the Middle East and North

will be easier for viewers to find and continue watching a channel that is on every day."

Ascott went on to say, "The commencement of a daily broadcast is a milestone not only for SAT-7 and its partner agencies, but for all of Christian media in the Arab world. This achievement is just another indicator that the Church in this region is alive, healthy and reaching out."

SAT-7 is a partnership of churches and agencies, of which BMS is a member, which exists to encourage the life and witness of the Middle Eastern Church. It is owned by a Board controlled by Middle Eastern Christians and has the open support of most



SAMARITAN'S PURSE



SAT-7

Africa has taken a giant step forward. On 3 April SAT-7, the satellite television service for Christians of the Middle East and North Africa, expanded its broadcasts from four to seven days per week.

SAT-7 began its schedule of transmissions in May 1996 with an initial two-hour broadcast each week. Since then it has increased its air time at least once every year, but this step is seen as the most significant to date. The Chief Executive, Terence Ascott, said, "This move enables us to reach a wider audience for the simple reason that it

denominations in the region, as well as that of numerous western agencies. Its programmes are politically and religiously sensitive to the complex situation in the Middle East and North Africa. Over half of SAT-7's broadcast schedule is made up of original Arabic programming.

In the Arab world television is the main means of information and entertainment, with 95 per cent of the population now owning at least one television set. It is estimated that 100 million people in the region have direct access to satellite TV. (SAT-7)

Nepal Khimti starts power production

Khimti 1 Hydropower Project started production of electricity to Nepal's national grid by the commissioning of the first unit earlier this year. All five units are scheduled to be on line before the end of May, adding 60 MW of power capacity to the national grid. BMS project engineer Peter Harwood has been heavily involved in bringing this to fruition.

During its construction the project has generated approximately 150,000 man months of employment which means that professionally skilled Nepalese workers will now be able to be involved in future tunnelling and

hydropower projects.

The project holds the record for achieving the highest national tunnelling productivity; it has the longest headrace tunnel (7,900m) and penstock (1,000m) in the country. It is the first major private sector hydropower project in Nepal with a large foreign investment. It has been promoted by Butwal Power Company Ltd, a Nepalese company, in conjunction with three Norwegian companies. Throughout the construction phase it enjoyed good labour relations.

It will be one of the first major projects to be completed within the original schedule, despite very difficult tunnelling conditions.

Mozambique BMS helps flood relief

Hundreds of thousands of Mozambicans are still left without homes and crops following the worst flooding in the country's history. Tragedy struck when Cyclone Eline hit Mozambique, and rains swept west into South Africa, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Botswana. Rivers became torrents and dams overflowed, sending sheets of water east through Mozambique to the sea.

The Limpopo River, which previously had been reduced to almost a trickle by drought, swelled to an estimated 16 km (9.6 miles) wide. It washed away village after tiny village, as well as the regional capital of Xai-Xai.

BMS has given £110,000 via Baptist World Aid to help rebuild lives by providing

Alistair Brown



Reflects.....

Two faces. One is old and wrinkled, full of years. Seen a lot and maybe suffered a lot. The other is young, shy, much to learn but with an innocent optimism for the future. I met them yards apart in Albania, that poorest of Europe's counties.

The woman had lived through the 45 closed years of Albania. Under Stalinist Enver Hoxha's rule the people were told they were the most successful of peoples, and must always be ready to defend their prosperity against invaders. Let anyone argued all political parties except the Communist were banned, political opponents killed and some 400,000 others deported for their contrary views. Everything was tightly controlled with extreme censorship. The state security network, the Sigurimi, watched everyone and eliminated any dissent. All religious bodies were banned and the state declared atheist.

Hoxha died in 1985 and in 1991 Communist rule ended and democracy began. A country so deceived and so poor was bound to have ongoing troubles, most seriously in 1997 when about 2,000 were killed.

There were bullet scars on the walls of the buildings beside where I photographed these two. For the old lady, they were part of a troubled history she hoped was passing but I guess she knew she might not live long enough to see a radically changed Albania. But the young lad could hope that one day his land will be strong economically with near-full employment, streets relatively free of crime, where young people like him will choose to stay because they're proud and glad to be in Albania.

BMS is working to help the lad's dream come true. We believe we're part of writing better pages of history, with dreams for that lad greater than he can imagine as we hope to introduce him to Jesus. I pray the history written on his face one day makes heaven and earth rejoice. ●



Alistair Brown is General Director of BMS

relief, food and medicines.

A Southern Baptist missionary, Dianne Randolph, said, "Whereas the people are hungry now, they will still be hungry next year if no one helps them replant their farms. All their crops were washed

away. This means that not only do they not have food, but they also don't have seed to start all over. If they don't replant now, the hunger could last up to 18 months or more."

According to the World Food Programme, an



estimated 370,500 acres of staple food crops were wiped out while another third of the national cereal production suffered severe losses.

Many escaped with only the clothes on their backs when the waters started pouring into their homes. They climbed onto roofs made with mud and galvanised sheeting worrying whether the shaky structure would hold them. They climbed into trees, where they had to wait days for help to come.

When the waters receded a little, and they were able to climb down, they saw bodies of dead animals and dead people floating on the water. Contaminated water quickly gives rise to disease; malaria and cholera have spread.

It is reported that 500,000 people are still



living in camps. Many do not have homes to return to. An estimated 150 schools have also been destroyed, along with medical clinics and transportation systems.

(Christian Daily News, Assist, Baptist Press)

INTERNATIONAL AID

Vinoth Ramachandra

Disability: In praise of weakness

What can the mentally and physically disabled teach us?

Rarely do the disabled command our respect. Unless of course they happen to be a Beethoven, a Helen Keller or a Stephen Hawking. But here the respect is not for them as humans, but for their almost superhuman abilities at overcoming all odds. Usually the disabled embarrass us. We want to banish them from sight, either by killing them (if the law permits) or by putting them in remote institutions. Or else we try to make them 'fit', by trying to make them conform to our norms of success.

I suggest that the disabled among us present an uncomfortable challenge to our modern illusions of individual self-sufficiency and human perfectibility. The handicapped hold up a mirror to our own frailty, vulnerability and inter-dependence as a human community. That is the human condition. But in our will to power, we see vulnerability as weakness and inter-dependence as constraint. We equate freedom with self-gratification, limits with oppression. We see our lives as belonging to ourselves alone.

Unfortunately, our mortality makes a mockery of our pretension to be gods. This is probably why so many doctors in our hospitals run away from talking about death with their patients. As long as modern medical practitioners think of themselves as wonder-workers, and of their work as one of human engineering rather than alleviating human suffering wherever possible, they will always think of disability and death as 'failure'.

But what of their own death? Or even the loss of their skills, say in a serious accident – will they still command respect as humans? The disabled force us to face such issues that lie at the heart of human existence. How we relate to the most vulnerable and defenceless among us may be a measure of our own humanness, as individuals and as a society. ●

Vinoth Ramachandra is South Asia Regional Secretary of IFES



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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.

Can God use

Tim Trimble asked BMS this question

my wife Caroline and I are both Chartered Accountants and we were very involved in our Baptist church in Pontewydd, Cwmbran, in South Wales. In 1994 we felt that the Lord was speaking to us to serve overseas. That was clear, but what could we possibly do? In what capacity could we serve, if at all? These were our concerns before approaching BMS.

Surely accountants were not needed on the mission field? We became convinced that perhaps with some retraining we might be able to do a useful job overseas.

An interview with Andrew North, then Manager for Mission Personnel, at BMS soon made us aware that accountants were much needed as part of mission work. In fact such skills were in short supply in many parts of the world and in particular, Nepal was desperately in need of an accountant.

This was the beginning of the story that led us to be seconded by BMS as Accountant (Tim) and Internal Auditor (Caroline) to the United Mission to Nepal (UMN) at its headquarters in Kathmandu.

UMN is one of the largest organisations in the Hindu kingdom of Nepal, providing assistance to the people of Nepal in health, rural developments, education and engineering. These sectors include such diverse programmes as hospitals, community health programmes, community enrichment and empowerment, education and training and many more areas of support to the people of Nepal. UMN has 35 major programmes of work and many smaller projects. The majority of the programmes run by UMN are based outside Kathmandu Valley. Some are so remote it can take days rather than hours to reach them from Kathmandu by road, plane or just walking. As its programmes are so remote, UMN co-ordinates the work from its centrally based office complex in Kathmandu.



Caroline has recently ceased working as Internal Auditor for UMN to look after our twin daughters. I am now the Finance Director, with overall responsibility for all the finances of the large and complex organisation. My responsibilities are threefold:

Firstly, to ensure that each of the programmes of UMN has sufficient funds to operate. This part of the job often requires me to approach donors in richer countries like the UK, USA or Sweden to present them with the financial needs of UMN. Over £2 million each year is raised in this way. Some programmes also rely on personal donations from individuals. The finance office at UMN receives up to 50 donations per month in this way. Each donor or grant is processed and acknowledged.

Secondly, donors need to receive good, accurate financial reports, telling them about the way UMN spent the

money it was given. These reports are vitally important to keep donors happy and to keep the funds flowing in.

Thirdly, all the finances at UMN need to be properly controlled and accounted for. With UMN offices throughout a country that has poor communications, it is important to pay regular visits to isolated locations. Often it is the isolated office that handles much of the spending of UMN, and yet has no local bank, few supplies for programme activities, and local people who do not have the training or experience to work for UMN.

As you can imagine, keeping the UMN finances ticking over with a small staff of seven at HQ in Kathmandu is a busy task. I hope that one day my job may be undertaken by a Nepali national, but until such a person can be identified and trained in the technical aspects of the role, an expatriate qualified accountant will continue to be needed to oversee the UMN finances.

Of course, both Caroline and I are involved in many activities outside the UMN finance department, but that's another story... ●

Tim Trimble works for BMS, and is seconded to UMN in Nepal where he is Finance Director

accountants?



UMN Facts	
Number of missionary families	120
Number of employees	1,000
Annual turnover	£5 million
Sectors of assistance	Health, rural development, education, engineering
Number of major projects	35

Doorkeepers for God

Gerry Myhill enthuses about those who minister to tired missionaries

as long term missionaries serving in Brazil, we have experienced many changes over the years. One of these changes has been that in the early years we were able, while on home visits, to stay with parents. However, now that our parents have either died or are in sheltered housing, we have come to depend more and more on the houses maintained by BMS for missionaries on home assignment.

We value highly this accommodation as it provides an answer to a need that we have, but perhaps our needs and expectations are not fully understood by many. I think that I speak for most missionaries when I say that we mostly return to the UK physically, emotionally and spiritually drained and, at a critical time, are denied the comfort and support of a family that no longer exists.

When we arrive in the UK, perhaps unaware ourselves of our condition, unaware that we have a set of special needs, unaware that we are more sensitive than normal to what lies ahead of us, unaware that we are stepping into a potentially traumatic experience over which we have no control at all, we step into the care of the people that care for and maintain the house in which we have to stay – our 'home from home'. Our thoughts run something like this. 'What sort of house is it? Will it be clean? Will everything work? Can we sit down and have a cup of tea?'

You might think, 'are these things important?' After all, the missionary is only there for a few weeks so it doesn't really matter if things are a bit rough and ready. However those few weeks are the few weeks that the missionary and his family have been longing for to rest and renew strength, so essential if the missionaries are to be able to visit churches in Britain and give a true, informative picture of

what the Lord is doing with them and BMS in the part of the world in which they are serving.

I think that the people who look after these houses and care for our needs are a special people. I don't suppose that many know who they are and what is expected of them. From what I understand, they are responsible for overseeing the maintenance of the actual building itself. They strive to keep the house, the furniture, fridge etc in a clean and serviceable order. Also they keep the bedding, towels, pots and pans and a thousand and one other things up to scratch.

What thanks do these unsung heroes receive? Very little I imagine as when we, the missionaries, arrive, we are too tired and needing to be ministered to, to really show much gratitude and then the time has flown by and we have a plane to catch and we are gone. Instead of leaving gratitude we leave an empty house that has to be prepared for the next family that are due home.

To try to compensate for that, we would like to say thank you to two such families who helped to make our stay in Britain a time of refreshment. Firstly, to Revd David and Doris Doonan who welcomed us on our arrival in England, invited us into their home for meals and did much to smooth our stay in Eltham where their church cares for two mission houses.

Secondly, to Mr and Mrs Buchanan, the couple who look after the mission house in East Kilbride. They met us on our arrival and with lots of loving care and attention introduced us to the house and its workings. The loving care with which they received us linked together with the spotless condition of the house, plus the fact that everything worked, meant that we were able to relax and enjoy the house, go out and enjoy Scotland and more importantly, go out and enjoy our visits to the churches that we were to visit. Thank you, both families, for caring. ●

Gerry Myhill is involved in church planting and Association work in Paraná, Brazil.





Geoff Bland considers the work he's been doing

"Is it boring?"

Surely this time our beloved editor has got it wrong. She tells me that the working title for this issue of *mb* – that is, the title before she finally firms up what ends up on the front cover – is 'The unglamorous spiritual gifts', and then asks ME to write an article! Just in case there is any misunderstanding she spells out that the theme is intended to look at those activities "that are sometimes considered a bit boring, trivial or not very worthy". I ask you! To be fair, even my wife wouldn't call me glamorous. But "boring, trivial and unworthy" indeed!

How can teaching Thai men and women ever be boring? They come from all parts of Thailand, including a large number from various hill-tribes. Most are young, but others are in their 30s and 40s. Some have given up high paying jobs, others have known only rural poverty. Some are bright, some are not! Teaching them is hard work but it is never dull.

How can teaching Bible students ever be trivial? There is nothing more valuable than the Word of God, and the work of explaining it and applying it must be one of the most rewarding jobs in the world. These past seven years of teaching at Bangkok Institute of Theology have brought with them an overwhelming sense of personal privilege and gratitude for such an opportunity to grapple with the teaching of the Scriptures.

How can teaching trainees for ministry ever be unworthy? Each year around 15 to 20 students complete the four year course and go on to full-time Christian work. Some will work alongside other pastors in large churches, some will become responsible for small churches, some will work with organisations such as Youth for Christ. The pay is small and eventually some of them will take up secular employment to support themselves. But all will be equipped to serve God in Christian ministry in a country where only a fraction of one per cent of the population are Christians.

So, no doubt about it, the editor is way off line on this one.

Hang on, I owe her an apology. I've overlooked the words "sometimes considered". So it's not that she thinks this herself but is concerned that other people might have that idea. Though surely not the readers of *mb*?

Surely not you? ●

Geoff Bland has been with BMS, teaching at the Bangkok Institute of Theology for the past seven years.



**STAMPS
FOR CASH**



THE GIFT OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Karen Gordon tells of when her husband Iain was very ill

Getting money from stamps
by **Richard Camp**

It was over 70 years ago that the first income from stamps appeared in the BMS accounts – the princely sum of £60. Last year the Stamp Bureau passed £8,000 to BMS. It is believed to be the oldest stamp charity in the UK.

The majority of people get letters from time to time, and it's so easy to tear the stamp off, knowing it will help to raise money for BMS. Last year David Beaumont, who runs the Stamp Bureau Sorting Department, received nine million stamps – as well as cards and coins – from people in Baptist churches.

Most stamps are ordinary British ones up to first class value, but we also get in better British stamps and collections, postcards, tea cards etc which I sell on by attending stamp fairs, and also better foreign and commonwealth stamps, which are handled by Douglas Neilson.

Of the £8,000 passed to BMS general funds by the Stamp Bureau last year, £7,260 was made from selling stamps, £404 from coins and £56 from cards.

There have occasionally been valuable finds. I once put my hand in a box of loose stamps and pulled out a 1d Black – worth about £40. We also received a Greek coin from before Christ which sold for £80.

It is a privilege to use my hobby to raise money for BMS. In doing so I have made Christian friends all over the country. ●

For more details about collecting stamps for BMS, fill in the coupon on page 35

Richard Camp is a retired policeman from Telford



Sitting in a hot vehicle for two hours doesn't sound encouraging, does it? The medical team who flew to Kathmandu to transfer Iain to a Singapore hospital were due to arrive at the hospital at 9.00 am. They were delayed six hours in immigration. The ambulance booked to take us and them to the airport did arrive at 9.00 am. Ambulances are few in Kathmandu. That ambulance and its crew needed to stay at the hospital so that when the medical team were finally released, transport was available. How to get an ambulance to stay put? Sit in it! That's what three friends did for several hours – sat in a hot ambulance, one at a time, ensuring the crew were always nearby. An unattractive, boring job when the 'excitement' was upstairs in the ICU.

During those weeks in September, many people supported us; caring for our boys, travelling to Singapore to be with us, praying for Iain. Others helped, apparently unnoticed, in ways 'trivial' in comparison, but without which the experience would have been harder. Friends did whatever was necessary, regardless of whether it was glamorous and up-front or just mundane. This was as much an encouragement to me as the more visible contributions of support. Some created e-mail address lists so people were informed and could pray; an ICU nurse cared for Iain all day, fed and put her children to bed, then returned for the nightshift; friends came laden with coffee and soup.

When our three sons were called to Singapore at short notice, two friends packed for them in 15 minutes flat. They packed up our house, paid bills, stored valuables and made the building secure. Eight days later they unpacked it again for the boys' return. These weren't folk with nothing better to do – they had their own families, had been looking after extra children and had already given up sleep to help.

Even for those who helped most directly and came to Singapore, life wasn't exciting. Each left and missed their families, went sleepless for nights, entertained the boys, slept on hard waiting room floors, cried with me and sat by Iain's bed staying awake, so that if he opened his eyes, a familiar face smiled back. ●

Karen Gordon works for BMS in Nepal, seconded to UMN, along with her husband Iain, who is now fully recovered.

Audrey Rowland is making the world go round

Switch on the computer, type in the password, log on – another day begins. A day of letters and telephone calls, of e-mails and meetings. A mailing to be sent off to all World Mission Link speakers; details of a missionary's Home Assignment programme sent to Link-Up groups; two other Home Assignment programmes needing to be sorted out; requests from Link-Up groups to be registered; requested information sent out; letters written.

When I started my present job friends commented "But you're a people person, not a paper person." The truth, I soon discovered, was that people and paper are intertwined. Yes, I do spend a lot of time writing letters, answering telephone calls, sending out information, writing reports, desperately fighting the growing mountain of paper on the desk. But – if the admin isn't done churches can't plan world mission visits or the visits of their Link-Up

missionary. If the admin is not done, missionaries don't know what they should be doing when or where, and training days are likely to be a shambles.

Yes, I spend a lot of time dealing with paper, but I also spend a lot of time in touch with people. People who are trying to raise the profile of world mission in their churches and need information that I can give. Link-Up contact people anxious for news of their Link-Up missionary for the prayer group. Missionaries wondering

whether their Home Assignment programme is nearly arranged as they have a family engagement they want to fit in. Colleagues wondering if I know what's happening about this Link-Up group or that world mission engagement.

I wonder, is it paper (and the e-mails!) that makes the world go round? ●

Audrey Rowland, World Mission Link Organiser at BMS Didcot



Helen Vallis and why she enjoys paying the bills

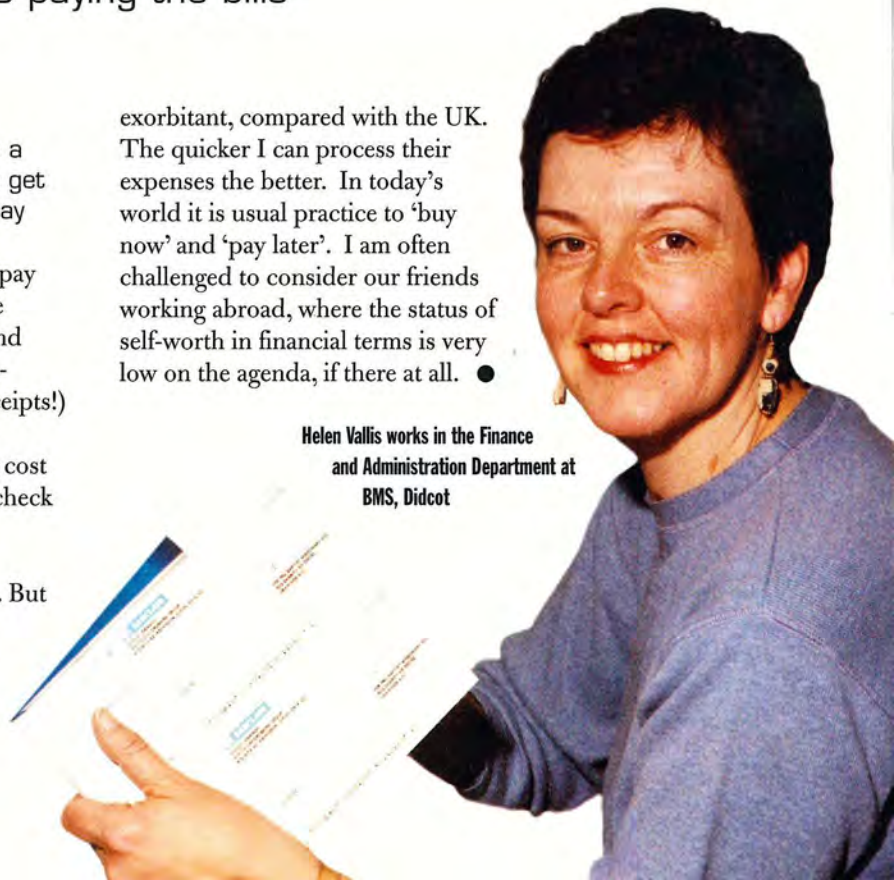
I work as part of a team in the Finance and Administration department at BMS. We have a structured day and we all need each other to get the tasks done. My job is to issue cheques and pay expenses.

We process around 130 cheques every month and pay funds into something like 75 bank accounts to pay the expenses of missionaries, home staff, Co-ordinators and committee members. (I could tell you which BMS Co-ordinator has a sweet tooth, as I check their petrol receipts!) Then there's also the need to pay suppliers. We have 'peaks' at the end of each month, when we are issuing cost reports to each department within BMS, so they can check their spending. We also peak each quarter when the General Committee expenses arrive.

To others my job may seem trivial and a bit boring. But it's part of a wider team effort that needs to happen; otherwise there would be total chaos. I find the most satisfying part is to reimburse missionaries expenses claims. Some of our fellow workers are living in countries where the standard of living costs are

exorbitant, compared with the UK. The quicker I can process their expenses the better. In today's world it is usual practice to 'buy now' and 'pay later'. I am often challenged to consider our friends working abroad, where the status of self-worth in financial terms is very low on the agenda, if there at all. ●

Helen Vallis works in the Finance and Administration Department at BMS, Didcot



Over 1,000 students in 20 years

David Boydell talks about the work of Les Cèdres



Les Cèdres is the Christian Language School in Massy, France. Over 50 BMS workers have learned French here (along with nearly 1,200 others).

Although very necessary, language learning can be a difficult time for missionary candidates, particularly for those whose talents lie in other areas, and some are impatient to be on the field doing "real missionary work"! Studying with others from many different countries, cultures and church backgrounds can be stimulating, but at times frustrating too.

The school has welcomed nearly 1,200 students during the past 20 years, most of them missionary candidates bound for the French-speaking world, as well as some 600 summer school participants.

The summer schoolers, aged between 15 and 80, come from all



Above: Les Cèdres Language Centre, Massy, France.
Right: Staff at the school. Left to right: Catherine Bankolé, David and Jessie Boydell, Marie-Christine Bosc, Alain Germain, Marie Iods, Reine Gugenheim.

walks of life, and spend three weeks of their summer studying French in the mornings and taking part in leisure activities and outings the rest of the time. The summer school students have an extra opportunity to practise their French in that students and staff eat together, and French is the only language allowed in the dining room!

Massy is a pleasant southern suburb of Paris, half an hour from Notre-Dame cathedral by the RER (express suburban railway), with good sports facilities, an excellent public library, and even a modern opera house. The language school stands in a garden of mature cedar trees. The building, owned by the French Baptist Federation, houses some staff, most of the single students and several of the couples. Other families are housed in furnished apartments within a few minutes' walking distance of the school.

David and Jessie Boydell, who met as BMS missionaries in Congo, have worked at the school for the past 17 years, David as Principal and Jessie as a teacher, and are supported by an able and enthusiastic team of teachers and other helpers.

The school truly has an international flavour, with students from over 35 countries (usually about a dozen nationalities at any one time) going to work in over 20 countries of the French-speaking world.

Students will be placed in one of the five different classes according to their level. Classes are small (ten students per class on average), and most of the students are highly motivated – a far cry from the experiences of many at school! They may spend periods of between six weeks and 18 months at the school, depending on their individual needs.

Three video rooms and a language laboratory are at the disposal of students, as well as a computer and e-mail link – a sign of the times! We hope to develop computer-assisted learning in the future. The nitty-gritty of grammar and vocabulary learning are not neglected however! Some



Above: Children in the crèche
Below: Students from Japan, Denmark and Norway.

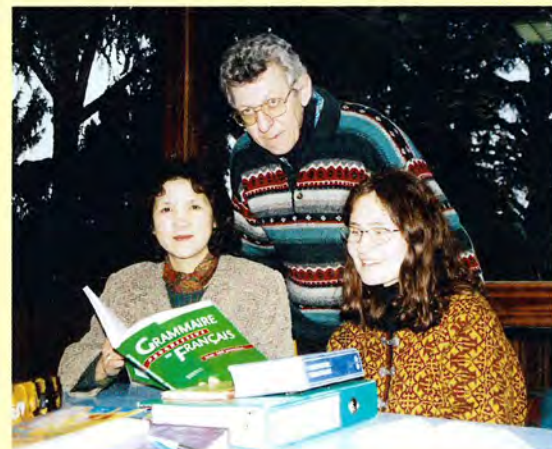
allowance for individual help is given in the daily 'surgery sessions', that is, times when a member of staff is available to deal with students' individual questions.

Real-life situations are to be found as soon as the student leaves the classroom: the daily chapel service, entirely in French, helps students to gain the most from the Sunday services and house groups in the various local churches, including the Massy Baptist Church, which meets in the centre, and where BMS missionaries and former Les Cèdres students Phil and Rosemary Halliday serve. Many local people, not all connected with the churches, also give freely of their time as language helpers, and students are welcome in the various societies in the town.

For students with children, the school has an on-site crèche for the under threes, and other children attend local nursery, primary, and secondary schools. There is a special class to welcome children who do not speak French, which helps them to adapt.

And for those who weren't so keen on coming here, they look back and see this period was so necessary for a fruitful ministry. One of the highlights of the staff's year is reading the annual 'former students' letter', and seeing that, by God's grace, their hard work is bearing fruit all over the French-speaking world! ●

David Boydell is a former BMS missionary, and is now Principal of Les Cèdres Christian Language School.



LES CÈDRES CHRISTIAN FRENCH LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Principal: David Boydell

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The gift of admin

How one man organised short-term missions to an orphanage in China

babies are dying in Chinese orphanages, not from physical neglect, but from the emotional need of love and cuddles they are not receiving.' So began 'Living Tracts' in the March/April 1999 issue of *mb*, the story of ten people visiting an orphanage in China in 1998 on a short-term mission to take the love of Jesus in practical ways to the abandoned children. Last year a second group went to the same orphanage and this year preparations are well advanced for the third successive mission.

But how do such missions get started? What is the cost? How many should go? What if people feel called to go, but have no money? How will we be used at the orphanage? Is China dangerous? Can individuals take their Bibles, etc, etc? Just some of the questions that had to be worked through for the missions to succeed. Undoubtedly the gift of administration, perhaps the least glamorous of the spiritual gifts (1Cor 12:28), plays an essential part in making these missions happen.

When my wife Mary and I first felt called to go to China, I had no idea that I would become the organising administrator for a mission group, and neither did I realise how much work it involved. In hindsight I was God's obvious choice. I was self-employed, working from my home office equipped with computer, e-mail and fax, and my time was flexible, giving freedom to plan arrangements during normal working hours.

At first we had virtually no information about the mission. Telephone calls to the Christian organisation concerned established the cost, dates, location and accommodation in China, and the probable work routine with older babies and toddlers in the orphanage. Inquiring about air fares, I discovered that ten people were needed for a group rate, defining our desirable minimum group size.

When we told our Baptist church what we felt called to do and asked if anyone else would like to join us, two other couples immediately responded. After several weeks and some publicity in the church newsletter, three other people asked to join, bringing our numbers to nine. There was a problem though, one person who desperately wanted to go didn't have the £1,500 needed. Then a couple of weeks later a lady offered to support someone who couldn't afford to go! God's amazing provision came again last year for two people, and this year for four people, in different ways but without making any appeals!

We felt the need to meet together and arranged monthly Saturday evenings over a meal. At the first one we were blessed by a visiting young man who had worked at the orphanage and happened to be on furlough in the UK! He brought along photographs of the children and described



life in the orphanage and China. He spoke Mandarin and was obviously quite influential in his area of work with the Chinese. He was full of God's Spirit and so positive about the orphanage and China when he answered our questions that he laid bare most of our fears. As a result a tenth person decided to join and our group was complete.

At group meetings we raised questions about the itinerary, eating in China, vaccinations, needs of the orphanage, etc, etc. I would then pass on our questions by e-mail to the couple who ran the organisation from SE Asia, hoping to receive replies in time for our next meeting.

The church fellowship was kept informed in the newsletter of our team activities and was amazingly encouraging, prayerful, and generous towards the needs of the orphanage. It had become a church owned mission,



nistration



even though for security reasons we could only say we were visiting East China.

As we prepare for our third mission, several local schools are interested and a High School year eight has voted the orphanage its charity of the year for fund raising. The excitement of going remains, heightened by reports of crackdowns by the authorities on Chinese Christians. What changes will we find and how many children adopted from the orphanage? How will the group react living together surrounded by a new and non-Christian culture? How will their emotions cope with cuddling abandoned Chinese children? How will God work through us and in us?

Seven months of preparation and meetings, a three week mission and then it's all over? In some ways what God wants to do is just beginning! Several members of the earlier groups are feeling that God is leading them into a whole new direction of life. Simeon, a hairdresser, is now working full-time with special needs children. A monthly Prayer for China meeting has just begun. Those who have experienced China have received a heart for its people and a deep longing for God's healing upon a hurting nation, and especially upon its abandoned children. ●

Some names, locations and minor details have been changed to protect the identity of those involved. For security reasons this article remains anonymous.

BMS supports work in China through the Amity Foundation.

Living on a football pitch

The game of football is never far from the public eye, so it's not difficult to imagine a football pitch. Now imagine 3,000 people living in that space. They have one toilet and one water-point to every 300 people. There is no adequate sanitation, health care or nutrition. This is the situation in the Kibera slum, Nairobi, where nearly one million people live in two square km, and where 200 children die every month from easily curable diseases.

I'll never forget walking into Kibera for the first time. The first thing that hits you are the open sewers down the sides of the dirt tracks - liquid disease waiting to claim another young victim as children jump barefooted to and fro across channels of effluence. Each dwelling, the size of a garden shed, gives shelter to a family often numbering up to ten people. But the overwhelming impression I had as I was greeted by hundreds of excited children, amused by the sight of a foreigner walking through the rotting garbage, was one of the tangible presence of God in that place!

In the distance I could hear singing. The mamas were gathering together for one of their regular praise sessions. I could sense that God was working in the lives of these dear people, constantly living on the edge of disease, deprivation and death, and that they had far more wealth than me with my sanitised suburban lifestyle. Christian charity Soapbox Expeditions, for whom I work, are planning to build a clinic here and already several thousand pounds have been raised.

That's what happens when you're confronted with heart-stirring descriptions of depravity - the purse strings start to move. But this very act of sacrifice can restrict the growth of the kingdom if we fail to acknowledge, support and encourage the people behind the scenes; the administrators, the planners, the finance controllers and the secretaries. No one wants to support them, but without them, the whole operation stops! No wonder the practical skill of administration is listed as one of the spiritual gifts. God is into foundation building and everything we do stands or falls on the strength of it. Money spent on clinics, health programmes and feeding centres is wasted if the projects themselves are unsustainable. We need to encourage people in our churches with



the vital gift of administration so that we can build healthy infrastructures to support the projects of our visions and dreams! ●

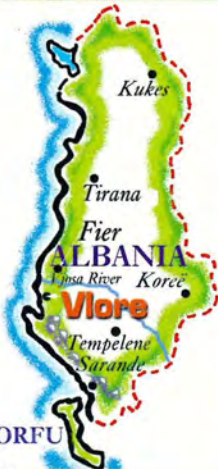
Steve Flashman is a Baptist minister and International Director of Soapbox Expeditions



A series edited by **Jan Kendal** that looks at towns and cities around the world where BMS personnel are working by **Prema Tennekoon**



Vlore



History

Vlore was founded in the 4th century BC in the territory of an Illyrian tribe. A fortress was built in the centre of this ancient city, the ruins of which can be found in today's Flag Square. In ancient times the city was known as Aulon, a name given to it by early Greek settlers meaning 'channel'. The town, built as a sea port, minted its own coins and held territory in the hinterland up to the Vjosa River. It became an early Christian centre, and grew in importance after a great earthquake changed the course of the Vjosa River, causing the decline of the regional centre

Appollonia (Fier). By the 5th century, a bishopric had been established in the town.

With the decline of the Eastern Roman Empire, Vlore became an unimportant fishing village. It reappeared in the 13th century when it was taken by the Normans and served as a base for attacks on the Byzantine Empire. Between 1266 and 1812 Vlore changed hands many times.

In 1912, Albania was declared an independent state with Vlore as its capital. This was short lived because Italy occupied the city soon after 1914. When Ahmet Zog came to power in Albania in 1925 and declared himself king,

forces opposed to the new king Zog set up a revolutionary headquarters in Vlore. The town grew during the inter-war period and benefited from King Zog's projects to improve water supply and sanitation. Before this period Vlore had been the worst area in the whole of Albania for malarial infection.

When the Communists came to power in Albania, the port was initially leased to the Soviet Union as a submarine base. Vlore has never recovered its former prosperity. Under the dictator Hoxha, Vlore became a recruiting centre for the Albanian secret police. It has since grown in importance as an agricultural centre with large scale planting of olive and fruit trees, a centre for food processing and for oil and bitumen-exporting industries.

First Impressions

The natural scenery in and around Vlore is very beautiful. Vlore bay with the sea and glimpses of a small, distant island at the outlet of the bay, the mountains which appear all around, hills covered

Left: Monument in main square, Vlore
Below: Vlore bay and mountains



with olive trees, the vast town with sunshine and blue skies impress visitors who may approach from the north, south or east.

As you go through the town you can see the signs of a former thriving city in the many ruins of former parks and gardens and in the few older buildings that remain. Yet there is also much activity today. Everywhere there are buildings going up, others started in recent years are left unfinished due to lack of funds. Attempts are being made to plant flowers along the main roads and in the town squares. The city is alive with people rushing about or sitting around, the roads bustling with noisy traffic, the shopping areas, markets and small stalls around are crowded with people buying or calling out their wares.

Geography

The district of Vlore is one of the largest in the country covering an area of 1,609 square km. The biggest rivers are the Vjosa, Shushica, and Dukati White River. The district has a natural lake near Dukati in the South and a lagoon near Narta in the north. A range of mountains starts from the coastline of Vlore. The highest mountain is Cika that rises to a height of 2,045m.

People

Vlore district had an estimated population of 210,000 with 120,000 living within the city itself. This will not now be accurate, as the past ten years have seen dramatic population



Main photograph:
Back street Vlore,
woman spinning wool
Inset top: Gathering for
start of March for
Jesus
Below: A shop in Vlore



- 1 Oldest Mosque
- 2 Monument to Ismail Qemali 1912
- 3 Polyclinic
- 4 Law Courts
- 5 Faculty of Nursing
- 6 University
- 7 Cultural Centre
- 8 RC Church
- 9 Orthodox Church

- 10 Municipal Building
- 11 Infection Control Unit
New building, built by BMS
- 12 Main Hospital
- 13 Ali Demi School, where
Christians worship on Sundays
- 14 Orphanage for children 0 - 7
years
- 15 Home for adult disabled
- 16 Music School

movements around the Vlore region, and the rest of Albania. Thousands of Vlore inhabitants have emigrated out of the city, mostly to Italy and Greece. At the same time, thousands of villagers have left their homes in the countryside to move into the city. Lack of housing has forced some to squat in unoccupied buildings or former industrial sites that were demolished in the 1997 fighting. Others construct houses illegally in parts of the city not zoned for residential housing. This illegal process means that many families do not have an adequate water supply or sewerage connections. Most people make their own illegal connections to electricity and so do not pay for the service, thus the electrical grid is under enormous strain coping with increased demand, and power is more often off than on everywhere!

Ninety nine per cent of people in Vlore are Albanian. Seventy per cent are Muslim, 20 per cent belong to the Orthodox church and 10 per cent are Roman Catholic. This does not account for the considerable number of evangelical Christians now in Vlore. There are few mosques in the villages, but Vlore is home to two large

mosques, a Catholic church and an Orthodox church. Some monasteries still exist.

Political situation

In 1990 the multi-party system was introduced in Albania and the first elections took place in March 1991. Vlore elected six Democratic Party (DP) parliamentarians. In the June and July 1997 elections, the collapse of the pyramid saving schemes changed public attitude to the DP and brought victory for the Socialist Party. Many tensions continue between the two in central and local government.

Security

After the riots of 1997, infighting gangs threatened public security. This improved in 1998 but a sense of insecurity remains due to random shootings and killings. The largest security threat to Vlore is illegal trafficking – for years speedboats have been used to smuggle arms, drugs, refugees and illegal migrants. This still continues.

Economy

During the early transition period Albania gained from adopting a market economy. But this rapid development was without

foundation. Vlore became an important economic centre. Importers brought in agricultural goods from Italy and Greece with no support for domestic production. Much of the underlying trade was through illegal trafficking. Once the pyramid schemes took root in the region, the prosperity they created gave the impression that Vlore could become wealthy without work, so necessary economic and structural reforms were never implemented. Vlore once supported large factories that produced caustic soda, soap, light bulbs, rice, and cement. A canning factory packaged sardines, peppers and pickled cucumbers. All these places now stand vacant and some have become the homes of squatters from surrounding villages.

Vlore is rich in mineral resources. During 50 years of Communism, the mine had been a useful resource – but is not in use now and privatisation is planned.

The region lacks much in the way of tourist infrastructure. There are a handful of privately run hotels offering about six to ten rooms apiece. Most of them have been built with dirty money. There is little of interest in the city to



Above: Main Hospital, Vlore
Below: Infection Control Unit

attract tourists. Three museums in the city are not tourist friendly. A few gift shops exist but there is little to attract shoppers.

Health care

Health care is provided via one general hospital with around 250 beds, a large health centre which is a day clinic and several small clinics dotted around the city providing some care for children and adults. There is one psychiatric unit. All these establishments are outdated and are a health risk. Apart from the Infection Control Unit,

rebuilt and refurbished by BMS in 1999, there are no modern facilities for health care.

Christianity

In all the towns in and around Vlore small churches still remain from its early Christian era. During 50 years of Communism all churches, monasteries and mosques were

closed or used as warehouses or museums. Enver Hoxha declared the country an atheistic state. Religion was banned and people were afraid to even mention God. When the country opened to the outside world in 1991, there were many among the older people who had remained Christian secretly. The younger generations knew nothing about the Christian faith and worship and none had heard the gospel or seen a Bible. Many in Vlore were among the first to become Christians in Albania.

Albanian Christians are keen to show a united front and have joined together in special events such as the March for Jesus and in special celebrations at Christmas and Easter – sometimes meeting together in

Vlore or Tirana.

1999 stands out as a historical year. Half a million or more Kosovo refugees flocked in to Albania, 40,000 of them to Vlore. Here Christians developed relationships with Kosovar families, provided them with shelter, and offered practical love and friendship such as they had never experienced before. The result was that during the crisis the churches filled with Kosovar families eager to hear about Jesus. When the refugees left, Christians from Vlore gave them parties, accompanied them back with provisions and some even today are helping the Kosovars build their homes, providing materials and helping to establish churches.

Profiles: Cilieta

Cilieta was born in Lakatund, a Muslim village seven miles out of Vlore. Like her brother and sisters she attended the village school until the age of 17. In 1994 Christians



visited her village and showed the 'Jesus film'. Cilieta believed and became a Christian, as did some other young people.

Young Christians from a group in Vlore visited the village on a regular basis for two years to teach and nurture these new Christians. Cilieta knows her Bible well and loves the Lord. Her friends have left Lakatund – some for training in Vlore, but she sees them from time to time. She would dearly love to attend the discipleship training school in Tirana but as the daughter in the house she is expected to remain at home and do the chores and care for her parents. This she does with a loving and cheerful heart and never complains; instead she trusts the Lord to direct her. On occasions the Christians in Vlore manage to persuade her parents to let her join them for a day or so. Otherwise the only fellowship she enjoys is listening to the Christian

radio broadcasts from Tirana. During the years of turmoil in Vlore and in 1999 during the Kosovo crisis, she was more or less isolated from other Christians – yet she remains faithful.

Altin

This year Altin will be 20 years-old. He suffered from cerebral palsy at birth and has since been disabled. His parents have given tender loving care to this boy all these years. There are no social services to provide any help. At an early age they could have put him in a home. His mother says if she had, Altin would never have survived. Altin has never walked



or been able to do anything for himself. Yet although all his muscles have wasted away and he is only skin and bone, his family, especially his mother, never tire of doing all they can for him. The family revolve around him. His three brothers work, play, do their school work and watch television with Altin in his little room. Visitors always gather round him. He loves company and if people spend time to talk and sing with him his face lights up with joy and he tries to join in the songs. He understands what is said but is unable to speak clearly. Altin's brothers read the Bible with him, he loves to look at pictures and gets excited when he hears how much Jesus loves him. For 18 years of his life his mother did the washing by hand day and night. Two years ago she was given a washing machine for which she never fails to thank God. ●

Lakatund

Lakatund / Saranda



God sent me to

paradise island!

says **Nick Cady**



“I rate
my experience in
Sri Lanka
as the
best thing
I have ever done”



Sri Lanka certainly has produced in me the full gamut of emotions! I've been left speechless by maniacal drivers, challenged by the faith of other believers, overwhelmed by the hospitality and generosity of the people, and stunned by the variety of natural beauty in an island no bigger than Wales.

I had been working in the Civil Service in London for five years when an opportunity to take a year's unpaid leave came up. Having spent four years in my home church as the youth leader, I felt that the time was right to specifically dedicate a year's service to God. I think that he can guide us through our circumstances and the time seemed right to devote a year to his work.

I approached BMS to offer my talents. I had no idea where I might be sent. I confess to having had secret dreams about working on paradise islands, but when asked by the Volunteer Co-ordinator, 'have you anywhere particular in mind?', I bit my tongue and said that I wanted to work where there was a need. Of course God is generous – he sent me to one of his paradise islands!

I have come here as a teacher of English as a foreign language. My work is amongst the Baptists of Sri Lanka focused in two centres. Firstly, I work at

the Baptist theological college, the William Carey Institute, in the capital, Colombo. My students are all young church workers and the future leaders of the Baptist Church in Sri Lanka. These young people will benefit immensely from being able to access Christian resources in English. This is a long-term aim, and my contribution is just one. I also work with the young people at one of the poorer churches in Ratnapura. Here, the teaching is harder work, but the rewards are immense.

Although I came as a teacher of English, I knew that that was only part of my work here. God can use us everyday in such an amazing variety of ways. I have been invited to preach in a number of churches and have enjoyed friendship and fellowship with a large number of believers from very different walks of life. I know that I have been able to encourage others by affirming our unity in God, and I have been encouraged also to see the Lord's hand in the lives of so many here in Sri Lanka.

I rate my experience in Sri Lanka as the best thing I have ever done. When the Israelites wanted to acknowledge God's blessing in a special way, they built an altar in the place of the blessing. Were there not enough natural expressions of God's abundant grace in Sri Lanka, I'd be building an altar here! ●

Nick Cady is from Carshalton Beeches Baptist Church

Top: En-route to a baptism service

Above: Nick at a Bible Study with young people from Ratnapura Church

Below: Agalawatta Baptist Church

to what lengths would you go to attend church?

ask the **Albania Action Team**



Imagine being stuck in a country the size of Wales, with very limited resources and opportunities for life. Assume you are one of the 70 per cent of the population who are unemployed here. How would you cope in the middle of winter without water or electricity for three days or more? How would you keep the kids clean, or warm? How would you feed them? What would you do if you saw your neighbour being beaten up by her husband in the street? How would you feel if you knew your teenage daughter could be kidnapped in broad daylight and sold into a life of prostitution in a foreign country without a trace? These are the harsh realities of life that many people in the country of Albania have to face. They are actual situations that we have sadly come across during our time here.

Albania is a nation in darkness, plagued with hopelessness and corruption. The police force, for instance, can barely keep cars driving on the right side of the road, let alone deal

striving for a better future for their families. They see no hope for Albania and the freedom from communism ten years ago has, in reality, brought self-destruction to much of the land.

Freedom from communism has, however, meant that doors have been opened to God. The churches here are still very young, but numbers are growing and this development has given us the opportunity to come and work

“Another lady was locked in her house by her father... she went and stole the keys and ran all the way to church”

with the Albanian people.

We were attending a prayer meeting in Bregu-i-Lumit, a village just outside the capital of Tirana, when two sisters arrived. They had been secret

Christians for five years but because their brother was against Christianity and one sister's husband was Muslim, they were not allowed to set foot inside a church. It was

because the brother and husband were both out that the sisters were able to secretly attend the prayer meeting. Another lady was locked in her house by her father, being told one Sunday morning that she could not go to church. She went and stole the keys and ran all the way to church.

These are just two examples but they answer the question, “How far would you go to attend church?” Albanians would go to any extreme to meet with God and other believers. What commitment! It makes you appreciate the small things in life, such as how free we are to attend church.

Leading children's and adults English classes, music lessons, youth meetings and making some visits to Albanian homes are just a few activities we have been involved with, but they have all been humbling experiences. None of us would have wanted to have spent the last six months anywhere else. The amount of love we have been shown as a team will stay with us for many years. A great experience. ●

The 1999/2000 Albania Action Team were (l to r):
Gemma Ding - Histon Baptist Church, Cambridge
Jonathan Lochhead - Deeside Christian Fellowship
Rachel Smith - Wincanton Baptist Church, Somerset.
Michelle Bond - Westcliff Baptist Church, Essex



with the fact that 90 per cent of them are stolen. There is a constant threat of crime.

The immense poverty and despair has led people to the desperate but futile search for escape. It's not just selfish ambition - people are genuinely



Come leave your nets and follow me

take **2**

10 Ways to avoid becoming a Missionary

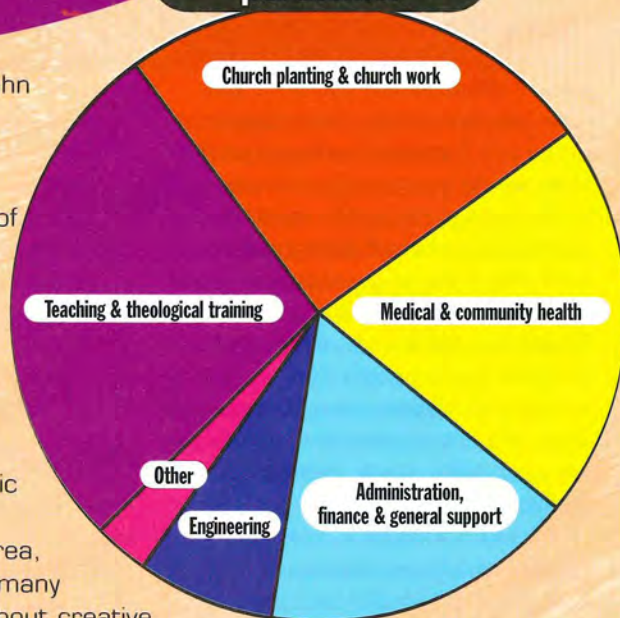
- 1 Avoid being convicted. Skillfully avoid the command in John 4:35 to take a long hard look at the fields. This is not only depressing but it is unsettling, and could lead to genuine missionary concern.
- 2 Have a good healthy (socially legitimate) target ahead of you, such as higher qualifications, promotion, bigger home, better car, higher salary or providing for the future.
- 3 Get married as soon as possible so you can devote your life to the socially accepted norm of settling down, establishing a career and raising a family.
- 4 Never expose yourself to personal contact with missionaries. Their testimonies are disturbing, and the situations they describe tend to contrast with the materialistic living of the Western world.
- 5 Develop a closed-door mentality. Remember North Korea, Saudi Arabia, China and other closed countries. (Forget the many countries still open to missionaries and never listen to talk about creative access countries.)
- 6 Always keep in mind your own past failures. It is unreasonable to expect you will ever be any better. This means never study the lives of Abraham, Moses, David, Jonah, Peter or Mark, who were all drop-outs at one stage but didn't stay that way.
- 7 Always look at missionaries as super-spiritual people with tremendous gifts and saintly characters. This will heighten your sense of inadequacy and remove any guilt complex about not being one of them.

Finally, if you do become a little concerned about missionary work:

- 8 Listen to those who feel you are indispensable where you are, and that your local church can't do without you.
- 9 Start worrying about money.
- 10 Go out right away without any training. You'll soon be home again, but no one will be able to blame you for not trying!

From W Austin Gardner, a missionary with Macedonia World Baptist Missions, updated from a book by Stewart Dinnen, ("How are you doing?" Bromley: STL Books, 1984)

Role of BMS personnel

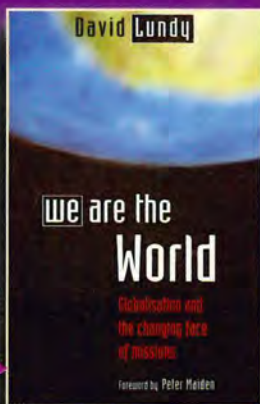


“We do not rely on the fact that 18 times more people go to church each Sunday in England than go to Premier and League Football matches on Saturday for our relevance. We are relevant because we are involved in people's pain, offering services from limited resources and providing hope to those who need it. Too often, good news is no news. There is an untold story of churches on the ground involved in the rough and tumble of human tragedies.”

Joel Edwards, General Director of EA UK

“By all means preach the gospel and sometimes use words” St Francis of Assisi

(Thanks to: CHRISTIAN DAILY NEWS)



book review

book reviews

A World History of
CHRISTIANITY



Edited by
Adrian Hastings

Book Title: We are the world
Author: David Lundy
Publisher: OM Publishing
(ISBN 1-85078-342-X)
Reviewer: Nick Bradshaw, BMS Co-ordinator for
South & Central Wales
No of pages: 174
Price: £5.99

You could be forgiven for at times wondering whether this book was written for all involved in mission or as a handbook for Operation Mobilisation. Lundy leans heavily on his experience with OM and on the findings and continuing working out of the organisation's Corporate Review.

Examining the work done in the fields of leadership and management strategy and in the world of economics, Lundy reflects on this in terms of the world of missions. This I'm sure is a useful study but he was in danger of losing me here. A note I scribbled in the margin reads 'I thought I knew what globalisation meant until I read this'.

There is enough in the early chapters for those who want an introduction into the biblical background of division and unity. What forms of division still exist? The question is asked throughout the book examining how it applies to the issues that mission organisation structures face, such as nationals who work for western agencies with their western derived structures and values.

By Lundy's own confession part of the driving force behind the writing of this book was a desire to seek to bring greater balance to the relatively unchallenged trend of supporting national missionaries. He points out the many pitfalls, whilst upholding the belief that eventually nationals need to be fully self-supporting and themselves sending churches. He does seem to have in mind pastors and church planters in this argument, rather than educationalists, medics, engineers etc.

The world is changing; technology is making the world much smaller but it is still too big an assumption that we will all be used to one another's ways. We still think very differently. Lundy's last chapters focus in on this fact. If we are after true globalisation we are still a long way off. We are all of us still far too parochial. Read this book and prepare to be challenged to think through the issues facing mission today. ●

Book title: A World History of Christianity
Editor: Adrian Hastings
Publisher: Cassell
(ISBN 0-264-67499-5)
Reviewer: Revd Dr Anthony Thacker MA, Oadby
Baptist Church, Leics
No of pages: 594+xiv
Price: £16.99

This unique book is the ideal one-volume overview of world Christianity, a highly readable account, and a must for all interested in church history, theology and mission. The richness of the book comes with breadth and diversity, achieved without loss of depth.

Instead of European history with colonial add-ons, each continent's story is given its proper weight. However, it doesn't fully "escape the bounds of Eurocentricity and ecclesiocentricity": while American Frykenberg was born in India, but for one Australian and another American, all other authors are British.

Chapter one, the emergence of Christianity, is weakest, and would have been massively different if written by a Third World Pentecostal. It is highly interpretative with pose of bemused outsider. That Christianity emerged strongly because of faith in Jesus' resurrection is "odd." Instead, there's 'cognitive dissonance' at delay in Jesus' return, Christians' mutual support, plus the attraction of the bizarre and exotic – a very (modern) European spin.

Other quibbles: Kant wrote 'Was ist Aufklärung?' in 1784; and the odd sequence means we read of later effects of Ultramontanism before hearing how it arose.

Other early chapters offer most: Hastings' atmospheric account of church growth amid Roman persecution, imperial favour and collapse of Empire; Cunningham's insights into Orthodox Byzantium, enabling us to engage with John of Damascus and Gregory Palamas, not just Augustine and Aquinas; and especially Frykenberg on Thomas Christians from first century India and later fractured relations with Portuguese Catholics; also insights into Egyptian and Ethiopian Christian history; Catholicism through conquest in Latin America; Pacific missions; and the many ups and downs in China and Korea. The extraordinary tale of Japan's secret Christians is told all too briefly. This broad canvas helps put recent changes in context.

As for mission, we see how persuasion has fared in contrast to conquest, with for example the case in medieval northern and central Europe being rather happier than the Byzantine and Latin attempts to conquer Middle Eastern Christians. The same sad lesson comes in almost every continent. ●



Projects



Prayer



People

PROJECTS UPDATE



**Project: BMS
Birthday
Scheme**

Share a smile



For many of us birthdays are a happy and joyful occasion with parties and presents, a special time of fun, laughter and celebration with friends and family.

But, sadly, for many others across the world, a birthday only counts as just another day – a struggle to survive, a desperate search for food or place to sleep, just another day living in pain and suffering.

Giving to the BMS Birthday Scheme on your birthday enables you to make a difference in the lives of others. A donation made through the Scheme will support BMS medical and community health development work, helping to bring a healthier life to people in some of the poorest places in the world. Your gift might just give a reason for somebody else to smile on their birthday.

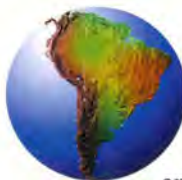
We've just produced new publicity for the BMS Birthday Scheme, for you to use, if you would like to involve others. There's also a wider range of birthday card designs, to suit all tastes!

For more information contact the BMS Birthday Scheme Secretary in your church, or tick the relevant box on the coupon on page 35.

PRAYER FOCUS



Margaret Swires: Natal, Brazil



Margaret is a church community worker involved in supporting a number of different churches and their outreach initiatives. Many people in Natal live in extreme poverty with little chance of education or hope for the future. The First Baptist Church of Natal runs a scheme called the Friends of the Community Project, aimed at meeting some of the basic needs of the local people. One new initiative is the 'nutrition house' which offers help to around 30 malnourished children, aged between six months and three years, living in the favela (shanty town). Some areas of Natal have up to 90 per cent illiteracy and 20 to 40 per cent is common. In an effort to combat this, Margaret has followed in the footsteps of BMS colleague Maria Dyer by completing an adult literacy course. Together they hope to promote this course and get local people trained up to teach others.

Please pray:

- For ongoing supplies to keep the nutrition house running
- That plans to help some of the many illiterate people in the area will come to fruition
- For wisdom for Margaret in knowing how best to support the churches and local people she works with, and for the churches themselves in knowing what outreach schemes to run

**Ryder and Heather Rogers:
Bregu-i-Lumit, Albania**



Ryder and Heather are church workers in the village of Bregu-i-Lumit, just outside Tirana. They have been very encouraged by conversations with local people about Jesus and the Christian faith whilst performing door-to-door visits. Most people in Albania are nominally Muslim and within families the women are often forced to stay at home, their lives controlled by male family members. Heather and two other women from the church visited Aurela, a young woman who was at home alone with her baby daughter. By the time the three had shared their stories of faith

with her, Aurela was eager to welcome Jesus as her saviour. "Maybe you would like to think things through and we'll come back a few days later," they said. "No," she replied, "I want to give my life to Jesus now." So she did just that. Two weeks later, after other Christians had visited her, Heather returned to Aurela's home. The great grandmother was sick and expected to die so Heather went to see if she could pray for her. Aurela was there, joining in the prayer, her face radiant. "Stay a bit longer and say some more," she said. Aurela is one of many in Bregu-i-Lumit who may never be allowed by their family to go to church but are living the life of Jesus in their own homes. They need all the visits and encouragement from fellow Christians they can get.



overseas because they do not perceive it as 'real' mission. "I'm just so glad BMS is a bit more forward thinking and does send teachers whenever possible," she says. Another problem is that KISC's Principal was not granted a new visa and so was unable to return to Nepal from home assignment. Grace has agreed to take up the post and begins her new role in August. KISC's Principal is not the only person to have not had his visa renewed - many people who have faithfully served in Nepal for many years are feeling a huge sense of loss and disorientation as they are forced to rethink their futures.

was able to see the first power supplied to the national grid from that project. Iain is now almost completely recovered from his medical emergency of last year when he was rushed to hospital in Singapore with complications following a back operation. Karen says, "He has no back pain though still has a numb area in his lower leg and foot. That may or may not go with time. Medically, though on paper there should have been ongoing difficulties, Iain has no remaining problems at all. Even now doctors and other friends are amazed at the fact.



But then, on paper, Iain shouldn't be with us at all... new life, granted by the grace of God, many prayers and superb medical treatment." Following Iain's illness, Karen has decided she would like to do a return to nursing course and the couple are in discussions with BMS about their future.

Please pray:

- 1 Give thanks to God that he is reaching into the lives of people in Bregu-i-Lumit, despite the cultural difficulties
- 1 For wisdom amongst Bregu's Christians in knowing how to support people like Aurela without causing conflict within families
- 1 For strength and health for Ryder and Heather

Please pray:

- 1 For Grace as she lays aside the Geography teaching she loves so much and takes on the extra responsibilities of Principal. Pray God would give her confidence and wisdom for this new role
- 1 For those unable to continue working in Nepal, that God would guide each to a new role

**Grace Penney:
Kathmandu, Nepal**



Grace has been a geography teacher at the Kathmandu International Study Centre (KISC) for six years. The staffing situation at KISC is quite difficult at the moment. Grace says that many of KISC's partner missions do not consider it a priority to send teachers

**Iain and Karen Gordon:
Kathmandu, Nepal**



The Gordon family recently returned from Nepal after almost seven years of service there. The timing was perfect in many ways as Iain has been working with the Khimti I Hydropower Project and just before their return to the UK, he

Please pray:

- 1 Give thanks for the Khimti I Hydropower Project and pray that it will enter full commercial production on schedule in July
- 1 Give thanks for Iain's miraculous recovery and restoration to his family
- 1 Pray for God's guidance as Iain and Karen seek his will for their future roles



Below: Pedro Marques, Luanda, Angola
Opposite: Children in Luanda

BMS personnel introduce some friends and acquaintances whom they meet from day to day

PEOPLE WORLDWIDE



Pedro Marques, Luanda, Angola

Pedro is one of the nurses who works alongside me at the Baptist Church's health centre in Luanda. He was born in the countryside in the north of Angola, but grew up in Zaire as one of the thousands of BaKongo refugees who fled the Angolan war of independence and the ensuing civil war.

Pedro qualified as a nurse before returning to Angola in 1990. Since then, he has undertaken further studies in Uganda and Kenya to specialise in community health. He joined the church's health team in 1997.

Married to Maria, Pedro is 35 years old and has three children aged seven, five and two. To help make ends meet, Maria works at Luanda's biggest market five days a week where she is one of over 3,000 stall holders. The family live in a simple concrete-block house which has three bedrooms, a living room and a

kitchen. Like most families in Luanda, they currently have several relatives staying with them as the war situation means that it is too dangerous to stay out in the provinces. There were 13 in total at the last count, with Pedro and Maria sleeping in one bedroom, the other men and boys in the second one, and the women and girls in the third. It is a tight squeeze but in Angolan culture it would be unthinkable to turn relatives away.

Both of Pedro's grandfathers were amongst the first Angolan Baptist ministers, and Pedro himself became a Christian in 1982. He serves as a deacon in his local church.

It is also a pleasure to work alongside Pedro as he is invariably cheerful. Despite walking with a limp because of the painful arthritis that has afflicted him for many years, he is always ready with a smile and a word of

encouragement. When asked how he manages to do this, he replies, "We may have many problems, but we can overcome them because we have Jesus. Knowing him is the most important thing."

Pedro has a keen mind, speaking an incredible 14 languages. He currently attends night school five times a week to learn computing and would like to have the opportunity to take a Masters degree in Development Studies. He says that God has given him the desire to return to the provinces as a community health worker, teaching villagers basic health and hygiene. Pedro longs to see a lasting peace in Angola and sees the importance of preparing himself to play his part in the future rebuilding of his land.

From Simon Collins, BMS medical worker in Angola

People Wanted

Could this be you?

Physiotherapist

Nepal (INF)

Needed to help in the Physiotherapy Department of the Western Regional Hospital. Opportunities also for teaching trainees from other hospitals and taking part in the National Physiotherapy Training Programme under the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training. Qualifications required: Qualified physiotherapist with two years experience in medical, surgical and orthopaedic physiotherapy.

Ministers

Albania

Ministers or ministerial couples needed for general church work. Many new exciting opportunities for church planting; discipling new Christians; identifying and working with future church leaders. To work within cities, towns or rural settings. Each minister, after completing language and orientation, would be working on his/her own but would be part of an overall ministry team working within the country. Opportunities for both experienced and recently qualified ministers.

GP Trainer

North Africa

Christian development organisation seeks experienced GP trainer to work with the government health services to develop the quality of GP performance and in-service training in a North African context. The job will also include supporting the development of the local church.

Senior Accountant

Nepal (UMN)

Experienced financial manager required with a recognised professional qualification, eg Chartered Account, Certified Public Accountant or equivalent. The position involves wide responsibilities including the UMN accounting systems (computerised and manual) and financial management.

Primary/Pre-school Teachers

Nepal (UMN)

Experienced professional teachers are needed for small groups of five to eleven year old missionary children of several nationalities. Required to teach all subjects at primary/elementary level, in English.

General Director

North Africa

Christian development organisation is seeking to appoint a General Director to lead an international team engaged in various development activities. Appointment will be in early 2001 for an initial five year term. Fluency in French preferred, but time for language acquisition will be given.

Lebanon

Experienced pre-school teacher required to teach in English language in Baptist school in Beirut.

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.

New personnel

Justine Horsfall

No stranger to BMS, Justine was a member of the 1998/99 Albania Action Team and also led the Task Force Team that supported Kosovan refugees in Albania in the summer of 1999. Justine is a member of Scapegoat Hill Baptist Church, Huddersfield. Following a period of training and cultural studies at IMC, Birmingham, she is expected to undertake administration and church work in Kosovo.



Elizabeth Dickinson

Beth, a member of Ivy Cottage Evangelical Church, Manchester, is a nurse,



currently working at Christie Hospital, Manchester. It is hoped she will use her nursing skills in Bangladesh, working with an emphasis on community health care, mother and child welfare and family planning as well as more general out-patient type clinic work. Beth is expected to begin a period of training at IMC, on 1 September.

Alison Burge

A member of Longfleet Baptist Church, Poole, Dorset, Alison is a staff nurse, currently working in the Intensive and Coronary Care Units at Poole General Hospital. It is likely she will work in Nepal.



Andrea and Ian Froment

Andrea and Ian are both members of Owton Manor Baptist Church, Hartlepool. They have two children aged four and nine months. Ian and Andrea have been accepted for service subject to a suitable location being found that specifically matches their gifts.



Baptist House News

Welcome to:

Sarah Baker

Sarah is supporting the growing number of BMS volunteers as Volunteer Programme Administrator. Prior to this she worked as a teacher of Religious Studies and has spent short periods of time overseas in missionary service. She is passionate about anything to do with Latin America and says, "if anyone likes a peculiar Argentine drink called Mate, let me know!"

Liz Russell

Liz joins us on 1 August as Regional Secretary for Asia, initially based in the UK. Previously Liz was South and East Asia Regional Manager with the Church Mission Society. She studied English Literature at Aberdeen University and has worked in China with the Amity Foundation.

Janet Quarry

Janet has taken over the role of Manager for Mission Personnel, succeeding Joy Knapman who retired in April. Previously Janet was the Career Personnel Co-ordinator for Latin Link where she worked for six years.

Pam Robinson

Pam has joined the Finance and Administration team as

secretary, having previously worked at Morland Brewery. Her newest hobby is gardening which she says she is still learning. Pam attends a church in Abingdon.

Farewell to Joy Knapman

Joy first went to Calcutta as a BMS missionary in 1960.

She spent 19 years in India, mostly in the BMS Calcutta office. She

returned to the UK in 1979 and started a new career as a social worker, returning to work with BMS as Regional Representative for Asia in 1988. Based in Sri Lanka, she travelled many thousands of miles. In 1998 Joy returned to the UK to take up the post of Director for Missionaries, then stood aside from that a year later in the new Department for World Mission when she became Manager for Mission Personnel. At the final General Committee meeting she attended, Joy thanked everyone for "the privilege of being able to serve with BMS." She added, "India will always have a special place in my heart and I am grateful for all I've been the privilege of doing."



BMS Relief Fund Grants

Venezuela	£1,260
Flood relief	
Ingushetia	£42,000
Weekly food parcels for 2,500 families in refugee camps	
Chechnya	£6,800
Emergency aid within the city of Grozny	
Orissa	£11,300
To part fund a community health project after the cyclone of October 1999	
Mozambique	£35,000
Further grant for relief food and medicines for those affected by the flooding.	



Contacting John Smith

John Smith, Co-ordinator for Central and Eastern England, has moved to: 9 Hollidays Road, Bluntisham, Huntingdon,

PE28 3LP, Tel 01487 741003. His email address remains the same at jsmith@bms.org.uk

Signs and Blunders

What a difference a few letters make!

The congregation found it hard not to smile during a sermon which had as its theme "Os Caminhos de Deus", "The Ways of God". What the missionary actually repeated during the entire message was "Os Caminhões de Deus", "The Lorries of God."

One BMS missionary gave an earnest lecture to his students on "The Pact (pacto) of the Baptist churches". Unfortunately what he actually said was "The Duck (pato) of the Baptist churches."

Then there was one missionary, who was a little deaf, who told me after a church meeting he had returned from, that a member had been excluded from the church for hitting a nun (freira). Finding this hard to believe, I enquired later of one of the church members, who explained to me that the member had been excluded for getting into a fight in the market (feira).

From Derek Purnard, BMS Regional Secretary for Latin America & the Caribbean

"I have just told a taxi driver that I am 'el meseeha', instead of 'meseehie', that is not a Christian, but rather the Messiah. He didn't bat an eye!"

From Gordon McBain, BMS worker in North Africa

Church Notice in Nepal

"As a number of shoes have gone missing from outside the church in recent weeks, you are advised, if your shoes are expensive, to bring a bag, put the shoes into the bag, and bring them inside the church during the service."

From David and Cath McLellan. David is BMS Manager for Mission Partnerships, and formerly with BMS in Nepal.

"After only two weeks in Albania, with no language, I went into a shop to buy some meat. Seeing something wrapped, right quantity and recognisable, I pointed to the package. The shopkeeper picked it up, I nodded, and he put it back on the shelf. I pointed again and the same thing happened. After the third time I leaned over, grabbed it from his hand and offered my money. He looked slightly puzzled but shrugged his shoulders. Funny foreigner, I could see him thinking. Relating this afterwards, I learned that nodding meant 'no' and shaking meant 'yes'. It takes a little getting used to."

From Gill Jones, former BMS worker in Albania

Check Out July/August 2000

July 2000

Arrivals

Ann and David MacFarlane from Barletta, Italy
 Adrian and Sylvia Hopkins from Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo
 John Mellor from Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo
 Chris and Geoff Bland from Bangkok, Thailand
 Philip and Rosemary Halliday from Massy, France

Departures

None

August 2000

Arrivals

John and Valerie Furnage from Paraná, Brazil

Departures

Ann and Gordon McBain to North Africa
 Sarah Hall to North Africa
 Sylvie Bonsor to North Africa
 Philip and Rosemary Halliday to Massy, France
 Mark and Suzana Greenwood to Fortaleza, Brazil

world mission link



Mission in the Millennium

A 'Mission in the Millennium' exhibition was held at North Road Baptist Church, Milford Haven earlier this year. BMS Co-ordinator, Nick Bradshaw, spoke on the work of a Missionary Secretary and BMS worker, Gwen Hunter, was guest speaker. BMS Volunteers in Kosovo, Clem and Elaine Mason, and Peter and Valerie Harwood, personnel working in Nepal, were also interviewed. £157 was sent to BMS as a result of this day. Well done!

Congratulations Muriel!

Muriel Iredale has been a great fan of the BMS Birthday Scheme for as long as she can remember, and she is now well in her 90s.

She was recently presented with a BMS Certificate for her service to the BMS Birthday Scheme as Birthday Scheme Secretary by John Allen, the minister of her church (Lockwood Road Baptist Church, Huddersfield) along with Margaret Harper, Leader of the Young Church and Molly Stell, Church Treasurer.

Muriel was first a BMS Birthday Scheme Secretary at Rehoboth Chapel, which then later merged with Lockwood Road Baptist Church. She attended Rehoboth with her parents, and has served the Lord in various ways in her life including Sunday school teaching, and supporting missionary work.

Today she is mostly housebound, but still has a prayer ministry within her home, in which she prays regularly for missionaries.

If you would like to know more about the BMS Birthday Scheme, please fill in the coupon on page 35.



Women's Missionary Auxiliary Wales Annual Bilingual Conference

Pantycelyn Hall, Aberystwyth
5 - 8 September 2000
Theme:

Changing Times - Unchanging Mission
Cost: £92

Registration Forms from
Mrs Pauline J Edwards, 8 Ynyswerdd, Penllergaer,
Swansea, SA4 1AR
Tel 01792 893477

March On!

Centenary Baptist Church, March, Cambridgeshire, used the opportunity of their 300th anniversary celebrations to raise money and awareness for BMS.

March Baptist Church are also celebrating in that members Alan and Megan Barker, along with their children Carl, Rhys and Gemma will soon be going to work in Nepal with BMS. They say: "Though we are sad to lose such valuable workers here at Centenary, we know that our treasure is in their willingness to go and do God's will for them."





too good to keep to yourself

The other front line

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:
 - France**
 - Nepal**
 - Thailand**

- I would like to start receiving news/prayer letters from:
 - Gerry & Johan Myhill**
 - Caroline & Tim Trimble**

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**
 - Gift Aid**

Anything else, not mentioned above (please specify)

Name

Address

.....

..... Post Code

Please cut out whole page or photocopy and send to: Rob Vaines, BMS World Mission, PO Box 49, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 8XA

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progressive organisation

that is up-to-date and relevant
for the **21st century**.

We're restating our commitment
with **clarity, integrity,**
passion and **compassion**.

During the coming year this new
look will progressively affect all
communications from BMS to
churches, individual supporters
and the Christian community.

It will bring **clarity** and
recognition to our work
in **world mission**.

**For further information on our commitment
to be in places of greatest spiritual
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Oxfordshire OX11 8XA

Telephone: 01235 517700

www.bms.org.uk

