

mb

people in mission
global issues
news & events

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2000 • £1.25 • with mission at heart

A photograph of a group of women and children looking out from a window with a metal grid. The women are dressed in traditional or patterned clothing. One woman in the foreground is wearing a red garment and large white hoop earrings. The children are also looking out with various expressions. The window frame is wooden and the grid is made of thin metal bars.

mission
priorities

The BMS Challenge

**"It was an
experience
of a lifetime.
It was a Challenge.**



**It was a nightmare.
It was enjoyable.**



**It was frightening.
It was brilliant.**



**could you
survive?**

**It was all these things
and more really."**

Jon Trotter, India Team

**Video now
available!**

BMS Action Teams
Making a world of difference



BMS World Mission, PO Box 49, 129 Broadway, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 8XA.

Tel: 01235 517654 Fax: 01235 517601

e-mail: actionteams@bms.org.uk Web site: www.bms.org.uk

registered charity no 233782

contents

Baptist Theological
Seminary Library
Prague
Czech Republic

RECEIVED mission priorities

26 -10- 2000

mb november december 2000

■ features

10 Five live

Five BMS personnel talk about their priorities in life

12 To boldly go

Why Europe is one of BMS's priorities

14 Where does prayer fit in?

Alan Pain talks with no holds barred

16 Setting the local church on fire

Is Shaun Lambert speaking literally?

18 When is a door not a door... ?

How does BMS decide when to say 'yes' to new work



10

■ regulars

9 Lee Bray's Diary

Concluding Lee's notes from his visit to Thailand

20 Our Town

Featuring Calcutta, India

24 BMS Summer Teams and Action Teams

"Go for it!"

26 Take 2

Resources for leaders

28 People, Projects, Prayer

Latest news and updates



12

□ credits

General Director
Managing Editor
Editor
Regular Contributors

Alistair Brown
Alistair Brown
Jan Kendall
Lee Bray, Alistair Brown, Steve Flashman, Jan Kendall, Dik Lapine,
Natalie Thorne, Vinoth Ramachandra

Design Editors
Director for Mission
Printed by

Pinnacle Creative
David Kerrigan (for enquiries about service)
Halcyon Print & Design, Heathfield, East Sussex

Subscriptions

From January 2001, World Mission magazine and BMS Prayer Guide,
available as a complete package @ £8.40 pa by direct mail only.
(Six issues of World Mission plus three of BMS Prayer Guide.)

The views and opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily
those of the BMS.

Address
Telephone
Fax
Web site
e-mail
e-mail
Registered charity no

PO Box 49 129 Broadway Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8XA
01235 517700
01235 517601
www.bms.org.uk
Editorial: magazine@bms.org.uk
Other departments: mail@bms.org.uk
233782



28

COVER PHOTO: John Passmore, BMS

mb (Missionary Herald) The magazine of BMS World Mission
© Copyright 2000 Baptist Missionary Society ISSN 0264-1372



I spent part of yesterday talking to some BMS World Mission supporters; it was part of a day of introducing them to all the wheels and cogs which spin and move to keep BMS at the forefront of mission. In the course of this session we looked at past Missionary Herald magazines; we chuckled over the small print (and, believe me, it was very small!), etched drawings and subscription lists of the magazines from the 1840s; and we marvelled that it was only four years ago that the magazine went from 50 per cent full colour, to full colour throughout. Yet for all this we had to say that throughout its life, the Missionary Herald or *mh* had always been contemporary for the time in which it appeared. Nowhere in history have changes occurred as rapidly as they are happening now. We may not like the fact that we never have the latest gismo, but we probably never will have. That's life, and change is not going to slow down. If anything, it will only accelerate. We will need to pedal faster and faster just to stand still. As in the past, but even more so now, we believe at BMS we need to be relevant to the age we live in; we need to have our finger on the pulse. You will be aware that over the course of this year we've introduced you to the exciting new look of BMS, and we've flagged up changes that will occur to the way we look and sound.

One of the most exciting of these changes is that from January 2001 your BMS mission magazine will have a new look and a new feel to it, and it will change its name to 'World Mission'. This, we feel, will state exactly what our business is; it will tie in with all the other new ways we're telling people who we are and will, we hope, encourage others in Baptist churches around Britain to be actively involved in this mission of love to a needy world. This is what it's going to look like:



Thanks for all you do in the task of world mission.

Looking forward to your continuing partnership in 2001 and beyond,

Jan



editorial editorial editorial editorial editorial editorial editorial editorial editorial editorial

WORLD



PA NEWS



Indonesia Forgotten by the world?

Tension is still high on the Indonesian island of Ambon, although actual fighting has ceased for the time being. As many as 500,000 Christians have been driven from their homes, and more than 2,500 have been killed by Muslim 'jihad' warriors, who have publicly declared they will push all Christians off the island or kill them.

The deadline of 31 July, when Laskar Jihad (Banner of Holy War) threatened to exterminate all Christians left in Ambon, has passed and there has not been wholesale slaughter.

Christians, however, are still fleeing to the mountains, flooding into refugee camps and clogging ports to wait for the few ships ferrying

refugees off the island.

The refugees are wet, hungry, inadequately clothed, suffering from all kinds of illnesses, and according to a Baptist pastor, "intimidated in their spirits". The refugee camps hold about 2,000 people, but have no food, water, clothing, medication or sewage facilities. Foreign aid workers have been forced to leave.

For those waiting for a ship – any ship – to leave Ambon, it is a dangerous time of year to be on the seas, with waves reaching 26 feet in height, and ships in constant danger.

Meanwhile the Indonesian government, reluctant to confront the extremists is refusing to allow international intervention. Elements of the Indonesian army are allegedly assisting the jihad warriors.

In Passo, a Christian town flooded with refugees, a missionary visitor received letters written by local school children to Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations. One letter read, "We children of Ambon are very frightened of the jihad soldiers and the army. They murder, loot, burn our homes and chase us away. They also rape the women they catch. The Lord

NEWS

has touched our hearts to beg the UN to come to Ambon. Help us, we are suffering terribly.”

Church leaders of all denominations in Ambon have expressed concern to the European Union and the United States, saying they feel the world is ignoring the crisis. Human rights organisations are calling for military intervention to stop the violence, and open an emergency humanitarian aid corridor. They are also urging the Indonesian government to allow an impartial investigation of the crisis by UN human rights observers.

(Baptist Press)

Kazakhstan Koreans put on Christian festival

In an unprecedented move to allow a gathering of Christians in this Muslim and former Communist nation, the Kazakh government granted permission for a Christian festival just two days before it was due to take place. Silk

Road 2000 was held in Almaty, the capital, a city of 1.5 million people; it comprised of five days of educational seminars, medical clinics, meetings and cultural events, culminating with 18,000 Christians joining together in worship in Almaty’s outdoor stadium. They sang “Shatahn! Shatahn! Shatahn, Kazakhstan!” which means “Shine, Kazakhstan”.

Silk Road 2000 was the brainchild of nine Korean young people, who, in 1998, travelled on a pilgrimage along the old Silk Road – a trade route linking China with the Mediterranean – from Istanbul to Ulaan Baatar in Mongolia. They met many ethnic groups and experienced first-hand the reality of their divisions and conflicts. As they travelled they wanted to listen to God, and as a result, they decided to host a large-scale festival in Kazakhstan, the



COMPASSION RADIO

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

Yemen

A man sentenced to death for converting from Islam to Christianity has finally been released. George Haji, 27, a refugee from Somalia, was reunited with his family in August, and they subsequently left for New Zealand – who accepted the family as refugees. Yemeni authorities had been reluctant to allow Haji and his family to go to New Zealand, “because they were afraid this would lead other refugees (in Yemen) to claim to convert to Christianity in order to get resettled in a Western Country”, a Middle East spokesman said. (Religion Today)

Kenya

A gang member who brutally attacked a pastor has become a Christian. Patrick Shikanda Lokhotio attacked Pastor Timothy Njoya with a wooden club outside the parliament building last year. Lokhotio asked forgiveness from Njoya and his congregation and Njoya publicly forgave him and asked the authorities to stop criminal proceedings against him. Lokhotio, who became a Christian at the beginning of the year, said he was ashamed of “beating up a man of God”. He had been a member of a youth gang. During his talk he introduced six members of the gang, who also pledged to mend their ways. About 100 other gang members have said they will come to church. (ENI)

Egypt

Persecution of Christians has surfaced again in Egypt, where one Christian has been killed, apparently for building a church, and another imprisoned for inciting a Muslim mob into a murderous frenzy. Building or renovating a church in Egypt requires special permission, which can take years to obtain. Such projects have often sparked violence between the Muslim majority and Christians who make up about six per cent of the population. (CDN)

Turkmenistan

The Turkmen authorities are still actively persecuting Protestant Christians both as congregations and as individuals. Repeated accounts have been given of police raids on worship services, confiscation of Bibles, pastors being told to stop holding religious gatherings, and reprisals against believers at their places of work or study. The Turkmen authorities deny any such practices. (Keston)

World

A second annual report by the US State Department on religious freedom concluded: “Much of the world’s population lives in countries in which the right to religious freedom is restricted or prohibited.” They singled out China which has seen a rise in religious repression over the past year, and Myanmar where the government is attempting to coerce Christians to convert to Buddhism. (CDN)

centre of Central Asia, for ethnic reconciliation and peace.

Christians from many countries attended, coming from Chechnya, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kurdistan, Uzbekistan, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey and the Ukraine. Others travelled from India, Pakistan, Nepal and Europe to take part. Two thousand Koreans flew in from Seoul. Many of them had leadership roles at the festival, and hundreds more took part in short-term mission projects throughout Central Asia after the festival.

The only Western leader to address the gathering was Luis Bush, International Director of 'AD 2000 and Beyond'. He saw Silk Road 2000 as a "watershed event". He commented that it had "the potential to launch a powerful evangelistic movement all across Central Asia and into Turkey."

Norm Nelson, a Western media representative, commented that evangelism was not the immediate object of Silk Road 2000. He said, "The primary objective was to demonstrate God's love for the people of Kazakhstan, and to bring Kazakhstan Christians together for support and encouragement." (Assist)

United States Church buys children new school shoes

One congregation in Dodge City, Kansas, is working hard to ensure that needy children of primary school age have a proper pair of shoes to go to school in.

The shoe ministry began as the congregation searched for innovative ways to have a



positive effect on children. The church office manager, Dee McKnight, said, "For a lot of families, shoes are generally an expensive item, and for some families it comes down to making a choice between shoes and school supplies because money is not available for both. Shoes and how they look are important to children, and we felt this was a good morale builder for children to have new shoes to go to school."

The church determines who should qualify for new shoes, by offering a voucher, worth \$25 to any child who already receives help with school lunches. Around 60 per cent of primary school age children in Dodge City schools qualify on this basis.

The church sends letters about the shoe ministry, in English and Spanish, to parents of children in the local school district. The parents have to fill out an application form and provide proof of children's ages and eligibility for free or assisted school lunches.

Six local businesses have agreements with the church to provide the shoe ministry. Vouchers are sent to the applicants, and the applicant presents the voucher for the shoes to the shop, who then invoices the church for payment.

The church received 800 requests this year, and raises the money to pay for the shoes through contributions from

its 1,200 members, and other local individuals and businesses.

It is hoped that the ministry will expand in the future to include students of secondary school age. (UMNS)

Sudan Slave trade revival

In August United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan briefly suspended all UN relief flights into the south after bombs narrowly missed grounded aircraft belonging to relief agencies, thus increasing the risk of starvation for tens of thousands of innocent Sudanese people.

But the civil war in Sudan has revealed another ugly aspect: a revival in the slave trade. Arab militias, armed by the northern government, raid southern villages and abduct women and children to use as forced labour.

Former slaves gave harrowing accounts of rape, murder and brutality.

Kabissa Ayak, 28, told of how she was caught in a

surprise attack. Her husband and child were killed in front of her. "One of my sons, aged one and a half, was taken and pounded to death (in a cereal grinder) before my eyes. When I saw this, they wanted to kill me too. I took some clothing and bound it around my stomach to try to stop myself weeping." Kabissa said she was stabbed in the thigh and kept in constant hunger. She remained in slavery for four years. During that time she was raped and made to give birth among the cattle where she slept. She had to deliver the child on her own. "It was as if they were playing with an animal, not a human being," she said. "I called the baby 'Mam', which means 'Suffering'". Eventually she escaped.

Another former slave, Madelina Nyajur, said she was beaten for refusing to convert to Islam. She was captured at the age of 15 on her way to school. She and 28 other children were forced to cultivate crops. If they worked slowly they were beaten with camel whips. Madelina said she was raped by a relative of her master and became pregnant. "I was afraid they would kill me, so I escaped".

Estimates say that as many as 100,000 Sudanese have been enslaved. Organisations such as UNICEF work to trace and return abducted children. Somewhat controversially,



Christian Solidarity Worldwide buys back slaves, and so far has purchased the freedom of some 25,000 people. (Newsroom)

Greece Religious affiliation dropped from ID cards



A government agency in Greece has ordered that religious adherence be removed from state identity cards, a requirement that has been seen by minority religions as contributing to religious discrimination.

For years religious affiliation on the Greek ID cards has reportedly been one of the most sensitive issues between the socialist government and the Orthodox church.

Greek Orthodox leaders have expressed the fear that the removal of the religious label was the first step in a process of separation of church and state, and with it, the weakening of the church's long-held power in this country where 97 per cent of its citizens are listed as Orthodox.

Orthodox Church spokesman, Metropolitan Theoklitos, said: "Orthodoxy is an indivisible part of our identity and we want it written on the identity cards."

However Thomas Karbonis, director of the evangelical radio station,

Channel 2000, agreed with parliament's decision. "I personally don't mind writing my religion on my ID," he said, "but it is a matter of principle. I have known nurses who could not find a job because they were not Orthodox. People affiliated to a minority religion have also been put under police surveillance."

Greece was the only European nation that previously required its citizens to declare their religious beliefs, and one of the few with state identity cards.

The 1998 report of the Helsinki International Federation for Human Rights indicated Greece continues to discriminate against all non-Orthodox churches. Recent court cases before the European Court of Human Rights have called on the Greek government to grant greater freedoms to religious minorities. (EBPS)

Australia Students lead 500 to Christ

Students from a Brisbane Bible College have been making short excursions into Australia's outback, and as a result, around 500 people, most of them teenagers, have made professions of faith in Christ this year.

A spokesman for the college, Mark Badham, said the students were "on fire for God". Making one week, two-week, and month-long visits to rural areas the 140 students are reaching communities throughout Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales. They preach at churches, hold evangelistic outreaches, and talk with students, he said.

On a visit to Yeppoon, a

Alistair Brown



Reflects....

It's a beautiful lake. Placid water surrounded by gorgeous hills, with the awesome daily miracle of a God-painted crimson sky mirrored on the surface as the sun sets.

But wonderful though it is, there's a sense in which this lake shouldn't be there. The tops of dead trees breaking the surface of the water is a sign that this Lake Khao Laem in western Thailand wasn't there as recently as 16 years ago. It's the product of a hydro-electric scheme, with a dam, about 75 km from Sangklaburi. Village, which had existed there for generations, had to be abandoned. Now there's a new lake and power for a large section of Thailand's population. This is progress.

But is 'progress' always worth it? This example probably isn't so bad. New homes were found for villagers. But round the world the insatiable appetites of modern technology and economics don't always treat people or the environment well. Villagers can be shifted to inhospitable, infertile regions. Land and rivers can be polluted. Animal and bird life can be poisoned. Where nuclear power goes wrong the damage can last almost for ever.

Condemning the developers is easy. But every house ever built, including mine, wiped out a piece of land once free to grow flowers and feed birds. And the energy that gives us light or heat, or the machinery that makes our furniture and computers, or the manufacture of even our processed food, all these use fossil fuels or destroy forests or generate effluent or pour out greenhouse gases to destroy the ozone layer.

God provided this world for our well-being. Using it isn't wrong but abusing it is. When we exploit, without thought, to present or future generations we diminish the gift of this world to all God's creation. And that's not progress.

Lake Khao Laem is beautiful and for that reason I'm glad it was built. But beauty alone doesn't justify its creation. Nor does the desire of my generation to have more and more of everything we want legitimise other less attractive developments. God's children need to be asking what's right for the whole of God's creation and if that means we have to get by with less, so be it. ●



Alistair Brown is General Director of BMS

Queensland coastal town, the team spent two weeks at a secondary school, teaching Christian history and answering questions on spiritual matters, and as a result 250 people came to faith. Whole classes of students became Christians,

and Badham added, "young people were seen praying for each other in the school".

He told of one 15-year-old boy with a ponytail and pierced eyebrows. The boy gave up alcohol and drugs, and now reads the Bible daily. He asked his father, "Dad,



PA NEWS



Bernadette Muholland, who invited the Bible college students to come, is having a greater impact on students and teachers. Both the mayor of Yeppoon and police officers said the services had had a dramatic impact on the young people and expressed their support.

A core group of 40 to 45 young people now meet regularly at Muholland's home for Bible study, and several have asked her to baptise them at the beach. (Religion Today)

you taught me how to pray when I was younger – how come you don't still pray?"

The school principal, Rob Stone, has said that the atmosphere at the school has changed for the better. Behaviour has improved, and the school chaplain,

Gift Aid

Give through
Gift Aid and we
can claim almost a
third back in tax on
your donation

enabling you to give more

For more details call
the **BMS World Mission**
donations hotline on
01235 517641

Vinoth Ramachandra

Self-reliance or Inter-Dependency?

Is financial self-reliance on the part of churches really a Christian value? It seems hard to justify from the biblical writings, where the exchange of resources between individuals and local churches are often the visible expressions of true community. Paul's collection from the Gentile churches for the church in Jerusalem was not only intended to meet a real need, but also to demonstrate the reconciliation of Gentiles and Jews in the body of Christ.

Paul's concern was for a "fair balance" (2 Cor 8:13,14, NRSV), and the first-century Mediterranean churches that he moved among were far less unequal in income and resources than the global Church of today. As long as massive disparities in wealth exist, the insistence on self-support will be seen by the poor as a defence of the status quo. There are forms of dependency on the part of the rich that we rarely talk about in our churches. For instance, the net flow of capital in today's world is from the poor to the rich nations. Even within nations the lifestyles of the well-to-do are often subsidised by the less affluent.

Our concern in mission should not be self-support in itself, but rather the use of money to control, dominate or suppress local initiative. But there are ways of giving that are healthy, and ways of receiving that do not breed unhealthy forms of dependency. An example of the latter would be where a church makes no attempt to encourage its members to contribute to their work, because it is assumed that there will always be someone abroad to help. An example of responsible giving would be to give to projects that a church (not the giver) has identified as priority, and to check later whether the gift has indeed been used for the stated purpose. Money, whether its lack or its abuse, should not be an obstacle to mission. ●

Vinoth Ramachandra is South Asia Regional Secretary of IFES



Lee Bray's diary



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

Tuesday 2

Today we fly on to Thailand. As we board the plane, everything is suddenly comfort and smart sophistication. We get a pre-booked taxi to take us to the Christian Guest House in the city. We check in, then stroll out to find somewhere to eat. After the repression of Muslim Bangladesh the anything-goes Buddhist culture of Thailand slaps us in the face. We find the nearest decent looking restaurant and dive in. The food is good.

Wednesday 3

The whole day is given to travel. Finally met by Angus and Carol MacNeill and driven to their home.

Thursday 4

Woken at 6am by dawn chorus. We set off early for the River Kwai Christian Hospital to take part in the morning service. We collect a few passengers en route, until the car is brimful. A small boy sits on my lap - still, silent and poorly. At Huey Malai the hospital has been relocated from its original site beneath the waters of a reservoir. We visit the under-5s clinic where babies are being weighed, measured, checked - organised pandemonium.



Friday 5

Today promises to be a real highlight of our trip - we are travelling to Pilokkhi village, only accessible by boat and/or on foot. We have little idea of what to expect, but Carol says it is one of her favourite places. After a couple of hours drive we arrive near the shores of a vast, man-made lake where we are met by four local pastors who will travel with us to join in the weekend of teaching and seminars. Together we make our way down to the water's edge and clamber into a long narrow boat. Before getting into the boat, according to Thai custom, we remove our shoes. At the other side, one-and-a-half hours later, there is a welcome party to meet us. They have a small two-wheeled tractor and cart to carry our bags. It is only two or three km to Pilokkhi, but in the heat it takes us another hour and a half to walk the distance. Our bags get there more quickly, accompanied by the tractor driver and a group of excited, laughing children. Pilokkhi rises up the hill from the waterside. Pastor David and his wife, Lady, have left their home in Sangklaburi to come and plant a church here. That church is now the centre of community life in the village. David and Lady's home is charming. We are served a fine meal - meat, pumpkin, noodles, rice - seated on the floor around a low circular table. In Thailand we are given cutlery but no chairs. In Bangladesh there were chairs but no cutlery! Above us there is a small fluorescent light connected to a small car battery! That evening there is a service in the church building. It is positively western in design, almost Lutheran. It has a tower and inside are a raised platform with pulpit, rows of chairs and a gallery. (More surprising are the electric lights, ceiling fans, PA system, and overhead projector. Where does the electricity come from? There are no power lines to be seen.) First of all the children come to the front and sing. They are utterly charming, and I am completely won over by them. Then it is the turn of the choir, before Angus and Carol begin the weekend's teaching. After an hour or two we walk back to the house beneath a canopy of brilliant stars. No wonder this is one of Carol's favourite places.



To be continued next issue

“We felt that we didn’t want to get to 50 and wish that we had taken more risks and trusted God more, rather than getting stuck in a suburban rut.”



KM & RM are Katie & Reuben Martin. They have been working in Croatia since January 1999. They are from Leigh Road Baptist Church, Leigh on Sea.

five live

Five people talk to **Jan Kendall** about their priorities in life

JK: What were you doing five years ago?

K & SH: Leading very normal lives. We were busy with friends, setting up a home, church responsibilities and were both enjoying our teaching jobs.

JH: I was working at the Yorkshire Bank in Elland, near Halifax. I had been there five years, slowly progressing my way through the job scale.

RM: I was working as a policeman in the Essex coastal resort of Basildon!

KM: I was a Geography teacher in Leicestershire.

JK: What are you doing now?

JH: In January 2001 I will go to Kosova and work with a Christian organisation called Love in Action. They have been involved with

humanitarian aid but the Director is a Christian, who is also involved in establishing Baptist churches/groups, so I will help with the administration and be involved with the new Christian groups.

K & SH: We have just completed our first term with BMS in Nepal. We have been living in a remote Nepali village with no electricity, phone, plumbing or other foreigners nearby. We have been working in the local primary school’s training teachers and trying to do anything we can to improve the quality of education, which is pretty dire at times.

KM & RM: We’re church planting in Croatia.

JK: What brought the change about?

K & SH: The change came to us as a niggling doubt that turned into a more concrete feeling that we wanted

to ‘do something’ with our lives. God spoke to us through this feeling; he ‘unsettled us’ and gave us a push.

RM: Very simply God wanted me to do a different job. I believe that he called me to pastoral ministry, so I studied at Spurgeon’s College in London whilst exploring pastoral opportunities outside of the UK with the BMS.

KM: I had always tried to be a witness to Jesus wherever I was living in the UK. However, I was also interested in the world outside the UK and thought that someday I would like the experience of working as a Christian in another country. I decided to complete my first two years of teaching and asked God to show me where he wanted me to be after that. Before the two years were over I had met and married Reuben and together we began to explore opportunities with the BMS. Our general call to work overseas



JH is Justine Horsfall. Justine is from Scapegoat Hill Baptist Church, Huddersfield. She was part of the Albania Action Team (1998-99), and also the Albania Response Team (1999).



K & SH are Kate & Simon Harry. Both teachers, and members of Redhill Baptist Church, Worcester. They went with BMS to Nepal in 1999.

became very specific when the possibilities of working in Croatia were discussed. We knew that this is where God wanted us to go.

JK: What was the single most important factor in this process of change?

KM: Getting my attitude to my possessions and my career sorted out. I had to trust God. I said, "If you ask me to be without my car, or my salary, I will because it's yours and I know you will enable me to cope. If you ask me to go to Mongolia tomorrow I will, because my life is yours and I trust you to care for me. If you want me to stay where I am, I will do that too, because that will be your loving plan for me too." Once I had arrived at the place of complete surrender, I could begin to listen to what God would really have me do in the next stage in life.

JH: Taking the initial step just to find out more about mission was not easy. It meant facing family, church and friends and leaving a SECURE job.

Many people asked me why I wanted to do that. It felt like opposition at the time and that was hard, but it was THAT step which enabled God to show the way and me to continue.

K & SH: We felt that we didn't want to get to 50 and wish that we had taken more risks and trusted God more, rather than getting stuck in a suburban rut.

JK: What do you think God is saying to the people in the area where you are now working?

K & SH: There are no Christians or churches in the valley where we have been living. It is a very traditional Hindu area steeped in customs and the caste system. We believe he is saying that Christians are OK and that our God is a God of love. He is also saying to women, children and low caste people that they are just as valued by him as the Brahmin men.

K & RM: Croatia is a Catholic

country. 90 per cent of the population is Catholic yet only 15 per cent actually go anywhere near church. As with many other European countries, most people hold only a nominal faith in God. Yet God wants people in Croatia to know him and to have a personal living relationship with him.

JK: How would you say God is working through what you're doing?

JH: God is using both the Albanian and Kosovan Christians to speak to their own people and I think that is the key. I see my role only to help them and support them in any way I can, through God's strength.

K & SH: People are open to talk about different beliefs and we've had some promising conversations. The people are also aware that we treat each other differently, that men and women are equal and that marriage is a partnership. We also hope that Christian values such as truth and honesty, equality and love have been shown through the work there. There are glimmers of hope in the classrooms too, and children are getting a much better deal at school. To see children having fun in classes rather than being afraid is worth everything and is definite evidence God is at work! ●

To boldly go

Why the continent of **Europe** is one of **BMS's** priorities

for nearly 1,000 years since the death and resurrection of Jesus the countries of Europe were the last and only refuge for Christianity. Muslim invasions largely eradicated Christianity in the Middle East, where it had first been born, and outreach to Africa and Asia was prevented by an encircling Muslim presence.

It was not until the Reformation in Europe in the 16th century that the Church was revitalised and eventually had a vision to take the gospel to the whole world.

But the statistics on this continent for today make sobering reading. Whilst Europe is still a major missionary 'sending' force, the people left behind are increasingly in dire need of knowing the power of the gospel in

their lives. A recent report indicated the declining influence of European Christianity from 42 per cent of the World Church in 1970, to a projected 21 per cent by 2025. In contrast, Africa will move from ten per cent in 1970 to 24 per cent, and Asia from nine per cent to 20 per cent in those same years.

"Why does BMS bother to work in Europe?" is a question that is frequently asked. This has been partly answered already. For those living in a country with a Christian heritage, fewer and fewer are regular worshippers in a church and most 'Christians' don't have a meaningful link with the Church. And there are others, especially from eastern Europe, who have lived in countries with a background of another religion or no religion at all.

BMS works in partnership in Europe, as elsewhere, with other Christian (and mainly Baptist) organisations, and works in a country or area only because of a specific invitation to do so. As Andrew North, BMS Regional Secretary for Europe says, "We're going where the opportunities are!"

The newest region in Europe that BMS works in is Kosova. Ethnic cleansing in 1999 opened doors for work here, and soon Baptists had established a church in an old driving school in Pristina, the capital. Mere months later BMS has played a strategic part in the opening of two more churches in Gjakova and Gllogoc in the Drenica region, the former stronghold of the KLA. This hasn't happened without a struggle,

Below left: Italy
Below right: Italy



and there has been what Andrew North describes as “significant opposition”. Muslim agencies from Turkey and the Arab Emirate states are eager to move into the area themselves, to remind people of their Muslim roots.

Croatia is also a new country of operation for BMS. After a year or so of language study, BMS workers Reuben and Katie Martin have moved to the historic, medieval city of Dubrovnik – a place of 50,000 people and little evangelical witness at all. Recently at a youth camp, 23 people made commitments to Christ. The Croatian Baptist Union welcomed a BMS Action Team for the first time this autumn.

Albania, once declared the world’s only officially atheist country by

dictator Enver Hoxha, now has 14 BMS personnel working there, and three more about to join them. BMS Action Teams have gone to Albania most years since the scheme started, and BMS is working on developing its volunteer programme in that country.

BMS also works in Italy, France, Belgium, Portugal and Hungary, all of them countries with a low number of evangelical Christians. Two BMS couples work in different parts of Italy, along with a Nigerian evangelist, T T Martins, employed by the Italian Baptist Union (IBU). This year nine new churches have applied to join the IBU, all of them from non-Italian backgrounds.

In France BMS personnel work in church situations. John and Sue Wilson have returned to France after a year’s break. They are church planting in Lyon, the second largest city in France, but with only one Baptist church.

In Belgium BMS will be supporting four more pastoral couples as well as Samuel Verhaeghe, the General Secretary of the Belgian Baptist Union. These couples will be located in strategic towns.

It’s not an easy option, working in Europe. It’s a continent still

dominated by secularism and humanism. In a world where nothing is certain any more it is offensive to many to present them with the unchanging claims of Christ. But Europeans need to meet the risen Christ just as much as anyone else in the world. And to introduce the real Jesus to those they meet is exactly what the 41 full-time BMS personnel working in Europe are seeking to do. ●



Top right: Church in Croatia
Far right: Pristina Church – Kosova
Below: Eiffel Tower
Bottom right: Portugal – City Square



where does prayer fit in?



Alan Pain talks about shifting principalities and powers

What did Jesus achieve by dying on a cross, and what are we to make of his final words, “It is finished”? Are they a dying acceptance of ultimate failure or, paradoxically, a dramatic cry of victory?

Paul seems to be in little doubt. Using some of the most exciting descriptive language of the New Testament, he paints a graphic picture: “Having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.” One conclusion waiting to be drawn from this daring reflection is that our task is not to shift the principalities and powers. It is so to live and so to pray that they know they are already shifted – decisively and inescapably. The death of Jesus completed the work of his ministry.

“So many of us pray because we are driven by need rather than kindled by grace. Our prayer is a cry rather than a hymn. It asks for strength rather than exerts it. How different was the prayer of Christ. It was less his duty than his joy. It was by his prayer that he countered and foiled the godless power in the world.” P T Forsyth, 1916

I’m tempted to continue at length but my assigned title requires me to relate this central feature of the gospel to mission in general and to prayer in particular.

Aylward Shorter, a Roman Catholic writer with

considerable experience of mission in Africa, argues that three things are essential to evangelisation: proclamation, praxis (reflection combined with action) and prayer. I welcome Shorter’s persuasive insistence on prayer as vital to mission. “Just as prayer is the heart of worship, it is also the starting point for all evangelization... The process of evangelization is not owned or directed by Christians, but by God... Evangelization is unthinkable without prayer, and inseparable from prayer.”

“Our pressing need is of more missionaries... Will each of you at once raise your heart to God and spend one minute in earnest prayer that God will raise up, this year, 18 who are suitable to devote themselves to this work.”
“And the 18 who were asked of God began to come.”

Hudson Taylor, appealing for China, 1875

I need to say more about praying with an understanding of our struggle against the powers and with the confidence that they have been disarmed, but I want first to challenge the separation which has arisen between our private and our public life. We find it much easier to sing “Jesus is Lord” than to tackle a comprehensive application of this bold assertion of his authority. Lesslie Newbigin wrote: “Christianity in its Protestant form has largely accepted relegation to the private sector... By doing so, it has secured



for itself a continuing place, at the cost of surrendering the crucial field.” In other words, we may win some local skirmishes with the powers but that should not blind us to our disappearance from major battlefields. My point is that the emphases of our BMS mission statement are ideal for the launch of a counter-offensive accompanied throughout by appropriate prayer.

“I want to get to needy people and train disciples, and see Indians come into the kingdom.”

Pete Fleming, one of five American missionaries killed by Auca Indians (Ecuador), 1956.

Two questions spring to mind: Where do the principalities and powers operate? How do we pray against them?

In response to the first question, I believe the principalities and powers (of darkness) are at work:

- In oppressive structures which inflict immense pain and suffering on those who are powerless to assert themselves.
- In social evils that can prove costly to confront.
- In a human bias to sin which makes people selfish, aggressive and manipulative.
- In our failure to live so much in the grace of God that we achieve our full potential for Christ.

In response to the second question:

- Pray with the defiance of your baptismal assurance - Jesus is Lord.
- Pray consistently for those in missionary service who wrestle in unfamiliar cultures with the activity of the powers.
- Pray actively for the freedom of those who face poverty, squalor, disease, abuse and prejudice. Light candles instead of cursing the darkness.
- Pray for the safety of our children.

- Pray that you will make your unique contribution to the mission of Jesus Christ, without reference to your ambition or your location.

“Pete had prayed that God would turn the Ecuadorian jungle into a ‘proving ground’ in which the world could watch God act in response to our faith. He never saw the answer to his prayer. But I did, along with hundreds of thousands of people around the world.”

Olive Fleming-Liefeld, Pete’s widow, 1990.

In conclusion, “Thy kingdom come” belongs to a glorious missionary prayer. Its scope runs from Jerusalem, through Judea and Samaria to the ends of the earth. That is to say, it may start on your doorstep but it will move you and your church to pursue the demanding mission priority of prayer. You will be burdened for communities and for people who are special to you, and your praying will reflect both the heart and the achievement of God. ●

Four times a year, there is a major BMS prayer day, imaginatively planned and presented. It uses central venues, and people come to pray who are eager to play their part in strategic mission. They tackle big issues: advance into new areas; encounter with other faiths; situations of special need; the plight and the potential of suffering people, and all sorts of emergency requests.

Alan Pain, 2000. Or am I dreaming?

Alan Pain is Director of BMS International Mission Centre

Setting the local church **on fire**



Shaun Lambert speaks out from a Baptist minister's perspective

the church exists for mission as a fire exists for burning, wrote Emil Brunner, the noted Swiss theologian. I want to set the church on fire! Not literally (although it's an old building), but so that it exists for mission.

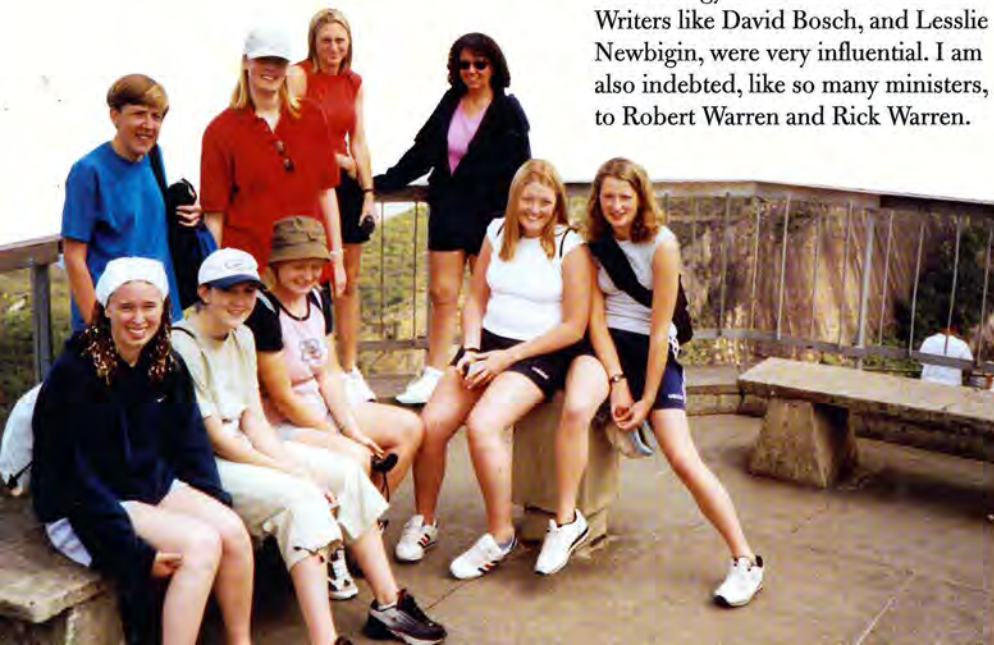
It's interesting, ask individual Christians, 'do you possess the mind of Christ?', they will say, 'no', or 'not yet'. Ask a local church if they are missionary-minded, and they will often say, 'yes!' And yet to be missionary-minded is to possess the mind of Christ, and no church can claim that, let alone an individual. That means the local church, as well

as individuals, are on a journey of transformation and renewal of mind. To be Christ-minded is to be missionary-minded. There is a tendency for all churches to become little Christian islands, just looking to maintain their own existence. A lot of energy is required for a spaceship to break out of the gravitational pull of the earth, and a local church needs a lot of energy to break out of the gravitational pull of being maintenance-minded. Part of the expression of being a missionary-minded church is to be a sending church, whether home or overseas. The strategy I believe in, to become a sending church, is one of building a strong local church. So I believe in getting the 'home fires' burning, not for maintenance purposes, but to enable the church to reach out, but also because 'home' is a missionary field.

Whilst at Spurgeon's Bible College I did a Master's degree in Christian Doctrine which included a module on the theology of mission since 1945. Writers like David Bosch, and Lesslie Newbigin, were very influential. I am also indebted, like so many ministers, to Robert Warren and Rick Warren.

The mission of the church I want Stanmore to focus on has five missionary dimensions: worship, discipleship, fellowship, evangelism and ministry (coming out of the Great Commandment and the Great Commission). Within the dimension of ministry outreach, there would be an emphasis on missions, defined as fulfilling the five purposes of the church in a different culture to our own. With the church leadership I am working on setting up action groups for each of the five missionary dimensions. We already have a missionary council who act as an action group for missions.

A congregational survey under the auspices of Christian Schwarz's *Natural Church Development* project, revealed worship as a key area of development. Theologically I also believe that worship (including prayer), and discipleship (through teaching), provide the energy required to break out of maintenance-thinking, releasing the church into evangelism, ministry, fellowship and missions. The way I am trying to develop that force and foundation for the church's life, includes investing in both the building and in people. In architecture, form should follow function, and the form of our building (a multi-purpose hall), does not assist the function of worship. I would like to see us with a building in which we can pray and worship seven days a week, not just one. Martin Heijne of bch architects has recently presented a feasibility study which majors on the building of a separate worship area. We are also looking to appoint a Music and



Left: Short term mission from Stanmore Baptist Church.

Worship Director. That's part of the strategy for building a strong local church, but we are also building a discipleship programme around Alpha. This year, using material put together by Rick Warren, we are running three discipleship courses, of four weeks duration each, with a meal. These focus on spiritual maturity, discovering gifts, and individual's life mission at home, at work and in the church.

The goals we are looking at include targets to double the size of the church over the next ten years (currently 120 members), and to send five career missionaries whether home or overseas, in the next ten years, in partnership with mission agencies. We are also looking to run three to five short-term missions to other countries in the next ten years. This year we are sending a team of 12 to Brazil, to work with an orphanage in Recife. As a church we currently give away about 20 per cent of our income to missionary work, and I would like to see that increase to 30 per cent over the next ten years.

So I don't see the church's missionary activity as calling individuals into the church as a waiting room for the hereafter. But I do want it to be a place where people are called in to belong, to become, and to be sent out in partnership with others. ●

Shaun Lambert is Senior Minister of Stanmore Baptist Church, Middlesex.

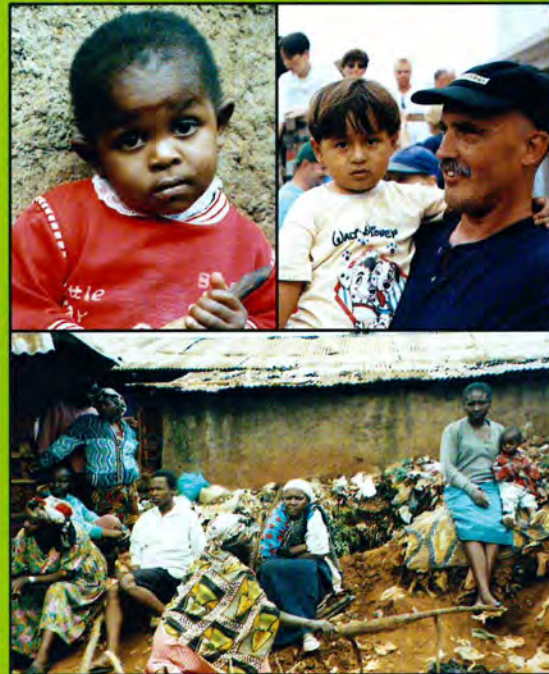


Stanmore Baptist Church, Middlesex.



“There is a tendency for all churches to become little Christian islands, just looking to maintain their own existence.”

Owning half the World



I was struck sometime ago by the startling newspaper headline “358 Billionaires Own half the World”. These people would include the Sultan of Brunei and Bill Gates who have made their fortunes from various business interests. The power brokers of the world focus on money and fame as the two main ingredients that bring popularity, prestige and influence.

The rapid growth of lotteries worldwide and the genesis of ‘reality TV’ programmes like ‘Big Brother’ are ample illustrations of the importance given to these ingredients. Without the money and the fame, your life is meaningless. The ‘Big Brother’ format placed ten people, for nine weeks, in one house with 26 cameras following their every move, 24 hours a day. It was possible to see what any individual was doing via a live webcam link over the Internet! Fame and money was at stake because each week the general public voted on who should leave the house and the one who was left won £70,000.

In terms of responsible Christian giving, the prime focus of our stewardship is in honouring God through the things he has entrusted to us. Living in the context of a ‘money and fame’ culture can easily corrupt our approach to giving, which is why Jesus speaks about the most effective way to give being generously and in private, the opposite to our contemporary culture extremes!

Perhaps it is time for us to rediscover God's economic principles of Jubilee which are recorded for us in Isaiah 61 and reinforced by Jesus in his manifesto speech Luke 4:18-19.

It can't be right that in an age where mission work often struggles financially, we live in comparative luxury. Owning half the resources of the world may make a great headline, but the real owner will hold us all to account one day! ●

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



steve



When is a door not a door... ?



How does BMS decide when to say “yes”, and when to say “no”?

the door opens and a man rushes through. It shuts behind him. He can't turn back – he has to go on. He rushes across the stage, tries another door. That, too, is now locked. Then he jumps out the window. Minutes later a woman walks through the previously locked door, with great ease. It wasn't a problem. One minute it was locked; the next it wasn't.

A theatrical farce? Well, it could be. But equally representative of the world as a stage, and BMS as one of the players. Sometimes the doors are open. Sometimes they're shut. How does BMS decide which doors to go through? And when to go? Do we jump, or are we pushed?

What happens when we have to make choices and decisions about where to work? After all, BMS's resources are not a bottomless pit; they do have limits!

On average BMS receives one request a week for help with an individual project somewhere in the world. Less frequently we receive an invitation to explore working in another country. How does BMS decide when to say “yes”, and when to say “no”?

Sometimes doors just seem to open at opportune moments. It was in this way that it was possible for David Quinney Mee to go to El Salvador in 1988. Sometimes doors open after major political changes, the most obvious example being when Albania opened up after the fall of

communism. BMS sent its first workers, Chris and Mairi Burnett to Albania in 1992, and today there are 15 personnel there, plus two in training, as well as a constant stream of Action Teams and BMS volunteers.

The door of Kosova opened as a spin-off from working in Albania. We could not do anything other than minister to the deep needs of the Kosovan refugees in the light of their huge suffering. We demonstrated we weren't "hit and run" merchants, but were "in for the long haul", and as a direct result of this care and concern, we are now sending Justine Horsfall, our first long-term worker to Kosova in the new year.

But there are times when we make deliberate decisions to open new doors. Our work in South Central Asia and North Africa was the result of a deliberate decision to refocus our resources on unreached parts of the world. Our recent decision to partner the work in Lebanon was because we saw the strategic importance of a country within the Arab world where there was liberty to train Christian leaders from other countries in the region.

Of course, there are times when we want to go through a door, but it shuts on us, and we could be either side of it. It could be the door of war, as in Congo in 1991, when we had to evacuate 32 personnel swiftly, or Sierra Leone when we had to take Helen Johnston out in 1994. Sometimes the closing door is simply that governments are less amenable to having missionaries working there and that means a decrease in the number of available visas, which is the case in Bangladesh and India. Sometimes the door shuts because the work has been done, and there is no further need for missionaries from abroad, except, perhaps, very specialised ones, to work there. Up to the 1960s a lot of missionaries went to South Korea; now it is one of the most evangelised countries on earth. Similarly, in 1998, BMS made the decision to begin to close the work in Brazil; others are better able to continue the work.

Of course it may not fully shut; it may only be partially closed. It is true that in most South American countries they don't need any help with evangelism, but they might welcome expertise in ministerial training or social care – things they've not got to grips with before.

There are also 'virtual' shut doors; that is to say the door is open, but no one is willing to go through it. It's actually very hard to recruit willing workers for certain parts of the

world like impoverished Bangladesh or war-torn Angola. In the first 40 years that BMS was in central Africa, 61 people died. Would today's generation enter missionary service with the same sacrificial spirit?

Shut doors can in themselves become opportunities for work elsewhere. The work in China was cut short in 1951, and as a direct result the work in Brazil began. Now that 'season' is coming to a close too. Where it's not been right to send personnel from the UK, we've regrouped and begun to use national Christians, who come with greater impact, prepared for the culture they're working in.

So the drama unfolds, as the speed of change increases and the doors open and shut at a whim. Prayerfully we seek guidance from God as to where we should be, and what we should be doing. But we rejoice that God is in control of his world; that he is never wasteful, and his economy of timing and his use of people's skills, abilities and availability is second to none. ●



Damage in Kosova

Roman remains in North Africa

Life goes on in Albania



Congo, where 32 personnel had to leave swiftly in 1991



North Africa

Calcutta

A series edited by **Jan Kendall** that looks at towns and cities around the world where BMS personnel are working by **Sarah Wood** and **David Foster**



Calcutta, and added to what were already huge social and overcrowding problems. By the 1980s centralised planning and public works programmes had helped improve social and economic conditions in the city.

First Impressions

Calcutta is a vibrant city with so much going on. Everything about it seems manic, but so natural to the locals. Having arrived at Dum Dum airport, we were whisked off on a 15km drive into the heart of the city. Straight away the pollution hit us: an inviting smog-cloud hovers at head-level. It makes London in the summer seem clean! We also got our first taste of Indian driving – there's certainly no Green Cross Code here! Budding Michael Schummachers zoom around with their hand constantly on the horn – apparently attached. Then there's avoiding the three pick-pockets on the bus who tried hard but failed; arguing with many a taxi driver, and fitting nine

Introduction

Calcutta is the capital of West Bengal, which borders Bangladesh. It is located on the eastern bank of the Hooghly River, an arm of the Ganges, about 96 miles upstream from its mouth at the head of the Bay of Bengal. This river port is the most important urban centre of eastern India.

The river bank is low, swampy, and humid, and therefore not ideal for human habitation. The land slopes away to marshes both to the east and the west, so most usable land is a strip three to five miles wide on either bank, though

reclamation projects have expanded the limits of usable land.

History

In 1690, Job Charnock, an agent for the British East India Company, leased the villages of Sutanati, Gobindpore and Kalikata (Calcutta) and formed a trading post to supply his company. It was here that British entrepreneurs began what would amount to the conquest of India; it was the capital of British India from 1772 to 1912.

After partition in 1947 four million refugees from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) flocked to

people in an auto-rickshaw, which comfortably seats three.

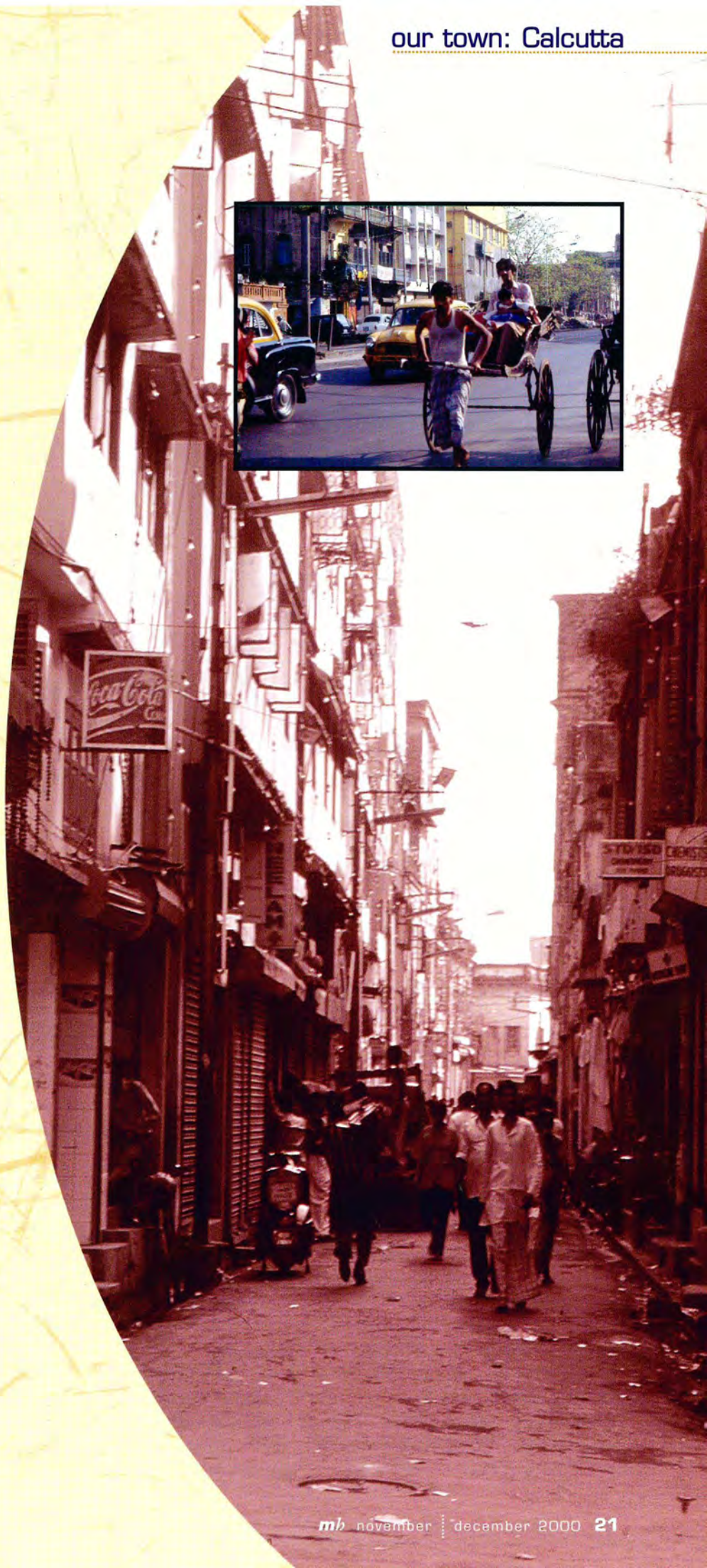
Overcrowding is a problem here and every street is bustling with activity. People getting on with everyday lives. The smells of street food intermingled with rather more unpleasant aromas from drains and piles of rubbish. Rickshaw pullers trying to offer you a ride. Dogs – not in the best state – doze and walk around aimlessly. Cows nibble on the mountainous refuse piles. And the best part; people coming up to you to shake your hand, say hello and practise their English.

The poverty is quite striking here: for example, you constantly see people just lying on the pavements with young children huddled up close.

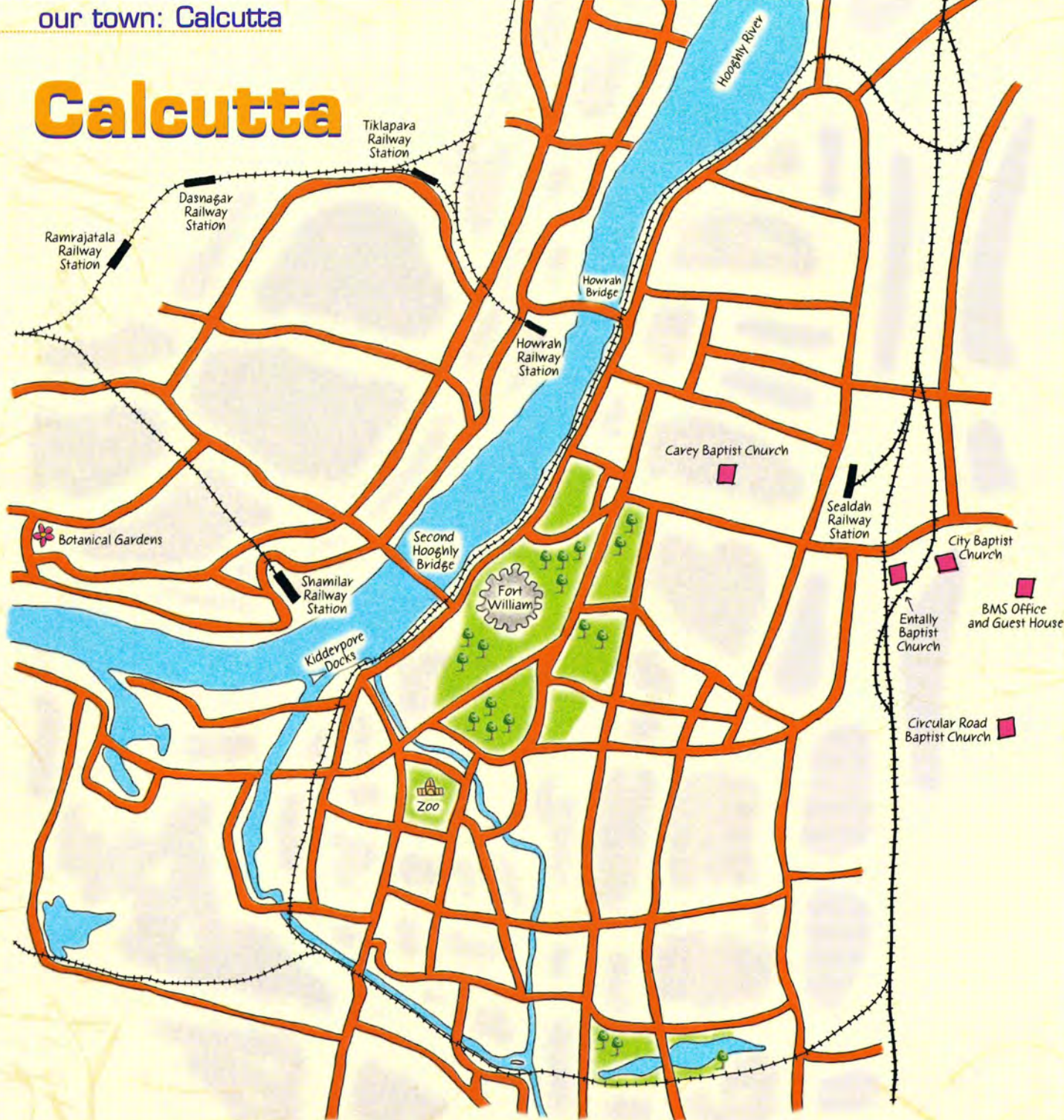
Day to day life

People are out and about in the city throughout the day. In the centre of the city, in Chowringhee and the enormous maze of New Market, you can find just about anything you can imagine on sale, including to our joy... a toilet roll! Coolies and traders follow you attempting to persuade you that they have exactly what you need! Del Boys try to part locals from their hard-earned cash and try even harder to con Westerners.

This is the area where cinemas show the latest Bollywood films to full houses every night. The singing, laughing, cheering and booing, all part of seeing an Indian film, make the experience like no cinema in the UK! On the corners of each street a makeshift kitchen is set up selling a plate of curry and a cup of chi (Indian tea) for a couple of pence. Men and women also play the game of Carom on boards set up in the streets. A game where the aim is to get the draughts-like pieces into the four pockets by flicking them across the board. Generally, life in a city like Calcutta takes place on the streets, where people work, eat, play, and sleep.



Calcutta



People

The population density is extremely high – about 85,500 people per square mile. Calcutta has experienced a high rate of population growth for more than a century but events such as the partitioning of Bengal in 1947 and war in Bangladesh in the early 1970s have contributed to massive influxes of population. Calcutta has large refugee colonies, and a large number of migrants from other states who've come here in search of work.

Calcutta is a cosmopolitan city, and apart from Bengalis, there are people from Asia, Europe, North America and Australia.

Over 80 per cent of the population are Hindus, along with Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists.

Economy

Calcutta is an economic centre rooted in industry, financial and trading activities. It is also a centre for printing, publishing and newspaper circulation.

Calcutta is the world's largest processor of jute.

The people are very enterprising and will try and sell tourists anything for a living. People own market stalls selling everything conceivable.

Some people will work in the leather factory just outside the city, which can be smelt!

Some of the poorest people work as human rickshaw pullers and children as rag pickers on rubbish heaps. Some of the children we worked with carried



water and made paper packets to earn a little money to survive.

Social aspects

Population: Core City 9,925,891
Urban Agglomeration 11,021,915

- Calcutta has big social problems of drugs and homelessness. Drugs derived from plants are very easily available and cheap. Heroin, also known as 'Brown Sugar', is cheaper than a bar of chocolate on the streets. The Calcutta Samaritans run a day centre for drug addicts giving them a place to go, counselling and the chance to go on a detoxification programme. They also go into the community, exchanging dirty needles for clean ones.

- There probably is a lack of doctors in the city or people just can't afford to go to one.
- People begging are found in the street, young children, women with babies, lame men; some of these cases will be genuine, others are organised begging rackets and will focus on tourists, following them up the streets.
- A third of the city's population live in slums called 'buskees'. These are defined as a collection of mud huts standing on a plot of land of at least one sixth of an acre.

Transport

On arrival in the city of Calcutta, you can't but help notice the traffic! The density and variety is incredible: Taxis, buses, lorries, underground, tram, auto rickshaws, cycle rickshaws, mopeds, and then there's people spilling out off the pavements!

The most infamous form of transport for which Calcutta is known so well is the human drawn rickshaw. These are pulled by some of the poorest men in the



city, often rural immigrants from the state of Bihar. Most earn the equivalent of one or two pounds a day. Their health is generally poor, often working barefooted, and their life expectancy low. If the city council were to take these vehicles off the road there would be an employment crisis for the 20,000 who make a living in this way.

The Christian scene

Right in the centre of Calcutta is St Paul's Cathedral. A reminder, with the enormous Victoria Memorial, of Calcutta's colonial roots. Throughout the city many Indian Christians meet in churches which are built in the distinctive colonial style. For many years these had been overseen by missionaries. However, most of these churches now have their second or third Indian minister.

The church we attended while in Calcutta was run with the organisation we were working

with, Emmanuel Ministries (EM). We met in a large room in the house where EM worked from. Chairs were laid out for the service. The service was conducted in English with English and Bengali worship songs.

The room was full on Sunday mornings. The people attending worked for EM or were residents at the rehabilitation home for drug and alcohol addicts. Sometimes some of the street children came.

The most exciting Christian fellowship which we were able to join with was the Jeevan Jyoti fellowship, at the heart of the EM organisation. Overseen by Vijayan Pavamani, the fellowship is committed to reaching out to the many in need in the city. The pioneering social action which EM carries out witnesses to the power of Christianity to make a difference to so many in the city. The fellowship contains many who in recovering from problem or addictions and, having been given a future, have come to know the difference God has made in their lives. EM embodies Jesus' teaching that "it is not the healthy who need a doctor but the sick" in its commitment to reach out to those in greatest need.

Mother Teresa and her work in Calcutta:

Mother Teresa's work in the city of Calcutta is known throughout the world. Her work originated from a small house next to the Kali temple, in which the Hindus worship the goddess of death, Kali, from which the name of the city is derived. From these small beginnings Mother Teresa was able to give support to some of the most destitute and ill in the city; giving many a place to die in peace. Today her organisation has spread far wider; schooling children and running orphanages being some examples. Volunteers from around the world assist the Sisters in their work, which although difficult is very worthwhile and desperately needed. ●

Doing God's work... by mending leaky roofs

This year's Prague Summer Team explain

Volunteer work overseas doesn't have to be for years of our lives. One of the schemes run by BMS World Mission is Summer Teams, in which people over 17 can go out to do God's work for a much shorter period. And as the members of this year's Prague team found out, the work they do is also not always along the lines they expected!

The International Baptist Theological Seminary (IBTS) is based right in the middle of Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. IBTS was founded in 1949, but only recently moved to its current location. It is a base for theological education for students from all over the world and from over 60 different nationalities.

It was here that a team of four (Alison, Jackie, Jessica, and Jonathan) went for three weeks in July. One of the team members, Jackie, said, "I knew I didn't want to go on holiday with my friends as usual and have always had an interest in doing volunteer work overseas, so I asked my pastor for advice and he put me on to BMS, where I found out about the Summer Teams programme."

The group arrived in Prague and were at first very apprehensive about what they saw.

"We were all expecting a very run-down building with lots to do, but the first impression was that everything was

up and running perfectly. I started to wonder if I had interpreted what God was saying to me wrong!"

But their apprehensions were soon dispelled when the work started. Firstly, there was the leaky porch to mend, then the walls of a classroom to be painted, and then the children's playground to be built! Jonathan is a builder/woodworker by trade, and his skills were invaluable. The work they did allowed the organisation and its staff to carry on teaching and do the day-to-day running of the seminary, while the team got on with all those vital jobs that there is never time to do. The encouragement from the staff was immense.

"While we were working, people would come in constantly offering things like drinks and radios to help us along. They were all very thankful we were there. When we were doing the playground, the children would ask every morning if it was ready and would watch us while we built it."

Jackie intends to use the visit as a 'first step' to a longer-term project in the future after her university course is finished. She also intends to take a few more short-term voluntary trips every summer until that time comes.

This year 21 people went to Brazil or Prague as part of a BMS Summer Team. Next year, BMS is hoping to add more destinations to the list. ●

If you're interested in going on a BMS Summer Team please tick the box on page 35.

"The work they did allowed the organisation and its staff to carry on teaching and do the day-to-day running of the seminary"



When this year's returned Action Teams were asked for what advice they would give someone thinking about joining a **BMS Action Team**, they said...

"Go for it!"



"We have been amazed to see how the people respond to the gospel. We have had the opportunity to preach and share testimonies and have been amazed as we have witnessed many people turn to Christ through it."

(Lorraine Pratt, Nicaragua Team)

"It was a big thing for me to leave home and all my securities to go to Brazil, and I've learned a lot."

(Brazil Team member).

"This was an amazing experience. It took a little time to really understand the difficulties that people had to face in this country. There seemed very little hope for many Albanians at the time and I found it a great privilege to work and share with people the hope that we have as Christians."

(Jonathan Lochhead, Albania Team)

go for it – it will change your life and will be an experience you will never forget or regret."
(Albania Team)

"Do it, but it's not just a year out. There is so much more to it."
(Thailand Team)

"Do it, especially if you think you have no skills or special abilities to offer to God in overseas service... because that's precisely the sort of folks he wants!" (India Team)

"If you want to know God better, do it." (Bangladesh Team)

These young people felt their lives and outlooks had been radically changed by being part of a BMS Action Team. This gap year programme enables 18 to 25 year-olds to be on the cutting edge of overseas mission. You could be involved in

leading Bible studies, youth work, teaching people English, playing games with street children, practical maintenance of church buildings, and much, much more.

In the past young people have gone to far-flung places like Nepal, Thailand and Zimbabwe, as well as nearer to home places like France, Malta and Albania. The destinations vary from year to year, according to need.

Do you have what it takes? The list of required skills isn't long: you need to have a passion for God and a desire to know him more in a new and challenging situation; you'll want to share your faith, and have a flexibility to be trained and have a go at anything.

Action Teams start in September with one month of quality training; then it's overseas in a team of four for six months, working with BMS personnel or partners across the world, contributing to their work,

meeting local people and experiencing a new culture. You'll return to the UK in April, and then do a two month tour of UK churches, helping them in their work and sharing your experiences. ●

Want to find out more?

Call, write, or e-mail us at:

Action Teams, BMS World Mission, PO Box 49, 129 Broadway, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 8XA.

Tel 01235 517654

E-mail: actionteams@bms.org.uk

"Do it baby" (Thailand Team)

Identifying need

The UNDP publishes a Human Development Index (HDI) as a measure of development in different countries. It is based on three distinct components of longevity, education and income per head. It ranges from 0 to 1, with Sierra Leone (0.254) and Canada (0.932) marking the extremes (as of 1997).

A way of identifying spiritual need is to use the percentage of evangelical Christians in a country's population (PE). The source for this is the Operation World database.

This table shows the countries in the world with the greatest physical need combined with spiritual need.

Country	HDI	% evangelical Christian
Bangladesh	0.44	0.1
Benin	0.421	2
Bhutan	0.459	0.3
Burkina Faso	0.304	5
Cote d'Ivoire	0.422	5
Djibouti	0.412	0.04
Gambia	0.391	0.2
Guinea	0.398	0.5
Guinea Bissau	0.343	0.9
Laos	0.491	0.7
Mali	0.375	0.8
Mauritania	0.447	0
Nepal	0.463	0.6
Senegal	0.426	0.07
Sierra Leone	0.254	2
Sudan	0.475	3
Togo	0.469	2
Yemen	0.449	0.004



Ways to help your children have their own faith and personal relationship with God:

- 1 Take them with you to church and talk with them about the experience.
- 2 Let them know you have a personal relationship with God.
- 3 Encourage them to witness to their friends by explaining their personal relationship with God.
- 4 Teach them how to pray about their concerns.
- 5 Help them to be involved in their own ministry out of their own interests.
- 6 Help them to know people who have a deep relationship with God.
- 7 Allow them to express themselves fully in discussing what a specific Scripture passage means to them.
- 8 Encourage them to think for themselves.
- 9 Admit mistakes. Help children to understand the Christian life is a process and that Christians are not perfect.
- 10 Help them to determine what God wants them to do, rather than what parents or others want them to do.

(Baptist Press)

take 2

Charismatic Growth

Numbers of pentecostal and charismatic Christians (worldwide):

1900	900,000	
1970	72,000,000	
2000	523,700,000	(27.7% of all Christians)

If this growth continues it is estimated that the number will reach:

2025	811,500,000	(32.5% of all Christians)
------	-------------	---------------------------

The largest contributions to the figures are from:

Latin America	141,430,000
Asia	134,900,000
Africa	126,000,000

(Europe has 37,600,000 pentecostal and charismatic Christians).

(David Barrett's newest publication of "World Christian Encyclopaedia")

Comparison between France and the UK

	France	UK
Population	58 million	59 million
Income spent on food	17%	17%
Income spent on medicine	10%	2%
Pop. living in villages with less than 2,000	27%	12%
No of practising Muslims per evangelical	12	0.5
People who earn their living from the occult	70,000	20,000 (est)

(Christian Research Association)

book review

book reviews

BOOKS

Book Title:

Stop Check Go

Author:

Ditch Townsend

Publisher:

**Paternoster Publishing
(ISBN 1-85078-240-7)**

Reviewer:

**Julie Wilson, BMS
Manager for Volunteer
Development**

No of pages:

160

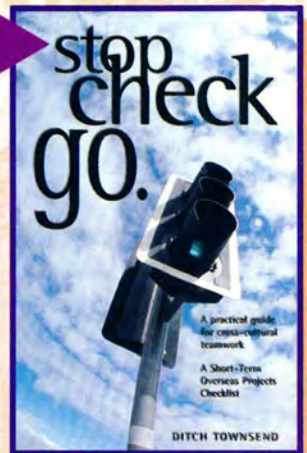
Price:

£6.99

In writing *Stop Check Go*, Dr 'Ditch' Townsend has drawn from his extensive experience of organising short-term mission trips for Tearfund to produce a concise manual for all those involved in this type of mission. It is, in effect, one large checklist for individuals and teams to work through and avoid sleepless nights of worry to ensure proper preparation. He has thought of everything from 'how to vote from overseas' to 'dealing with conflict in your mission team' and challenging questions about 'why go anyway?' There are spaces after each section so that you can use it as a workbook as you prepare... particularly handy if you are doing a book review!

The book also has chapters for organisers, team leaders and overseas hosts. This means that certain sections will be more relevant for some than others, and understandably there are one-liners on topics that are books in themselves. It does, however, serve the purpose of prompting your thinking and has useful signposting to further sources of information.

For those folk who like to have a good understanding of the big machine within which they are a cog, you will appreciate this helpful summary. As an organiser of short-term missions, I will certainly encourage those who desire to be well prepared and effective overseas to read this, and in turn expect them to keep me on my toes! ●





prayer



people

PROJECTS UPDATE

PRAYER FOCUS



Project: **Watch Your Language** **WOW project 2000**

This children's project is raising money for work in South Central Asia – a new part of the world for BMS to be working in. As the

title would suggest we have to be a bit careful exactly what we say about this country and the people involved.

However one example is in the isolated region of the Hazarajat mountains, where a medical programme is providing health care and teaching medical skills. The main areas of its work are:

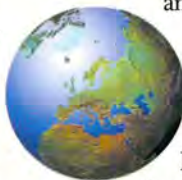
- 1 to help mothers and babies, especially women who need emergency midwifery services.
- 2 to give children vital vaccinations. So far 5,000 children under the age of four have been treated in 80 villages.
- 3 to educate people about hygiene and healthy living in a necessary step forward to improve their general health.

Money raised through Watch Your Language will help support this programme.

Although it might seem difficult to publicise a project when you have to 'watch your language', don't let this put you off from participating in this exciting project. There's still time to get to grips with it and support the WOW project 2000. Tick the coupon on page 35.

Graham Sansom: **Tirana, Albania**

For many missionaries, finally achieving the dream and answering



the call to serve God overseas is a great moment in their lives.

None more so than Baptist minister, Graham

Sansom, who has recently




started work for BMS in Tirana, Albania. Before he set off for Albania, he told of how he had sensed the calling to do God's work overseas for over four decades.

"For all those years, I have held before the Lord, an open hand, a sense of calling to serve him in other lands".

After completing his ministry on Easter Sunday this year, he set about moving to Birmingham to the BMS International Mission Centre (IMC) to begin training for his time in Albania. After months of preparation, he set off to start his new work for God on 26 August this year.



Please pray:

-  **That Graham will cope with missing the loved ones he has left behind.**
-  **For his home church, Wollaston, Northamptonshire, that it will find a new pastor swiftly and find comfort in the knowledge that Graham is where God wants him to be.**
-  **That the reality will be every bit as fulfilling as the dream for Graham.**



Andrew and Michelle Furber and family: **Leeds, UK**

Back in the UK, the Furber family are continuing their period of leave of absence from BMS in Leeds. The family are looking to go back to Nepal, where they completed a four-year long term of work with BMS last year.



At the moment, Andrew is looking into the possibility of a post working with HIV patients in Kathmandu. He is also celebrating after hearing he has passed all the exams he took in June, leaving him with a Masters in Public Health (MPH). In the time they have left in Leeds, they will continue to attend South Parade Baptist Church, where Michelle is involved with leading an under two's group.

Please pray

-  **That the preparations to return to Nepal will go smoothly.**
-  **For South Parade Baptist Church who will miss their input and attendance when they leave.**



**Rebecca Pearce:
 Surkhet, Nepal**

Rebecca has been in Nepal since early this year working within the Tuberculosis and Leprosy Project (TLP) of the International Nepal Fellowship. Although daily living is often hard, time seems to fly for her. "It's amazing how quickly the months go by!" Rebecca is presently living in the rural town of Surkhet in the mid-western region of Nepal with fellow BMS worker Julie Russell. The monsoon season made life very hard with heavy rain each day and humidity of approaching 100 per cent! "It was like living in a sauna and anything not aired would quickly become mouldy!" Rebecca has decided to stay in Surkhet and will be working on the management side of TLP, ensuring a high quality of diagnosis and treatment.



Please pray:

- 1** That Rebecca will cope well with the steep learning curve that ahead of her.
- 1** For the staff of the TLP centre in Surkhet, that they will continue to provide the best service they can.

**Phillip & Vivienne Hatton:
 Brussels, Belgium**

The Hatton family, who served previously with BMS in Congo, have been working in Belgium since the start of the year. They are based in Brussels and working with the Belgian Baptist Union (UBB) in a small church plant outreach post just outside the city centre. The church currently meets in the downstairs of a town building, which houses the Italian Evangelical Church above it. However, the 'upstairs church' is planning to move to another location, leaving the UBB with the whole building. Although this means a higher rent, it also means more space! Baptists have only very recently been recognised by the government in



Belgium, so even though there are churches in existence, they are few and far between and none of them use the two main languages of the city, French or Dutch. This makes the evangelical work of the Hattons very important. Working alongside a pastoral couple, they have

helped to identify what their church needs to do to attract a larger number of people. Their time also includes the setting up Bible study classes. But Phillip claims it is the children, Ruth and Christopher, who have the hardest job. For the first part of the year they were taking their lessons in French speaking schools. Thankfully, they were able to secure a place at the European school and started lessons there, in English, this September. It's been back to school for Vivienne and Phillip as well as they set about improving their French. They have both taken exams in the subject and are awaiting the results eagerly!

Please pray:

- 1** For Ruth and Christopher as they settle into their new school.
- 1** For those who are part of the fellowship and that they will continue the good work already started.



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

PEOPLE WORLDWIDE



Samuel Chakma, Bangladesh

Samuel Chakma is 19 years old and the son of an ex-leprosy patient. His father works as a cook in the Leprosy Hospital. He has two brothers; Shubimol aged 17 and Shukimol aged 15. I first met him when he was five years old and going to the primary school. At first he did fairly well at school, but gradually his results got poorer due to his ill health and he dropped out of school altogether. Samuel's family are Christians and all three brothers regularly attended Sunday school.

For several years I saw little of Samuel. Then in 1998, the Under Fives Clinic at Chandraghona needed a driver's help and Samuel was selected. He now has his driver's licence and is a faithful and reliable worker. The income he receives helps feed his parents and family.

Samuel and his family attend Chandraghona Leprosy Church and witness to Jesus Christ in their community. He is very grateful to God for an employment opportunity.

From Sue Headlam, former BMS worker in Bangladesh

Pastor Dobos Karoly, Hungary

Tamas the taxi driver offered to take me 25 km to Budapest Airport to try to get my luggage. We were there some hours, but Tamas wouldn't take any money.

"It's for Jesus", he said.

There was time for plenty of conversation.

"Tell me how you became a Christian", I asked.

"It was an old man of 97. He told me about Jesus."

"I think I know that man", I said. "It's Mr Dobos."

In fact, I don't know Mr Dobos all that well. I had met him two years ago at his church. We chatted in English and he invited me to a meeting at the Leprosy Mission. He walked off down the path, straight as a beanpole.

Mr Dobos had survived nearly a

century – a century marked by political oppression and extreme violence of one sort or another. He has just continued his steady walk as a Christian. He trained to be a pastor. Even a time in the States did not deflect him, nor, on his return, a posting as a youth worker with an almost non-existent salary. He started the Ukraine Leprosy Mission, but the communist government of the day said that the Ukraine didn't need any mission. Mr Dobos just continued, more quietly.

Mr Dobos, now 97, is still continuing. He is President of the Mission, and Tamas takes him to the meetings in his taxi. His son is now retired. Two of his grandchildren are pastors; two are teachers, working with young people in the church. I've recently met baby Lili, of the next generation.

When I have left Budapest and gone home with my luggage, the Dobos family will still be here, continuing their steady walk as Christians, still talking about Jesus to taxi drivers like Tamas.

From Stanley Hornsby, former BMS volunteer in Hungary.



Above: Stanley Hornsby with Mr Dobos



People Wanted

Could this be you?

Nepal (INF)

Gynaecologist Consultant/Trainer

Required to develop an INF programme of gynaecology services and training 'camps', reaching out from the referral centre into District Hospitals and possibly Health Posts. There is an opportunity for some part-time Obstetrics and Gynaecology consultancy in a base tertiary hospital, together with training of Medical Officers within the hospital. Qualifications required: MBBS plus MRCOG, plus at least two years relevant work experience. Laparoscopy and Family Planning experience preferred.

Cyprus (SAT-7)

Information Officer

Urgently required to research, write and distribute information relating to SAT-7 activities, prayer letters, newsletters, press releases etc. This person will also prepare and distribute promotional view graphs, promotional videos, brochures, manage the SAT-7 web site, manage the calendar for critical events, and funding applications, arrange conferences and hotel accommodation, escort visitors in Nicosia and the Middle East, facilitate Board meetings, distribute agendas and record minutes.

Bosnia

Co-ordinator

A volunteer co-ordinator to oversee the work of the Baptist churches in Sarajevo and the surrounding Balkan area is urgently needed. This is a key position, with the need to liaise with local pastors and other Christian organisations. A minimum offer of six months service

South Central Asia

Teachers for Expatriate Children

Qualified teachers are needed to teach small groups (four to 12 children) of primary aged expatriate children of varying nationalities. Teachers are needed for two to three-year terms. Required to teach all subjects at primary/elementary level.

Nepal (UMN)

General Subject Teachers

Teachers in General Subjects are needed for Kathmandu International Study Centre (KISC) which provides education for both mission and non-mission children aged 11 to 18 years. The children are from many different countries. The school is situated in the Kathmandu Valley and provides a vital support service to UMN and other mission families. Teachers of Geography, Computer Studies and Science/Biology are urgently needed, but applications from teachers of other disciplines are welcome.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Pastoral Worker

Required to work with the local church part-time, and do some part-time evangelism. Since the country has a civil war in progress, this position is suitable for single people or couples without children.

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.



Personnel news

Iain and Karen Gordon

Recently returned from being seconded by BMS to UMN in Nepal, BMS personnel Iain and Karen (and family) are now in Cyprus. Here Iain will take up the post of Chief Operating Officer for SAT-7, the TV broadcasting service for Christians of the Middle East, which is based in Cyprus. This post is currently held by BMS volunteer, John Rogers, and there will be a good period of handover before John and his wife, Jean, return to the UK next year.



Mark and Andrea Hotchkin

BMS doctors, Andrea and Mark Hotchkin, have had to return home to Yorkshire after having to leave the Republic of Guinea in West Africa, where they had been working, following outbreaks of fighting by rebel groups. Forty people, including a UN worker had been killed, and houses burnt. The Hotchkins are members of Wakefield Baptist Church, and are seconded by BMS to the Leprosy Mission at Macenta Hospital.



MBE for Ann!

BMS nurse, Ann Bothamley, has received an MBE for services to healthcare in India.

The award was presented by the British High Commissioner to India, Sir Robert Young, in a special ceremony in Vellore – the small town in India where Ann had worked for 31 years. He thanked her for her 'tireless' and 'selfless' efforts, as a nurse and hostel parent.



Ann did her nursing training in the UK and went to the Christian Medical Hospital in Vellore, India with BMS in 1967. Her work over the years has included being responsible for over 170 nurses, clerks and other staff and being in charge of the 180-bed private patient block called 'M' Ward. She has also set up a Coronary Care Unit and Bone Marrow Transplant Unit within the hospital. As well as her medical work, Ann took on the lengthy task of opening a hostel for children. Its aim was to provide a place where children could stay, accessible for school, and allowing their parents to continue to work at small mission hospitals throughout India. It thus gave a

secure home, and education for these children.

Although Ann retired in 1998, she still continues to live in Vellore, working with the children at the hostel.

Ann comments on the occasion: "It was quite special for the British High Commissioner to come all the way from Delhi to the small town of Vellore. (He) allowed a prayer to be said and for me to speak. Not quite what would have happened at the Palace!"

BMS video wins gold award

River of Life, the BMS World Mission video, released as part of this year's harvest resources has won the Christian Broadcasting Council's gold award as best Christian video.

BMS General Director, Alistair Brown, said, "I'm thrilled this harvest video has won the top award. It's a tribute to the vision of our team, and especially our producer, Katrina Lawson, who researched and filmed the work in Bangladesh so well. And I'm pleased the Christian Broadcasting Council has recognised a video with such an important message. Now I hope thousands watch it and identify with the needs of the people of the Rangamati Hill District. That's what matters most to us." The award is one better than last year's 'Streets Ahead' harvest video, which won a highly commended award in the Best Christian Video category. This was filmed in the favelas of São Paulo, Brazil.

world

mission link



Festival surpasses expectations

More than 5,000 people visited the Wye Valley Christian Festival held at Gorsley, near Ross-on-Wye over the August Bank Holiday period. As well as visiting the now famous Flower Festival, visitors were also able to browse around the many mission displays, including the BMS World Mission stand.

This year Ian Coffey led the morning Bible studies, and other people making guest appearances included singer Nia and fitness expert, Rosemary Conley. On the first day the organisers were expecting seven coaches and 18 turned up! Visitors came from as far afield as Birmingham, Bristol and South Wales.



River of Life revisited?

BMS worker Sue Headlam thought she had seen the last of travelling by water transport,



but she was wrong! Members of Dartmouth

Baptist Church arranged for Sue, who was their Link missionary, to enjoy a boat trip on the River Dart with them when she was making a visit to the Torbay area.

It wasn't all leisure for Sue – she spoke about her 25 years with BMS in Chandraghona, and organised a quiz on Bangladesh for the Dartmouth crew.

Everyone had a wonderful day, and £185 was collected for the BMS River of Life Harvest Appeal for Bangladesh.



Walking for famine relief

The boys from the 1st Fulham Boys' Brigade Company wanted to help those afflicted by famine in Ethiopia. They hit upon the idea of a sponsored walk around Bishop's Park in Fulham, encouraged by their Captain, Mark van Cuylenburg. On the day both Captain and officers, church members, families and friends, and, of course, the boys all joined the walk. They raised £250 for the BMS Relief Fund, which went towards the £10,000 grant given by BMS to the Mekane Yesus Ethiopian Evangelical Church to help provide food for famine victims.

Mission priorities

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:

- Croatia
- Europe
- Kosovo
- India
- Nepal

I would like to start receiving prayer letters from:

- Kate & Simon Harry
- Justine Horsfall
- Katie & Reuben Martin

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
- Summer Teams

GIVING TO BMS

I would like to give financially to BMS.

I would like to make a donation of £.....

(Please see Method of Payment box, right)

Please send me:

- Ways of Giving leaflet, which tells me all about the different ways I can give
- Information about the BMS Birthday Scheme
- Details of the BMS Relief Fund
- Gift Aid declaration form

PROJECTS

I would like to order:

- Watch your Language

Anything else, not mentioned above (please specify)

Name

Address

.....

..... Post Code

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

Registered charity no 233782 VAT registration no 232 5237 89

From January, the new **World Mission** magazine will continue to carry news and features of BMS work, and will give an exciting and challenging perspective on reaching the world with the love of God. A copy of **World Mission** magazine makes an excellent gift at only £8.40 per year. That's a £1.50 reduction on this year's price – and it comes with free Prayer Guide three times a year. Wonderful value!



If you want to order World Mission magazine for yourself, just fill in the payment details and your name and address in the coupon at the bottom of the page.

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

(Recipient's) Name.....
Address.....

..... Post Code.....

Starting with the:

- Jan Mar May Jul Sep Nov issue
(please tick your choice)

Method of payment

I enclose my cheque or postal order made payable to: **BMS**

or I wish to pay by* Mastercard Visa Delta Switch
(*Delete as appropriate)
and authorise you to debit my account with the purchase on this coupon.

Card no

Card expiry date /

Delta and Switch only: card issue no

valid from /

Signature.....

Daytime tel no (in case of query)

For office use only

Christmas cards

new

for
2000

CC21 Kings

Size: 118mm x 168mm
(one design)
£2.25 for 10



CC20 Christmas Trees

Size: 116mm x 116mm
(two designs)
(no verse)
£1.99 for 10



This Christmas support BMS and its work by buying BMS cards.

All cards contain a Christmas greeting and Christian verses unless otherwise stated.

CC18 Scenes of Bethlehem

Size: 145mm x 145mm
(two designs)
£2.25 for 8



CC17 Star and Dove

Exclusive to BMS
Size: 179mm x 79mm
(two designs)
£2.35 for 10



CC18W Scenes of Bethlehem (bilingual)

Size: 145mm x 145mm
(two designs)
(available in English/Welsh)
£2.50 for 8

To place your order please use the separate order form inside.



CC22 Welsh collage

Size: 145mm x 145mm
(one design)
(Welsh text)
£2.50 for 10



CC19 Fun Angel mixed pack

Size: 116mm x 116mm
(two designs)
£1.99 for 8

