

Missionary

# HERALD

The magazine of the Baptist Missionary Society.



**JANUARY 1977**

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# COMMENT

'It was always Carey's belief that the key to India's conversion lay in evangelism by Indians and he was convinced that a strong and able leadership would be the base to the growth of the Church.

Ever since its founder member worked to such a strategy the Baptist Missionary Society, in every place it has been privileged to work, has striven to build in Christ's name a church which would be self supporting, self propagating, and led by its own fully trained ministers. We have not succeeded to this aim in all our endeavours. There are some areas of the world where the church still looks to the expatriate missionary to be the spear-head of its evangelism and where the Society is urged to contribute large sums of money to the support of the national church programme.

It is encouraging, then, to learn of the achievements towards our basic aim, which have been realized in Mizoram, formerly known as the Lushai Hills — that district of India lying between Bangladesh and Burma.

The Secretary of the Mizoram Baptist Union is Dr C Lal Hminga, a man well known in this country. He began his education in our mission school at Serkawn and went on his own initiative to Shillong, the capital of Assam, where he matriculated. From there, again largely on his own initiative, he went to Serampore College to study for his BD degree. Later he came to England and read at Manchester University for his MA degree.

With the gradual withdrawal of missionaries the Church of Mizoram was feeling more and more the need for leadership such as Lal Hminga was able to give and, realizing that the Church in Mizoram had a part to play in the World Church situation, he accepted an invitation to Fuller Theological Seminary, California, where his researches brought him the award of a Doctorate.



Dr C Lal Hminga  
Secretary Mizoram Baptist Union  
*Photo: T Reeve*

He is able to guide the Mizo churches with competence and inspiration, and represent the Baptists of Eastern India in the highest church councils of the world.

Lal Hminga writes, 'I have often been asked what the West might learn from us, a younger church. Perhaps it would be, to leave time, for God, and with Him in fervent prayer. I have found that the strength of the young church in Mizoram is not in material prosperity but in its simple trust in God. I promise to enlist the prayer support of the Baptist churches of Mizoram on behalf of you, my friends, in Britain, and urge that you remember us. So let us continue to pray for one another till the Lord returns.'

# THE STONE THAT BECAME AN

by H W & B L Carter

Rev J H Lorrain in 1907 quoting, wrote: 'A child whose feeble strength has set a rock rolling down the mountain side stands still with wonder as he watches it plunge onwards with ever increasing momentum, at every bound loosening other rocks from their hold of centuries and compelling them to follow in its train, until eventually the air is filled with the rattle and roar of a miniature avalanche which nothing can stay until it has reached the valley below.'

And then continued: 'As I sit writing, my feelings are akin to those of that child on the mountain top who knows that although it was his small hand which started the rock on its grand career, a power infinitely greater than his own must be responsible for the results which he witnesses with such wonder.'

Rev J H Lorrain and Rev F W Savidge took the gospel to the people of a part of India then known as the South Lushai Hills. The two pioneers were rejoicing in the encouraging reception given by the Lushais to their message of salvation. But with the hindsight of nearly 70 years we know that the rock they dislodged did not 'reach the valley' during their life time. Moreover we would not term the avalanche a miniature one, for it still thunders on. The power greater than their own – the power of the Holy Spirit – which set the seal of God's blessing on their early labours and on the labours of those who followed them is still maintaining the amazing growth of His Kingdom in that land, now known as Mizoram, and also in neighbouring lands through the missionary zeal of the Mizo people.

## Only one school

When Lorrain and Savidge first arrived in the country in 1903 they took over the one existing primary school started by the British Government. There were 29 scholars, one of whom eventually became Rev Chuautera, the first ordained Mizo Baptist minister. He, with Rev Challiana and Rev Zathanga later made up the trio who were so invaluable in helping with the translation of the Bible into the Mizo language.

While Mr Lorrain gave himself mostly to evangelistic touring and fostering the infant churches, Mr Savidge was invited by the Government to take charge of the embryo educational system. For their part the Mizo people, intelligent, aspiring and determined then as now, soon realized the value of education. Requests from village chiefs for primary schools were many and persistent. When we inherited this work in 1930 there were 25 village primary schools and two middle schools, one for girls and one for boys, and the chiefs were still clamouring for more. At that time there was no high school in the country and for further education the young students had to leave home and attend high schools in far away Shillong or Calcutta.

## The leap forward

However, progress was made in quality if not in quantity. At the time of Independence the new Indian Government made available generous grants for educational advance and in a few years the number of primary schools soared dramatically to 150 and more middle schools were strategically placed in the larger villages. The teacher training scheme was also stepped up.



Rev F W Savidge and Rev J H Lorrain in Lushai dress

# AVALANCHE



**PRIMARY SCHOOL AT SERKAWN**

The school where Lal Hminga began his education  
*Photo: N McVicar*

By then the need for a high school was urgent, and when it was known that neither the Government nor the BMS had the resources to provide one, the Mizo public with their genius for self-help erected simple but adequate buildings of bamboo and thatch and staffed their Christian High School with well qualified young Mizo teachers who willingly accepted much lower salaries than they could have earned elsewhere. There are now several high schools and from them students are finding their way to colleges and universities in many parts of India to prepare themselves for service to their country and in many cases for full time Christian service of all kinds. There are now plenty of qualified young people fitted to become leaders among their own people in every walk of life.

The Church was not slow to understand that an educated Church membership would need an educated ordained ministry, and gradually more and more of its promising young pastors have been given the opportunity of further study at Serampore and other Indian theological colleges. In recent years a few have been granted leave for study at the highest level in Britain, Australia and America.

## Signs of growth

A final word must be said about the missionary outreach of the Mizo Baptists. The hallmarks of Christian education must be love for one's neighbours, an awareness of others' needs, and a desire to share with them all good things, especially the good news of the gospel. There has been no lack of volunteers to assume responsibility for this evangelistic, medical and educational work.

Mr Lorrain was right in believing that the small beginning he and Mr Savidge made in 1903 among people just weaned from the practice of head hunting would be blessed beyond what seemed possible at the time by that 'power infinitely greater than their own'. The Holy Spirit which called upon the Church at Antioch to designate Barnabas and Saul for missionary work is still saying to the Mizo Baptists, 'Set apart for me this person . . . and this one . . . and this one . . . for the work to which I have called them'. The gospel of Christ is still 'the power of God for salvation to every one who has faith', and we, like Mr Lorrain, can share the feelings of his imaginary child and gaze in awe and wonder at the outcome when the power of the Holy Spirit adds momentum to small beginnings.

# THE BAMBOO HOSPITAL

by Joan Smith

It is an October evening, the end of the monsoon period and, looking out over the range of hills, I can see the sun setting over Bangladesh.

All is quiet as I make my way back to our little hospital. How faithfully the bamboo walls have served over the years, taking many a battering from torrential rain and from the tail end of numerous cyclones which have so frequently hit our neighbours in Bangladesh. Through the dusk I can see the outline of our new reinforced concrete hospital which is under construction. The work is progressing very slowly, but everyone is looking forward to the time when the new building will be ready for use.

## The wood fire

On my way I pass the Nurses' Hostel, the foundation stone of which bears these words, 'I am come that they might have life, and have it in all its fulness,' an appropriate verse for Christian workers in a Christian hospital. As I get nearer to the hospital I can see a nurse checking that there will be sufficient wood to stoke the fire in the morning, for any sterilizing of bowls and instruments has to be done on an open fire, often very difficult to light in the rainy season!

As I enter the hospital I hear the crying of the babies for it is just five o'clock and they are ready for their evening feed. The hospital is very dim and dark at this time, just before the electricity comes on, and should a baby be born just now it has to be delivered by the light of little oil lamps held at all the necessary angles by eager junior students.



Sunset over Bangladesh

Photo: N McVicar

## The half-light

In the wards the nurses are on their evening round and, with only the help of these small lamps, give out medicines and somehow manage to record correctly the temperature, pulse and respiration on the patient's chart.

But suddenly the still of the evening is broken as the hum of the diesel generator is heard revving up. The electric light comes on, and now that everyone can see more clearly, the last minute jobs are completed quickly and the day staff hand over to the night nurses.

In the wards the nurses gather together with the patients who are able to get up for evening prayers. There is often someone who is ready to give their testimony or to speak about the blessings they have experienced while in hospital.

By seven o'clock the patients are beginning to settle down for the night when one of the three doctors comes in to see that all is well. By half past eight the noise of the generator dies away and the lights fade out to give place to the oil lamps once more and another day is at an end.

## The triumph of faith

In a side ward I can see Robuanga sleeping like the other patients, under a mosquito net. He is 25 years old, a school teacher, married, with a little daughter. He was brought to the hospital just a year ago after being involved in a jeep accident. His friend



Dr C L Hminga and Joan Smith

Photo: N McVicar



**Out-patients' Department Serkawn Hospital**

*Photo: N McVicar*

was killed and Robuanga sustained a fracture of the pelvis in four places. This was not a good prospect for a young man, but we were thankful that in Dr Lal Lawma, the medical superintendent of the hospital, we had a qualified surgeon who was able to operate on him. Robuanga's progress has been very, very slow, with many setbacks, but he has learned much during these months. A Christian before his accident, he has had his faith strengthened greatly and has been learning the meaning of Paul's word to the Christians at Philippi, 'Rejoice in the Lord always'.

In the general ward Pi (Mrs) Sunpari is sleeping peacefully. She is about to be discharged. As I look at her I think how different she is now, compared to her condition on the day she was admitted, just two weeks ago. She had a large ovarian cyst, weighing nearly 30 pounds, and breathing was difficult for her. She was so worried about her operation, but now, through medical care she has made a wonderful recovery and her heart is overflowing with thankfulness to God for His goodness to her.

Mawii's bed is empty tonight. She went home today. She was generally debilitated and there was also a considerable psychological factor in her illness. She was a very difficult patient to nurse and much prayer was offered on her behalf. Since she has been in hospital she has heard about the great physician and is now anxious to learn more about the Lord.

#### **The new day**

These are just a few who come to our hospital, hoping for physical healing, but who have found much more. They are learning the meaning of Jesus' words, 'I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly'.

The night passes slowly. All has been quiet. No new babies, no admissions, and because the monsoon period is over there has been no incessant noise from the torrential rain on the corrugated iron roof to keep the patients awake.

At four o'clock the nurses begin their early morning duties and at six o'clock they hand over to the day nurses. There is a short service at half past eight for patients and staff in which the day's work is committed

to God. As soon as this is over Thanga gets busy. His first job is to fill the water tanks. With a grant from the Government we have been able to construct a huge concrete water tank just above the hospital and this has helped considerably to eliminate the water carrying.

The morning routine varies. Three days a week there is surgery, and four days a week there is the out-patients' clinic with an ante-natal clinic on one afternoon. On theatre days the nurses have plenty of exercise as they have to carry the patients on the stretcher in and out of the wards.

#### **The channels of witness**

Ours is a very busy little hospital and in the past we have had our staffing problems, but gradually these are being solved and we now have gifted people in positions of leadership. We hope that in the future we shall have a training school for general nurses, but at present we are only able to give the two year auxiliary-nurse-midwife training. We have no official outreach programme, but we hope this will come. Nevertheless the patients come to us and the girls come for training and as these return to their villages we pray that we do reach out through them.

If we look at our difficulties there is the temptation to despair, but looking to the Lord Jesus we can see that He is working among His people here. Through many of the Mizo believers His love is flowing out to others and many, with or without physical healing, are experiencing the meaning of '... life more abundant'.



**Mizo Nurses at Serkawn Hospital**

# THE GROWTH OF MIZORAM

by C L Hminga

The Mizos (Lushais) became known first to the outside world because of their notorious head-hunting expeditions and were described by Calcutta newspapers as 'irreclaimable savages'. But the Baptist pioneer missionaries and those who followed them have reclaimed the Mizos for Christ. A tremendous transformation has taken place during the past 70 years. The gospel of Christ has changed the head-hunters into soul winners! The Mizo society, which was non-literate at the beginning of this century, has now become one of the most advanced societies in India, and, among the States of India, Mizoram has the second highest literacy percentage.

## A three-fold cord

The change brought about in the Mizo society by Christianity is of three dimensions, physical, intellectual and spiritual, but the most significant is the spiritual. The whole Mizo tribe has left its traditional animistic religion and has embraced Christianity as its faith, and where there was not a single Christian until 1898, self-supporting, self-governing, and self-propagating churches have come into being. The youngest of the churches planted by the BMS in India has now become a missionary sending church.

BMS work in Mizoram started in 1902 and over the years 23 missionaries have served there. One brave lady from Scotland still represents the BMS in the ongoing work of the Baptist Church of Mizoram, which has been continuing the three fold ministry of the BMS, viz: church planting, healing and teaching. It is engaged in evangelizing the new generations among whom more and more nominal Christians are to be found; in evangelizing the non Christian segment of the population composed of non-Mizo settlers in Mizoram, and in evangelizing other tribes outside Mizoram.



**Panorama of Mizoram**

*Photo: N McVicar*



### Political unrest

Those who read the *Missionary Herald* must be aware of the abnormal political situation of Mizoram since the armed insurgency which took place in 1966. The past ten years has been a time of great trial, but also one of great opportunity for the Church of Mizoram. The latest news from Mizoram is encouraging, God has answered the prayer of his people, and a cease fire agreement was signed between the government and the Mizo underground leaders on 7 July, 1976. The day was proclaimed as a holiday throughout Mizoram so that everybody could attend prayer meetings for peace.

While the abnormal situation brought various problems to the Church it also caused the Mizo Christians to engage in wider evangelistic outreach and go beyond Mizoram. In 1968, the peak period of stress in Mizoram, the Zoram Baptist Mission was founded. The Baptist Assembly of 1968 was a historic occasion when the first ZBM missionaries were valedicted to work among the Rabha tribes in Goalpara District of Assam. The Zoram Baptist Mission took over the work among the Rabhas from the Australian Baptist Missionary Society and all will rejoice with us that the Rabha Church has grown considerably during the past eight years. Where there was only one organized local church in 1968 there are now about ten. The Rabhas, especially the younger generation, are becoming more receptive to the gospel.

God has also opened another door for the ZBM in the neighbouring State of Tripura where there are a few thousand Mizo settlers and several other tribes who have become very receptive to the gospel. The New Zealand Baptist Missionary Society began working in Tripura in 1939, but all their missionaries had to leave the country in

1972. The Tripura Baptist Union then invited the Zoram Baptist Mission to help them in the evangelization of their state. As the opportunity is great and the work is urgent ZBM has responded to the invitation as best it could. 16 ZBM missionaries, including two well qualified ministers are now serving in Tripura in partnership with the Tripura Baptist Union.

### The door opens

Bhutan, which has been a closed country to the Christian gospel has recently allowed the Leprosy Mission to open a hospital in the heart of Bhutan. At the request of the doctor who started the hospital the Baptist Church of Mizoram has sent one of its best qualified young ministers to work with the Leprosy Mission.



## THE GROWTH OF MIZORAM (Continued)

A new station was opened by the ZBM in 1975 in the Assam border of West Bengal where opportunity to work among the Nepali settlers was given to the Mission. At the request of the Principal of Yeotmal Biblical Seminary, the Baptist Church of Mizoram has also spared one of its highly qualified ministers to teach in the Seminary since 1974.

From the very beginning the Baptist Church of Mizoram decided not to ask the BMS for help in its own missionary work. Now the Zoram Baptist Mission is supporting 24 missionaries, six in Goalpara District of Assam, 16 in Tripura, and a couple in West Bengal. It has two full time workers in the headquarters, the Mission Secretary and the Accountant. The Mission budget is steadily increasing annually and the work among the Chakma and Riang (Tripura) tribes in Mizoram, which began in the early 1940's is continuing under the care of the General Committee. The young church is aware of the need for well trained leaders. It has at present 11 ministers with BD degree, five of whom are working outside Mizoram. This indicates how eager the church is to share with others the best of its ministers.



**A woman of the Riang tribe, Tripura**  
*Photo: N McVicar*

**Lizzie Nu**  
A South Mizo Church stalwart



**Cottage weaving at Pukpui, Assam**  
*Photo: N McVicar*

### The training schools

In spite of various problems and occasional disappointments the hospital at Serkawn is developing. It has now three qualified Mizo doctors and five qualified nursing sisters, including Joan Smith of the BMS. The Nursing School is in the process of being recognized by the government as a fully fledged Nursing School and will be the second of such institutions in Mizoram.

The church High School started in 1961 with the help of the BMS has earned a high reputation for itself and the government has recognized its value in the training of good leaders for the country. We hope that it will be able to fulfil the high ideals and aims of its foundation. It will not be out of place to mention here that most of the best teachers we have at present had their training at the Mission Teacher Training School.

The BMS not only planted the Baptist Church of Mizoram, but had a large share in the training of the present leaders. I have no doubt that the Baptist churches in Britain which have been supporting the BMS would rejoice and praise God for the fact that the Baptist Church of Mizoram is continuing with great zeal the good work of the Society. We still look to the BMS as our mother and we shall continue to look to the Society and the churches supporting it for help and guidance in the future. We have received in the past many good things through the BMS for which we are really grateful.

# BOOK R E V I E W

by Alan Easter

He gave us a valley by Helen Roseveare.  
Published: Inter Varsity Press 95p.



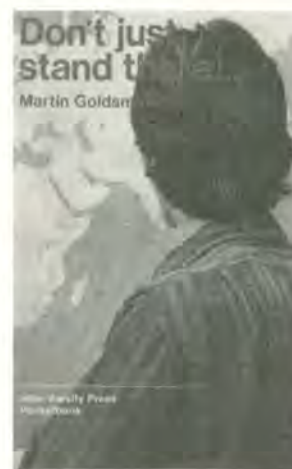
Helen Roseveare in this book speaks about the 'valleys' of experience and says how the 'heights of apparent success alternated with sloughs of despair'. Dr Roseveare reviews her 20 years as a missionary doctor leading up to the day when she was accused by her students of cheating and charged with misappropriating college funds. 'By then,' she writes, 'my pride was truly laid in the dust and trampled upon'. It was then she came face to face with the question, 'Has it all been worth it?' Honestly she faces this question and answers it.

A Gift of Love by Gail Magruder. Published:  
Oliphants £2.95.



The Watergate scandal which rocked America was told by all the media. In this book the wife of one of those who was committed to prison, tells the story behind the news and of the tragedy which overwhelmed her family. It reveals how the innocent suffered and how inhuman the 'system' can be. But through this experience the family were drawn closer, and discovered together the reality of God's love, the nearness of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. This gave them a peace which they were able to share with others and enabled them to make a witness to other prisoners, to their families, to the prosecutors and others. A very moving book.

Don't just stand there . . . by Martin Goldsmith. Published: Inter Varsity Press 90p.



The author was, for a number of years, a missionary in the Far East and lectures now at All Nations Christian College. In his book he faces the fact that, for so many Christians, 'World wide mission is an optional extra to be indulged in by those who are spiritually keen, or who happen to be interested in it'. He then propounds the biblical basis for outreach and traces God's methods and purposes through the Bible.

'The cost of commitment'  
by Dr John White  
Published: Inter-Varsity Press — 60p



The author discusses the suffering of a Christian in the light of the suffering of Christ and stresses that there is no virtue in suffering itself.

When Jesus tells you to take up your cross daily he is not telling you to find some way to suffer daily. The Way of the Cross is the discovery of an incomparable treasure at the cost of everything else in life. The pathway of faith leads to re-evaluation, re-orientation and freedom. In this book Dr John White, now an associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Manitoba, seeks to help Christians to count the cost of commitment.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## ZAIRE

### The man who was lost.

Dr Bernard McCullough, writing from Kinshasa, says how one can hardly step off the plane in Zaire without facing rather excruciating questions, if one is at all sensitive. In the midst of such need what do you do? Do you give some of your wealth away? Do you give all away? Does it help? Whom does it help? He tells how the villagers were discussing a man called Edward who is of such insignificance to everyone that he has been lost! He is an old man who lived alone and used to come to the doctor's house regularly for food. He had not appeared since Dr McCullough and his wife returned from furlough so they enquired about him. It seems he had become ill. The villagers, not wanting to be responsible for him, took him to hospital but, having no money, they left him outside, where he lay. Edward is a Christian, and other Christians in the village heard the story and went back to look for him, but couldn't find him. They walked through the wards, pulling back the sheets! Maybe he died, they say. It remains a mystery, and there is no way of getting administrative machinery to help in a country which is, as they say, unequipped!

## ANGOLA

The latest report we have from Rev Jim Grenfell states that 13 Angolan pastors are now refugees in Zaire. 'They are not lacking in courage,' he says, 'they are victims of circumstances beyond their control.' These pastors are anxious to get back to their own land and do the work of pastors, but the frontier at Songalolo is closed and the unofficial routes, once used, are no longer open. The latest official figure puts the number of refugees from Angola as 23,000, and there are some reports of more crossing into the Matadi region.

On the other hand there is considerable evidence that large numbers of Zombo people are going back from Zaire to the districts of Maquela, Kibokolo and Damba, but for the most part these are people who have been living in Zaire for many years and not people who fled there as a result of the civil war.

Pastor Senegele in Kibokolo reports the baptism of 230 people in the Nkusu district, and another 175 at 31 de Janeiro. People are wanting to hear the good news of Christ and to become members of his church. Their hearts are more open than ever before to the gospel. One of the Christians most active in this work is Tata Malassa who, though over 70 years of age, has nevertheless travelled hundreds of miles to spread the good news, much of his journey being on foot.

## MELBOURNE CONFERENCE

Foreign Mission leaders from various Baptist bodies joined in a discussion of Baptist world strategy at the recent Baptist World Alliance meetings in Australia. Among the observations made were these:

'It is unfortunate that in some cases the location and size of a mission is determined not so much by need as by the ability to raise money "back home", which in turn depends greatly on statistics.'

'The progression in relationships between younger churches and mission sending churches usually involves three stages: dependence, independence, and interdependence.'

'Ministries of education, health, and relief are valid in themselves. They also create a good climate for evangelism.'

## NEW SOUTH AMERICAN BAPTIST UNION

At a meeting in Bolivia, representatives from nine Baptist Groups in South America agreed to form a Latin America Baptist Union. The assembly called for evangelization of South America and the world, co-operation and fellowship among South American Baptists and fraternal relations with missionary representatives from Baptists outside the continent.

The General Secretary of the Baptist Convention of Brazil was elected President of this new Union Baptista Latino Americana (UBLA).

The Baptist World Alliance has promised its full co-operation and support.

## A CONCHOLOGIST

Mrs Amy Cox is an experienced conchologist who uses her skill to lecture on 'God's wonderful creation in the oceans of the world'. She owes much to missionaries and others who have helped her to gather her collection of sea shells, but she would still like more. She asks, 'Is any reader able to help me by providing specimens from other parts of the world? If they can, I will pay whatever postage is involved, and make a donation to BMS funds.' If you are able to help please write to: Mrs A Cox, 15 Manor Court, Manor Road, Worthing, Sussex BN11 4RR.

## BAPTIST SCOUT GUILD

The Annual Conference of the Guild was held at the Bedworth Baptist Church, Warwickshire, and the church parade service on the Sunday morning was conducted by the minister, Rev Ken Davies. The Scout Guild has a representative on the BMS/YP Committee.

## SCOTLAND

Dumbartonshire Baptist Church recently presented a Missionary Pageant focussing on the BMS from its foundation to the present day. The script was researched and produced by Mrs Mary McLaren.

Scottish Baptists have always provided many BMS personnel but never before, so many in one year. Last year 12 new candidates came from north of the border and recently another three have come forward.

## WALES

The women of the churches in Wales have always been enthusiastic and generous in their support of the BMS.

At the annual All Wales WMA and General Committee meeting at Llandrindod Wells 850 delegates attended, and this year a donation of £200 was received for the women's work of the Society from those present.

The Auxiliaries, too, arrange special efforts and as a result one Auxiliary has sent £5500 for women's work.

By their interest and concern, by prayer and giving, the women of Wales are helping the women overseas to find new life in Jesus Christ.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION!

For many years the BBC has included in its sound programme an appeal for medical missions on St Luke's Sunday. This tradition was broken in 1976, but in its place the Corporation has granted a TELEVISION appeal for Ludhiana Hospital, India, to be screened on Sunday, 23 January, 1977, at 6.50 pm. If you are at home at that time you may care to see this programme.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretaries acknowledge with grateful thanks for following legacies and gifts sent anonymously or without address. (24 September-27 October, 1976)

**General Work:** Anon: £30.00; Anon: £10.00; Anon: £4.00; Anon: £7.00; Anon: £50.00; Anon: £1.00; Anon: £6.50; Anon: £3.00; Anon: £5.00; Anon: £10.00; Anon: (Edinburgh) £5.00; Anon: (WPC) £30.50.

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**Medical Work:** Anon: £1.00; Anon: (Prove Me) £2.50.

**Gift & Self Denial:** Anon: £6.00.

**Agricultural Work:** Anon: £20.00.

**Relief Work:** Anon: £5.00; Anon: £5.00.

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Mrs M E Mills	1675.62	
Phyllis M Rookledge	348.31	
Mr A R Ruddick	275.00	
Mrs E M A Allen Smith	100.00	
Richard Taylor Will Trust	102.75	

## MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

### Arrivals

**Rev M A and Mrs Churchill** and family on 23 October from Colombo, Sri Lanka.

**Miss A MacQueen** on 29 October from Diptipur, India.

**Miss M Robinson** on 29 October from Chandraghona, Bangladesh.

### Departures

**Rev R and Mrs Young** and family on 27 October for Dinajpur, Bangladesh.

## WORKERS FOR BRAZIL



**Rev R E and Mrs Connor** both grew up in the Salem Baptist Church, Dover, where they were baptized. Margaret became a secretary and comptometer operator and Roy trained as an electrical engineer. After leaving Spurgeon's College, Roy has held pastorates at Bevan Park, New Barnet, Herts, at West Malling in Kent, and at Fareham in Hampshire. The call to missionary service presented itself suddenly through a challenge by the Rev Michael Wotton at a Ministers' Conference.

Roy and Margaret hope to fly to Brazil in February, taking with them their son Sean and daughter Natalie.

## NURSE FOR ZAIRE



**Annet Pronk** was born in Noordscharwoude, a village in Holland. She came to know the Lord as a teenager. She says, 'When hitchhiking through many countries, I was often without Christian fellowship and, at times, it was not easy to show non-Christians just what Jesus meant to me. I prepared for missionary service by training as a nurse and I am at present a member of the Baptist Church at Emmen in Holland. After my training in Belgium I hope to go to Zaire in January 1977.'

# 'TO TRAVEL HOPEFULLY IS BETTER THAN TO ARRIVE'

by Edna Staple

So many memories crowd into the mind when one thinks of travel. There is the breathless memory of getting from one extremity of Brussels airport to the other when a delayed plane from London landed just five minutes before the plane for Kinshasa was due to take off.

## What about the timetable?

But a more common experience in Zaire is the discovery that, for one reason or another, take off time has been advanced and the plane has already left, or it is delayed and there are several hours — or even days! — to wait. Or it has been cancelled altogether.



Or I think of a single engine Cessna plane of the Missionary Aviation Fellowship as it takes off from Kinshasa in clear weather, for Bolobo. There is no radio contact to check conditions at the other end, and two-thirds of the way there, we find we have no more visibility, except behind. The only solution is to turn back, and try again tomorrow. So these days I am now quite surprised when any plane in which I am supposed to travel leaves and arrives on time!

Of course there are other means of travel, but in a country the size of Zaire, air transport is vitally important. Without it, the job I am now doing, in which I spend up to half my time travelling to teach and advise about leprosy, would be quite impracticable.

## Going by road



Travel within a locality can involve all sorts of vehicles, but it is the Land Rover, that can best be relied on to cope with deep sand and thick mud, pot holes and gullies, roads under water and rivers in flood, and with bridges which demand faith, hope and a firm suppression of the imagination. But to keep a Land Rover running in these unideal conditions involves hours of maintenance. Spare parts need to be available, and if there is no fuel to be had it will not go far anyway!

## Travel by river



Canoe travel is an interesting and often pleasant experience, but this too is affected by the health of the out-board motor, the availability of fuel, the willingness of paddlers, and by the weather.

## The need for flexibility

Travel in Zaire is often delightful, but frequently frustrating and rarely lacking in surprises. The question for the missionary is how to accept the surprises with equanimity, and the frustrations with patience and good grace. Looking always for a way to find, within each delay, a gift of time to be used for the glory of God.

Last year I had been working near Upoto and was anxious to get home to prepare for Christmas, but there were six days of delay at Gemena, waiting for a plane. As I considered how the time could best be spent, an unexpected opportunity came to talk to some classes in the local secondary school. Before I left I was able to tell over 200 young people about the facts of leprosy and its treatment.

## YOUNG CHRISTIANS ABROAD

by Rev Peter Varney  
Assistant Secretary, Christians Abroad

An English girl, working in an orphanage in Hong Kong, writes:

*'Life here is fantastic. There is so much to do. I visit the children in their cottages, and help with housework, sing or play, and generally try to give as much attention and love to each as I possibly can.'*

Her letter is one of many received, by mission agencies and other bodies in Britain, from young people who are at present serving for a year or more in the less developed countries of the world.

Every year two to three hundred school leavers and students leave Britain for a short period of service abroad. Most will have had to find up to four or five hundred pounds towards their travel costs, but the rewards for those who go, and the help they can give to the people of other countries, cannot be measured in terms of money alone.

### How to find out

Advice about work abroad is available from Christians Abroad, an ecumenical body supported by BMS and many other mission and development agencies. Every year Christians Abroad helps several hundred young Christians to discover if there are ways open to them for service overseas, which they cannot always find through their missionary society.

An information sheet on opportunities for voluntary work abroad for those aged over 17 is available from Christians Abroad.

It gives information about eight Christian bodies and five others which send people to the Third World for periods of up to two years. These bodies need people who can help in:

- manual work, including building projects, and people for work as ranch hands
- teaching
- medical projects, including unskilled work in hospitals
- social work, including work with mentally handicapped children and adults, and work in old people's homes
- work in clubs and centres for seamen

After people are professionally qualified many more possibilities open up for service abroad.

For those who are going overseas there are meetings and courses to help them understand their place as Christians among people of a different culture, and to provide information about the social and economic background of the overseas countries. Christians Abroad can provide information about these courses and also publishes 'The Christian Abroad' and 'Christian Responsibility Abroad'.

Christians Abroad, 38 King Street, London WC2E 8JT.

## SUMMER SCHOOLER BECOMES PRESIDENT

Andre Thobois, President of the French Baptist Federation who, has shared in our Summer Schools, has been chosen as President of the European Baptist Missionary Society.

### NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the  
Baptist Missionary Society  
General Committee  
should be received  
in the Mission House  
by 15 January, 1977

#### Nominations should be sent to:

Rev A S Clement  
BMS  
93 Gloucester Place  
London W1H 4AA

Art work

in this magazine by

M Reeve



Joyce Brown



Pauline Weatherby



Kathleen Ince



Dorothy Smith

## JOIN THE TEAM

**14 NURSES  
URGENTLY  
NEEDED**

to join these and others  
in medical work with

**THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY  
SOCIETY**

write to

The Rev (Mrs) A W Thomas  
93 Gloucester Place, London  
W1H 4AA



Ann Bothamley



Jean Westlake



Ann Weir



Christine Farrer



Marilyn Mills



Susan Evans