

Missionary

HERALD

The magazine of the Baptist Missionary Society



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Jesus said:
'Satan demanded
to have you,
to sift you
like wheat,
but I prayed
for you that
your faith
may not fail'

(Luke 22:31)

They heard the call

FOR NEPAL

When Cliff and Christine Eaton were married in 1973 they agreed to serve the Lord overseas if that was His will for them. Cliff had been baptized at New Southgate, North London, in 1962 but at Bexhill Summer School four years later had realized the need for a deeper commitment. It was at that time that he was first challenged by the needs of developing countries and considered the possibility of future service as an architect



abroad. In 1971, during his final year at college, he discussed his thoughts with the BMS Personnel Secretary who suggested that he be kept in touch with the work of the United Mission to Nepal.

Christine became a Christian in 1972 whilst she was teaching at Dartford. She had already applied to return to her home town of Bognor Regis to teach there, but prayed that now she knew the Lord He would guide her in her career. She quickly found fellowship at the Bognor Regis Baptist Church, where she met Cliff who by this time was also worshipping at the church, having left college and started work in Chichester. Christine was baptized in September 1972 and the couple were married the following year. Since their marriage they have kept in touch with the BMS and Cliff was eventually accepted to work as a missionary architect in the UMN's Design and Consulting Services Engineering Office in Butwal, Nepal.

They were to leave last month with their

two sons, Glen and Darrel, to start four months of language study and orientation in Kathmandu before proceeding to Butwal.

FOR BANGLADESH

Jim and Janette Watson both come from Glasgow where Janette was converted in 1955 during the Billy Graham Crusade and baptized some years later at Cathcart Baptist Church. Jim found Christ at a Newcastle upon Tyne



gospel rally in 1957 and was baptized two years later at New Prestwick Baptist Church.

Jim has been an executive officer in the Civil Service whilst Jan has worked as a secretary. She was the guardian of a Girls' Guildry Company for about ten years while together they have been involved in evangelistic and welfare work amongst the Royal Navy. They also served the Lord in India with Operation Mobilization after Jim had gained his Certificate of Religious Knowledge from the Bible Training Institute, Glasgow.

They have valued the fellowship and support of their mother church, Adelaide Place, Glasgow and also of their present church at Lochgelly, Fife, where Jim has been the pastor for four years. He gained his Diploma of Theology at the Scottish Baptist Theological College in Glasgow.

With their three sons, Paul and twins Timothy and Peter, they hope to go next month to Barisal for language study in preparation for pastoral and evangelistic work.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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(14 April-25 May 1978)

General Work: Anon (J.B.): £5.00; Anon: £10.00; Anon (Reception): £0.75; Anon (Aberdeen): £10.00; Anon (Hereford): £20.00; Anon (Stamps): £25.46; Anon: £0.69; Anon (Tunbridge Wells): £30.00; Anon: £10.00; Anon (Gwent): £15.00; Anon: £1.00; Anon (Birthday): £40.00; Anon (Papers): £5.00.

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MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

Arrivals

Miss A Matthias on 1 May from Kathmandu, Nepal.

Mrs M L R Wotton and family on 6 May from Curitiba, Brazil.

Dr R J and Mrs Hart and family on 20 May from Chandraghona, Bangladesh.

£ p	
35.26	Mr and Mrs G D Sorrill and Jeffrey on 20 May from Chittagong, Bangladesh.
100.00	
25.00	Miss M Lacey on 20 May from Chandraghona, Bangladesh.
1,117.25	
3,445.47	

Departures

300.00	Miss A Horsfall on 28 April for Kisangani, Zaire.
300.00	
2,500.00	Miss G E MacKenzie on 12 May for Bolobo, Zaire.

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COMMENT

The scintillating glory of a precious stone is brought to our notice by the many facets which deflect the light from various angles. The skill of the cutter turns an ordinary, often unattractive looking stone when it is first discovered, into the glorious gem sought and admired by so many.

The riches and glory of the gospel reflects the love, the compassion and the care of God not in one way, but in many, with each facet adding to the lustre and making the gem one of such inestimable worth that many are ready to yield all else to possess this wonderful treasure.

It is the joy and privilege of the Baptist Missionary Society to present many facets of the love of God to those among whom they witness to the redeeming grace of Christ.

Literacy is needed

The Christian family has at times been called the 'People of the Book' and there can be few, if any, who would attempt to assess the inestimable worth of this Book to the Church through the years of its history. It is the record of God's dealing with man. It is the source of our knowledge of Jesus and His way of life. Barth described it in one place as the cradle in which Christ lay; the point at which all could come and adore.

Here is a facet of the rich gem of the gospel that we have always striven to reveal to all, but to appreciate its worth a person needs to be able to read it. Therefore we have from the beginning translated the scriptures into the languages of the people. This often led, in the early days, to the necessity of reducing a spoken language to a written form. Then came the continuing task of teaching the people to read. These exercises were never thought to be taking us away from the witness of the gospel, but to be an integral part with it.

Health is important

The ringing cry of the Master was, 'I am come to give fullness of life'. That health can never be restricted to the invisible soul. Indeed in His own time on earth Christ demonstrated that the coming of the Kingdom was discerned when the lame could walk, the blind could see, the sufferers of leprosy were cleansed and the dead were raised. He himself healed all manner of diseases, and this facet of God's caring love we have also demonstrated as we have sought to bring healing to those who are ill.

Today it is recognized that so much suffering and disease in the world is caused by lack of food and by ill chosen food. Therefore in the name of the One who said 'you give them to eat' we have shared our knowledge and expertise in food production with all who could benefit from it. These are all facets of the one precious stone. Sometimes we look on one face and the light it reflects, and at other times we look on another face, but whichever it is the glory is the glory of the one stone. Every aspect of BMS work overseas is part of the proclamation of the gospel directed to bringing men and women to a deeper knowledge of the love and compassion of God and the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Many facets of one treasure

Those working in any one aspect are not witnessing on their own just to their particular part of the story. They work together that the full glory of the gospel in its many facets may be revealed.

Through this issue we focus on the work of our agricultural missionaries and regard just this aspect of the witness. Each of our writers in their story say that it is but a part of the whole for which they are all called of God; that the witness to Christ is the aim of all they do, whether it be translating, teaching, healing, farming or preaching.



Blindness caused by Vitamin A deficiency

'I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink . . . I was sick and you visited me. . . .' (Matthew 25:35, 36)

For many years it has been my conviction that the work of the agricultural missionary and that of our hospitals should be more closely related. The aim of both is basically one, to promote better health by improving living conditions, dealing with disease and motivating the villager to be interested in programmes of self help.

Specific but mutual concerns

Each has three specific concerns but there is a considerable amount of overlap and interdependence which should bring them frequently together for consultation and mutual help. A prime concern everywhere is to provide a good and safe water supply. This means a regular and controlled flow of water for crops and household use. Such a provision is essential too, for effective medical care so the doctor would want to be deeply involved in such a programme. Secondly, the agricultural missionary helps

local farmers to provide good quality food in larger amounts and of greater variety. This programme, too, interests the doctor as much of his work involves disease caused by dietary factors. Thirdly, both farmer and doctor are eager to communicate their insights into the ways of good health and to promote teaching programmes in the community.

Our hospitals must first be prepared to provide adequate care for those who are sick. They will come with their fevers, coughs, blindness, lumps and ulcers and we would not give them less than the best available treatment. This means stocks of medicines, beds for the very ill, a laboratory, operating facilities and other services as opportunity occurs. The doctor cannot deny help to those who come in order that he might run around the district telling healthy people how not to get sick. At the same time he must be concerned with preventive medicine or he will be like the man who dealt with his leaking roof by putting a bucket under each leak instead of climbing up and repairing the thatch! So his three concerns are to heal the sick, prevent disease and communicate the ways of good health to all who will listen.

Water control

Let us now look more closely at the way this works out in practice. The problem of water is basic in all the countries in which we work. In India, for instance, there can be too much or too little at any one time and such conditions can lead to the onset, on the one hand, of epidemics and, on the other, to famine. A contaminated water supply means gastro intestinal infections (of which the most serious is cholera) and an inadequate supply means more dust and dirt, therefore more germs and consequent disease. One of the best things done at Udayagiri when the Moorshead Memorial Hospital was built in

1938 was the boring of a tube well and though this had to be abandoned after a few years because it became silted up with sand and, in its place, a number of surface wells dug, it did mean that from the beginning we always had a safe supply of piped water in the hospital.

Diptipur offers the most dramatic illustration of the value of water control. Having seen the district in the early days when drought and famine were a common experience it was a great joy this year for me to see what has been accomplished through the work of our missionaries with considerable help from Oxfam in money and expertise. A series of dams and reservoirs have been built to collect water from an adjacent ridge of hills and by carefully planned channels make it available for a large area of country, including the hospital and farm, so that it is now possible to grow two, and sometimes three,

**THE
WORK
IS
ONE**

by Stanley Thomas

crops in a year on land which hitherto remained barren and unproductive for seven to eight months after a single harvest of rice. Wheat, vegetables and other crops have been introduced so that a steady improvement in the standard of living and a better health record can be expected in the villages around Diptipur. More recently a team of experts has surveyed the area and suggested sites for four tube wells which will provide a constant, pure supply of water where it is so vitally needed. Once again Agri and hospital are working hand in hand to their mutual benefit.

Balancing the diet

The need for improvement in food supplies and for more variety in crops grown is underlined by a look at some of the patients who come to hospital. A young mother, weeping bitterly, brought to me her six months old son. His eyes were swollen, discharging pus and literally disintegrating



Family planning class at Udayagiri, India

in their sockets. There was nothing that could be done to save the sight. This was keratomalacia, caused by lack of vitamin A, and need never have occurred if the mother could have given him good quality milk and an occasional egg. Then there was the other child, somewhat older, with pot belly, sore mouth, swollen hands and feet that spelt out the deficiency disease kwashiorkor, brought about by lack of protein which should have been supplied in a simple mixed diet not available because of poverty and ignorance. How wonderful to read of the emphasis in the work of our agriculturists, backed by Operation Agri, on the production of 'quality' foods and to see crops of soya bean, groundnut, maize and wheat, as well as high yield rice and many kinds of fruit and vegetable. Then there is the introduction of better strains of goat for milk and the encouragement of villagers to keep chickens for the eggs that could make such a difference to the health of their children.

In Udayagiri an interesting surgical problem led us to find the answer in a change of diet for a whole community. It was the condition of peptic ulcer, of which we saw cases every day and on three or four of which we operated each week. Some were pathetic to see. One man, I remember well, stumbled into the consulting room clutching a piece of slimy rope. This, he told me, he swallowed when the pain was unbearable for it made him sick and brought relief. He was skin and bone and weighed less than six stones! We instituted a research into the cause of this sorry condition and discovered that it occurred because of an unbalanced diet, too much carbohydrate and too little protein.

Getting through to the people

The answer was a far bigger job than either doctor or farmer could undertake alone, for a way of life had to be changed and public opinion mobilized. This was an exercise in communication which is a common task of the agriculturist and hospitals. The farmer wants to show people how to reach a better standard of living while the doctor is concerned to prevent disease and promote a better standard of health. They both have goods to sell and must persuade the potential buyers that the price asked in money and work is worthwhile. The agricultural missionary produces model farms, provides seeds and equipment, runs seminars and tours the villages while the medical team prepares community health programmes which involve personnel, training courses and village clinics.

Again Diptipur is a good example of what



Farmer seeking advice at Diptipur Farm Centre

is being done. The farm grows for demonstration purposes different strains of rice, wheat and other grain. It has fruit trees, vegetable plots, simple equipment for hire and a herd of goats which breed and are sold to the villagers. For community health work a group of villages has been selected and in each a woman is appointed as health worker. She is chosen by the people of the village as somebody they can trust and in whom they can confide. She keeps in touch with the hospital, comes in for regular instruction and shares with the villagers what she has learnt. Once a week a team from the hospital visits each village and conducts a clinic for children under five and for pregnant women. Each child is weighed, checked and protected from epidemic diseases by inoculation while vitamin syrup is given to the smaller children.

Such programmes are being developed in all our hospitals and are becoming very popular with the people.

For all this work there is much common ground. Communication needs audio visual aids and many of these can be shared by farmer and medical worker. Some of the teaching would be more effective if given by a team where both had representation while close co-operation and consultation are obviously important in any programme of village uplift. It was good to see this happening in Bangladesh where David Stockley has helped to transform the lives of leprosy patients in Chandraghona but I suggest we ought to share more closely in all our health and farming programmes so that our friends overseas may enjoy to the full the abundant life which Jesus came to bring.

**THE CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE
AND HOSPITAL, LUDHIANA, NORTH INDIA**

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Irrigation, so essential for successful farming

Farming for survival in Bangladesh

The substance of a talk with David and Joyce Stockley

Everyone in Bangladesh needs some means of obtaining rice which is the staple food and so it is almost essential to have a plot of land on which the crops can be grown. The size of the plot necessary to maintain a family in food for a year varies from district to district, according to the fertility of the soil and the availability of irrigation. In the more fertile regions this could be done on

half an acre, but in the drier, poorer regions of the north-west for example, it would take up to one and a half acres to achieve the same result.

In spite of this hunger for land, many people who have it do not want to farm it themselves. It is a sign of advancement in the social scale if one is able to cease working in the fields, and so those who own large areas, say up to 100 acres, will be quite ready to rent this off to others. It may well be asked,

'How do these landlords obtain their rice for food?' They charge up to 50% of the crop grown on their land as rent with the result that the tenant farmer has to work exceptionally hard to pay his landlord and feed his own family. No one in Bangladesh farms for pleasure but purely for survival.

Reaching the field worker

In a situation like this the agricultural missionary, if he is to give teaching where it is most needed, must not go to the landlord

but to the working farmer in the field. That is the point at which training is so desperately needed. Yet this is the area in which, perhaps, it is hardest of all because most working farmers are illiterate and normal teaching methods cannot be employed. To use the written word is almost useless. If such people can be brought together in groups for training then the most effective teaching aids are simple charts illustrated by readily recognized pictures, and such visuals have been used with great profit.

A more successful means of communication, however, is to provide a continuous demonstration of different crop techniques in a situation where it can be easily observed and noted without the farmer having to travel great distances or take off time from his fields. Also new and useful crops for the area can be demonstrated.

Another avenue by which great help can be given to the field worker is to make high quality seed easily available. This can be done by the agricultural missionary growing a crop not for food, but harvesting it for seed purposes and then making it available to the local farmer.

Controlling the market

If a farmer uses new methods or new crops the resulting higher yielding crop, it must be remembered, is of little use if it just stays in the field or in the store. He needs to be assured of a market, and other help that can be given him is to advise about market outlets.

The people of other countries are sometimes criticized because they are so conservative about crops and seem very reluctant to grow new ones. This is a hasty judgement. The farmers of Bangladesh are quite prepared to plant and grow new crops if they can be assured of a market when these crops are harvested, and a great help in this respect would be a guaranteed price for a crop at the time of planting.

There is another aspect which needs to be considered. All farmers in any one district will be harvesting at the same time, and so the surplus over and above the requirements of their own family will be offered on the market at the same time. A glut situation develops and the price of the crop falls. If there was available to the farmer a cold storage system then the selling period for the perishable crop could be spread, ensuring better prices for the produce. It would mean, too, that a steady supply of food would be coming on the market through a long period

instead of being offered for sale in a short, over supplied season.

Increasing milk yield and egg production

In Bangladesh, few farmers think of feeding cattle. They are just turned out to scavenge where they will, in the fields, along the road banks, down the streets, in fact anywhere where something edible can be found, or children will cut lush grass from raised bunds or paths between the irrigated rice fields. Little wonder then that the milk yield per cow is very low and this useful source of nourishment largely undeveloped. Yet it has been shown that if a second-cross bull can introduce a 12½% Jersey or Friesian element in to the cows, the milk yield can be doubled. The benefit of this in terms of the health of the under-fives cannot be overestimated. It would go a long way to making the children healthy and strong.

Again, the local hen scratching about the village will only lay, on average, 50 eggs per year. This potential source of protein is hopelessly underdeveloped. Merely by introducing a cockerel of one of the advanced western breeds and letting this loose in a village the egg production of first-cross hens can be boosted to 150 eggs per hen per year.

An increasing development in Bangladesh is the kitchen type of garden around the dwelling place. This is a source of food, producing a multicrop of vegetables and such things as red peppers. The produce of these gardens is for the use of the family and the gardens are mainly worked by the women. Overagainst this the 'market' garden

is tended mainly by men and this is designed to produce the cash crop of say, tomatoes, egg plants, lady's fingers (okra) and, increasingly today, French beans.

Using manpower, not machinery

It may be thought that the introduction of some of the advanced farming machinery available in the west would be an obvious and advantageous step. In fact the reverse is true. There is an ample supply of labour in Bangladesh and to introduce advanced labour-saving machinery would be to create a serious problem of unemployment with its consequent frustration and resentment. It would create another difficulty also. The use of such machinery requires the back up of adequate maintenance facilities so as to keep it running economically. There are not sufficient fully trained personnel to undertake such work, and machinery, if introduced, could have long periods out of action waiting to be serviced, or there might be the expensive process of transporting the faulty machine over considerable distances to a centre where skilled mechanics were available. The type of machine which has been introduced very usefully, and one which can be handled with the present availability of maintenance, is the simple engine-driven pump for irrigation purposes.

The hurdle which is the most difficult one to negotiate is that of communication. This is the one chosen by the agricultural missionary, that of transmitting expertise to the section of the population who most need it and who would benefit most from it, in the drive to make the nation better fed.



Teaching chart on rice growing for Bengali farmers

Our Agriculture



Doreen and Colin Foulkes

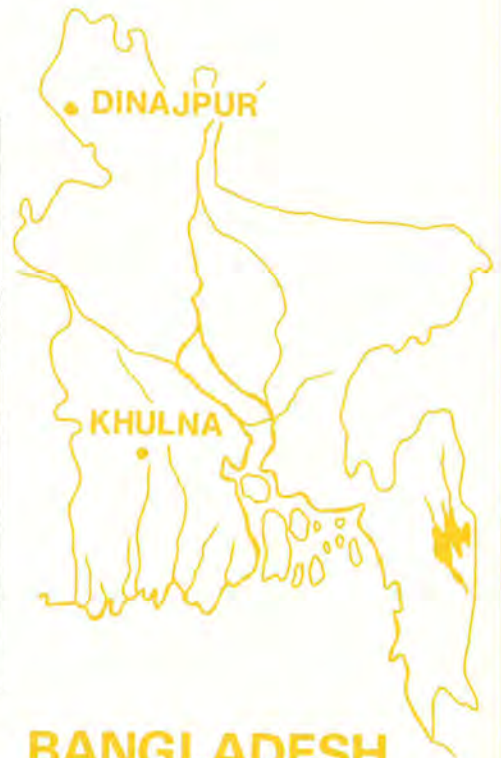
COLIN and DOREEN FOULKES, in membership at the Thomas Cooper Church, Lincoln, went out to Bangladesh in 1975. They studied Bengali at Barisal before moving to Khulna in 1977 to help in the expansion of agricultural work there. They have been through a period of fatigue and stress, due to the climate, a heavy workload and the many problems encountered in daily living, but Doreen is now fully recovered from her bout of hepatitis. Also, both their children now live and go to school in Dacca

which allows Colin and Doreen to devote all their time to the work in hand and to share tasks together. They report there are always more opportunities than they can handle, and they therefore need the Lord's guidance as they plan for the future. Last year, during the rainy season, their house was completely surrounded by water, the main road and all the paths were submerged and for long periods all their land was under about two feet of muddy water.

DAVID and JOYCE STOCKLEY were the first BMS agricultural missionaries to go out to Asia. They went to Barisal for language study in 1952 before spending 12 years at Khulna where they laid the foundations of the agricultural work there. In 1965 they moved to Rangunia. Here, until they came home on furlough last year, they were training on furlough last year, they were training both expatriate and native advisers, and travelling widely about Bangladesh advising and helping co-operatives and teaching ex-leprosy patients from Chandraghona how to terrace the hillsides. Last year David's 25 years of service in Bangladesh were recognized by the Queen when she awarded him an OBE for his work in agricultural development overseas. David and Joyce's home churches are at Croham Road, Croydon, and Earlsfield.



David Stockley



BANGLADESH

BOB and MIRIAM YOUNG, from the Granton Church, Edinburgh, went to Bangladesh in 1971. They undertook language study at Barisal, then went to Dacca before taking charge of the farm on the mission compound at Dinajpur in 1974. The main function of the farm is in quality seed production and Bob rejoices that the seeds are now in great demand — he even has to ration the seed which each farmer takes, so that the small local farmers are not overridden by private dealers. Bob has plans for extending the work to include a clinic at Ruhea, further north. He is helped by two nationals, and another major asset to his work has been the motorcycle, a gift from Operation Agri.



Bob Young on motor cycle supplied by Operation Agri

al Missionaries



Frank and Peggy Gouthwaite

FRANK and PEGGY GOUTHWAITE are members of the Edward Road Church, Birmingham, though Peggy comes from California, USA and they went to Brazil in 1976 to take over the agricultural project at Potinga, Paraná, from the Fulbrooks. Their first year was spent in language study at the state capital, Curitiba, about 60 miles from Potinga. Since then they have been seeking in various ways to introduce new crops to the Brazilians and to show them ways of improving their present yields. As regards livestock, they are aiming to make available improved breeds of chickens, pigs and cattle and through these to demonstrate animal husbandry. The Brazilian Government does finance rural development but Frank and Peggy are able to give the personal service and help which the people need. Peggy also devotes some of her time to working in the local school.



JOHN and RENA MELLOR have connections with the churches at Guildford, at Queen's Road, Coventry and the Brethren in Manchester. They first went out in 1969 to Tondo, a remote village on Lake Tumba in the Middle River Region. Conditions are very primitive and they are looking into the possibilities of various machinery to assist them in their work, but it is not intended that each local family should have its own machines. John and Rena have been occupied in poultry projects and in goat and rabbit breeding in an endeavour to give the people a more balanced diet. It is also difficult to find local feedstuffs which are always available and combine to form a complete diet for the poultry and animals.



John Mellor



ZAIRE

Potinga today and tomorrow

The agriculture project in the Litoral district of Paranã, Brazil, is under the care of Frank and Peggy Gouthwaite. Its interests at the present time lie in a number of directions covering fruit growing, animals, fowl and arable farming.

The site is by no means a level area and this in itself creates problems because to tackle some projects, which seem desirable, would entail the use of heavy machinery. This could be hired, but at a cost which would need carefully to be considered.

At the foot of the hill there is an orchard of citrus fruits in which are planted 193 trees. These are producing well but the orchard needs to be cleared of weeds and a fertilizer applied.

Below the house there is an area where 297 passion-fruit vines have been planted and these have a good crop which should produce a nice profit, but it is realized now that the wire used to support the vines was really too thin and will require replacing by a thicker gauge. The stakes used also needed to be sturdier and already some of these have had to be taken out and stouter poles put in. Even so it is estimated that the crop will yield sufficient return to pay for these improvements and show a profit beyond this. This crop could earn as much as 28 times more than a local farmer would receive for an equivalent area of bananas.

Rehousing the pigs

On the livestock side of the enterprise two good pigs have been bought. The boar has been lent to neighbours for stud purposes and the fee for this service is not in money but in kind. They are charged one piglet from every litter born. The sow has had a litter of her own but the accommodation needs to be improved. At present the sow is housed in a moveable hut which can become extremely muddy and unhealthy when it rains. There are, however, some bricks left over from the building of the house and also some lime, so plans have been drawn up to erect a permanent and healthier pigsty which

will assist in the better management of these animals.

The project also has some chickens, ducks and geese but these are not part of the planned teaching programme of the project as they are kept merely as a food supply for the house.

On the arable side there is a pasture of approximately two and a half acres and about one acre of ploughed land ready for planting in which it is proposed to plant vegetables, peppers and baby marrows. This would have been done, but to produce a really profitable crop some chicken manure should be applied to the ground.

Obtaining chicken manure is costly

This has to be brought some considerable distance and a lorry hired to fetch it. Neither the lorry nor the manure is readily obtainable and if these two hurdles are overcome then the cost would be in the order of £200.

The pasture has been fenced around and in the future it is proposed that two Friesian type cows be placed on it. It is hoped that these cows would be in calf and already giving milk. Then it would be necessary to provide a milking shed and show that with good stock and proper husbandry 15-20 litres of milk per day could be expected from each cow compared with the three litres normally accepted from the local cows.

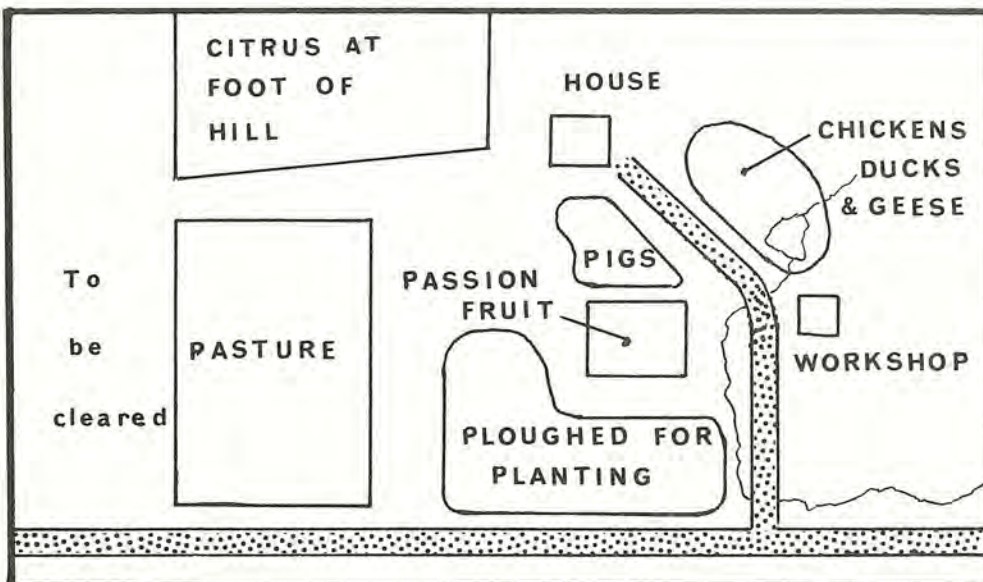
When these cows are purchased the project will be able to demonstrate the rotation of pasture, the protection against worms in the cattle and the proper feeding of the animals to give these higher yields of milk. Meanwhile the neighbours have been invited to graze some of their cattle on the pasture to keep it under control.

If the necessary machinery can be hired from *Cafê do Paranã* then a further five acres of ground will be cleared and a demonstration plot of bananas planted and possibly some pineapples.

It is also felt that a right and proper use of resources in the future would be a 1,000-bird chicken house to show how a much improved egg production is well within reach of the local farmers. Experience has shown that a good laying breed like Shaver will do very well.

Plan of the Potinga farm project

Frank and Peggy Gouthwaite



All round improvement

In all these things the main object is to demonstrate to the Brazilians that there are new crops which will do well in the region and to show new techniques which can be employed in conjunction with crops, already well known, to improve their yield.

It is hoped also that we shall be able to make available improved breeds of animals such as chickens, pigs and cattle and with them to demonstrate improved animal husbandry such as vaccination, disease prevention, the

treatment of diseases, improved housing and feeding.

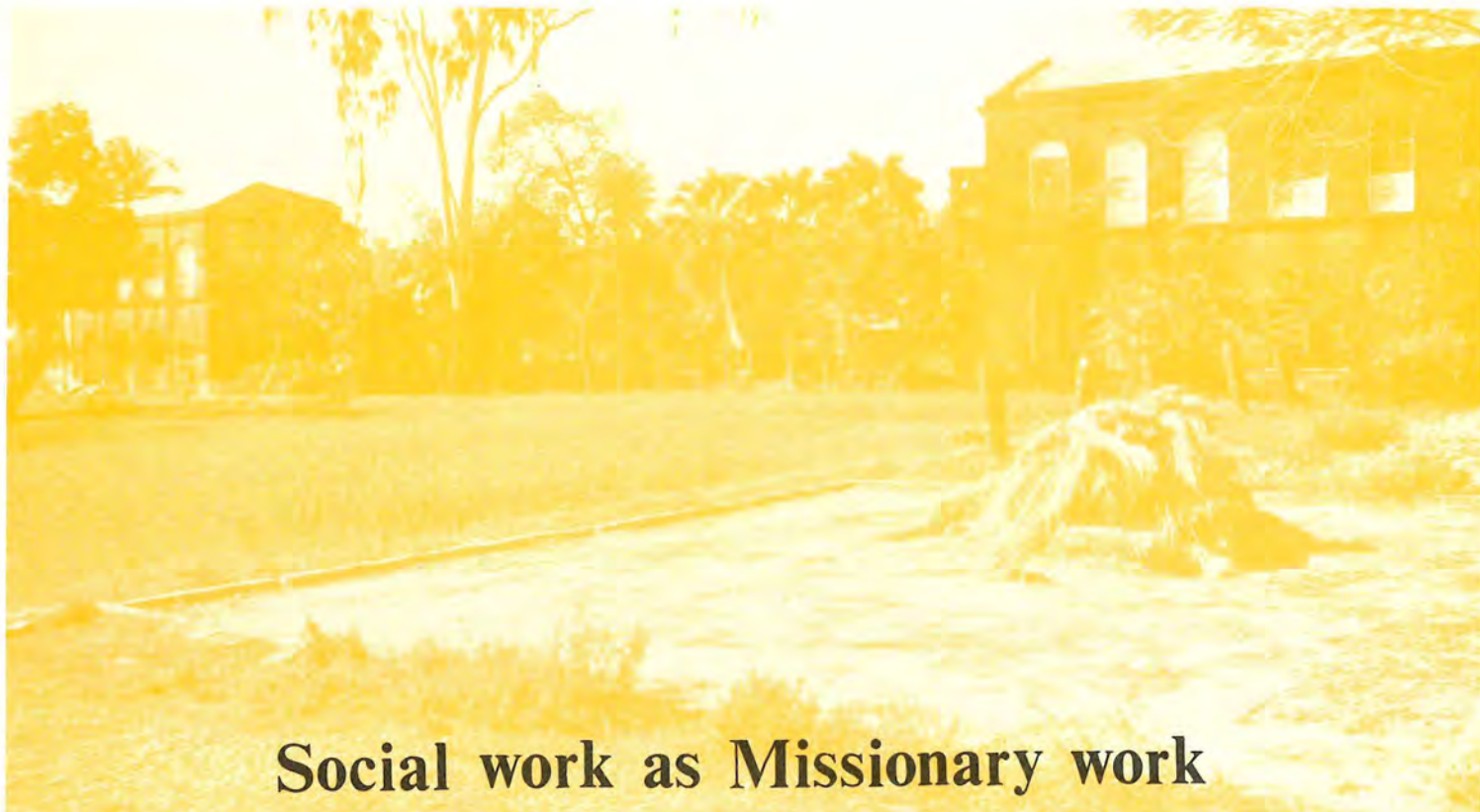
In order to achieve these objects it will be necessary to arrange a dependable water supply to the project. The well used at the present time has dry spells during the rainless periods. It is hoped to develop a scheme whereby water can be brought from a spring the other side of a low hill behind the house.

Assistance is also given in the fight against disease and pests in crops and to improve production by the use of fertilizers.

Guidance is given to the farmers with respect to bank loans and the project also acts as a link between the poor and the various government agencies such as ACARPA (the Extension Service), the Bank of Brazil, IAPAR (the Research Institute) and *Café do Paraná* (the organization which rents heavy machinery).

By helping the people in these many ways, with the love and the compassion of Christ as our motive and driving force, we seek to commend the Saviour of mankind to the Brazilian people.





Social work as Missionary work

Seed crops and threshing floor, Dinajpur, Bangladesh

by **Bob Young**

In 1974 I and my family moved to the north of Bangladesh and took up our residence in a town called Dinajpur. There we joined Gwyn Lewis, a missionary who has served in the town for a number of years and who talked with us about the work of this district. From our discussion it was decided that some sort of social work would be a great asset to the Christian community of the Dinajpur district. The aim was to have this social work closely linked with the spiritual work so that everything which was undertaken would help toward the spiritual uplift of the people.

Forced to sell land

Frequently since the time of that initial

decision Christians have come to us to ask for help and advice about land problems. It is not always appreciated that about 90% of Bengalis are farmers who live in small villages isolated in very remote areas. It is not unexpected, then, that they find themselves in difficulties time and time again. Not infrequently they are forced to sell their land to raise money for food but in doing this they at once jeopardize the future as they lose their security.

There are land disputes also between them and their Muslim or Hindu neighbours and, because they are Christians and therefore in the minority, they seem to come off worst in any settlement. We have been trying to represent these people to secure a fairer deal for them, but this takes time backed up with

a lot of prayer and a great deal of patience.

The best way to help

Most of the Christian community, then, are farmers and depend upon their crops to keep them alive. We, therefore, sought for a way to help them economically. During this period when we were searching for ways to help our Christian community, David Stockley visited Dinajpur and suggested to us that we should use farm land on our compound as a seed multiplication farm. The idea behind such a scheme was that we would plant and grow a good quality seed and make it available for the farmer's use so that he could be independent of the seed available in the market which so often is of poor quality and has a poor germination record. By this means the farmer would be guaranteed, as far as we were able, a good crop and therefore a good return for his labours and, with the increased income, a better standard of living.

David Stockley also suggested that we approach the Operation Agri Committee of the Baptist Men's Movement and seek their help in equipping our farm for the production of this high quality seed. We cannot be too appreciative for their ready response to our request for help.

Multiplying the seed

The first two years were utilized in building up the farm and developing a good strain of



Bob Young with Charo by the pumping station

seed. By a 'good' seed, we mean one which has a 98% germination rate and when this is achieved the farmer is assured, as far as possible, of a good crop. Good quality seed, to start with, may be bought in Bangladesh or imported. This is then multiplied and stored. This same seed is then planted once more and harvested, thus multiplying it again, and it is then available for the farmer's use. We have reached the stage at Dinajpur when we can see the results of our work. The seeds are known and accepted by the farmers and are always in great demand.

On the compound farm there are two workers. One, Mongul, is an ex-leprosy patient who, for a time, was in our leprosy hospital at Chandraghona. Usually it is very difficult for a person who has suffered from this disease to be accepted again into his or her village. David Stockley took and trained Mongul on the farm at Chandraghona and when his treatment at the hospital was complete he came up to Dinajpur to work on the compound land. He gained a great deal of experience working with David and is very aware of the problems of farming in Bangladesh which makes him a tremendous help in the seed production work. He lives on the compound with his wife, who herself was a leprosy patient at Chandraghona, and they have one daughter.

The other worker is Charo, a tribal boy from a small tribe of Uraons. He cannot read or write but when it comes to working with his hands he exceeds us all. He is Mongul's right-hand man and together they are a first-rate team. Just recently Charo took a wife and he has settled down to his new responsibilities very well. I invite you to pray for these two men and their families that they may grow in the Lord.

Widening the scope of service

What are our aims for the future? One of our main centres of work is in an area about 50

miles north-west of Dinajpur at a place called Ruhea. In recent years there has been a good response to the gospel in that area and many churches have been established, but when one travels into areas like Ruhea it is to become aware of the lack of, what we in the west would call, normal facilities. If someone in such an area wants to go anywhere he has to walk to the nearest road where he may be able to catch a bus. In many cases this road may be 10 to 15 miles away from his home. Then there are no ambulances which may be called in the case of sickness. A person who is ill may need to be carried many miles before any sort of transport becomes available.

Recently one of the pastors was taken ill and someone came to our compound asking if the Landrover could be used to take the patient the 22 miles to the hospital. It was not possible even for the four-wheel drive Landrover to reach his village and the last three miles had to be traversed on foot. This is but one case in hundreds where our help is needed.

For this reason we have been praying very much that it will prove possible to open a clinic in the area of Ruhea in order to serve the community of that district. Our hope is that, to begin with, we will be able to hold a weekly, or perhaps twice weekly clinic. This would be mainly for women and children but as the way opens up we would then think in terms of expansion.

Our overall aim in being in Bangladesh is to tell the people of God's love in Christ Jesus and to bring them into a saving knowledge of our Lord and Saviour. But our experience here has shown us we must go further than this. We must help such people to grow in their Christian lives. This means fostering not only their spiritual growth but also meeting their physical needs so that the whole man is cared for.

Mr Abinash Chandra Deb

by Valerie Hamilton

It is a real joy to meet and talk with Abinash Chandra Deb. Until recently he and his family were Hindus, but when anyone meets them now, there is no doubt that here are people who genuinely love the Lord Jesus.

He heard the good news

Attending a meeting one day, this young farmer in Bangladesh heard that only Jesus Christ can give salvation. For weeks after, he went from place to place trying to find out more. Eventually he came into contact with workers from the Baptist Mission in Dinajpur and was led to accept Jesus as his personal Lord and Saviour. Following the teaching by our evangelists, he and his wife and parents were baptized in the village pool in full view of their many Hindu relatives and neighbours.

All kinds of petty persecutions began, such as being refused the use of the communal tube well from which to draw drinking water and being refused milk for the baby. Throughout the months which followed, Abinash endured all this with a calm spirit, completely trusting the Lord for all his needs. He sits for hours way into the night discussing Christianity and Hinduism with his neighbours and, young convert that he is, he is well able to answer for the faith which is in him. He longs that all in his village should find new life in Jesus Christ.

He shared the good news

Early in 1978, he brought several Hindu neighbours to our New Life Convention in Dinajpur, but was disappointed in their lack of response. However about a fortnight later, our evangelist Rev B N Singha reported that another family had requested baptism and had said that it was as a result of Abinash witnessing to them.

How we praise the Lord for men like Abinash. We believe that the Holy Spirit will continue to work in him and through him and that there will be a live, strong, witnessing church built up in that village.

To God be the glory, for it is all His doing.



Irrigation channel and seed crops, Dinajpur



The Kitega Choir from Kinshasa, Zaire

3,000 miles of singing in Great Britain

by John Carrington

'That magnificent African choir . . .', 'Who would want to look at TV with men like this around?', 'Aren't they gorgeous!' (from a lady). Such were some of the reactions produced in Baptist churches all over the country by the Kitega male voice choir from Zaire.

Uncertainty about the number who would be coming made preliminary arrangements difficult, but 21 were able to be present at the missionary rally during Assembly week and their well-received singing gave them advanced publicity as delegates returned to churches in England, Scotland and Wales.

Even though church magazines could not print references to their coming, by the time they arrived in over 20 different centres, crowds flocked to hear them. We even saw queues outside more than one Baptist church building when doors were opened for their concert and one well-known

minister pleaded with the audience to squeeze together more tightly in the pews to allow other people to sit down. In some cases folk had to go away because there was no more room left inside.

'Have you any spare woollies?'

Our exceptionally cold spring weather was hard to bear for people brought up in tropical sunshine. Gifts of woollen pullovers from the Mission House and borrowed winter overcoats from London Baptist churches helped the men to keep warm, however, and towards the end of their month's stay they were enjoying warmer days. They even paddled in the sea on the south coast as they got samples of sea-water to take home to Kinshasa so as to prove to their friends and relatives that sea-water really is salt.

Vivian Lewis and his colleagues at the BMS headquarters, as well as our indefatigable missionary auxiliary secretaries all over Britain, are to be heartily congratulated on a remarkable job of organization so that this tour could be a success. We found a warm welcome awaiting us whenever our coach pulled in after a long journey through the countryside. Hosts and hostesses had been marshalled to receive the choir members into their homes. All 28 of us (six more arrived a week after the first group) always found somewhere to stay and our very competent coach driver was accommodated too. A big 'thank you' is due to the many folk who so kindly agreed to give us hospitality in spite of language problems — not everyone had the requisite knowledge of French, Lingala or Kikongo to communicate with their African guests.

'Goodness and mercy'

Our Baptist ladies are fine caterers! As we got out of the coach and entered the doors of schoolrooms up and down the land, we would see tables laid with 30 places and piled with good things to eat. I learned a new meaning to the verses of Psalm 23.

'Thou spreadst a table in my sight . . .
My cup runneth over.'

'Goodness and mercy' did not follow the Kitega choir, they were waiting for us everywhere we went!

The choir themselves insisted that they were not singing simply for entertainment. Most of the items had an evangelical significance. Even though the audience were not able to understand the words, gesture often made clear what the song was about. 'Run away from the darkness of sin,' they said with

vigorously flicking fingers, and the sudden clanging of a bell-like tenor voice indicated to everyone that time for decision is not unlimited.

Perhaps the most popular song showed what happens to naughty boys in Zaire. Another which usually got an encore was an item in Zulu and Swahili describing the road a man must take to meet his Father in Heaven. The agile conductor of the choir helped everyone to see how to take the first steps on the way. But the music itself, its volume, its deep harmony and its seductive African rhythm was a delight too. The familiarity of items like 'Mary's Boy Child', 'Deep River', and other Negro Spirituals made them all the more appreciated by our audiences.

Rhythmic singing gave much joy

The biggest crowd to listen to the choir was probably in the Salford University Hall with a close second in the Music Hall of Edinburgh. The most enthusiastic reception came in the Tabernacle Baptist Church, Cardiff, though Jamaican Baptists who made up at least a third of the congregation at Small Heath, Birmingham, reacted visibly to the rhythmic singing and communicated their joy to everybody there. For me, the most moving occasion, when our evangelistic message seemed to go over with most power, was at Richmond, Liverpool.

The choir probably sang their best of all at the last concert they gave which was in Christchurch Road, Worthing. This was not simply due to length of practice. One of their missionary teachers was with them there who had done a great deal to form the choir members who came — Mr Albert Cox. He gave them real pleasure when he accompanied their rendering of Handel's 'Hallelujah Chorus' on the Christchurch Road organ. Our largest offering came at Dorchester where Mr John Lock of the Dorford Music Centre had been organizing our visit for some time before we got there. But we had a memorable time everywhere and are most grateful for the welcome we received.

From baronial halls to department stores

Neither I nor the choir members will forget living in a baronial hall in Yorkshire, looking round the rich mansions of Tatton and Beaulieu, skirting the shores of Loch Lomond, strolling over the cliffs to Lulworth Cove, visiting the Roman baths in the city of Bath, motoring through Sussex countryside on a beautiful sunny afternoon. Our cities proved a great attraction to the choir who live in Zaire's capital of Kinshasa. We lost two of them in Woolworth's at Liverpool and we

arrived late in Cardiff for our mid-day meal because I had to spend precious minutes before we left Bristol that day in winking more of them out of Marks and Spencer's.

The choir gave a lot of pleasure to former missionaries from Zaire now living in Britain, many of whom were able to meet them and help to entertain them in their own tongue. They will long remember veteran missionary Sidnie Newbery telling them from the high pulpit of Loughwood Baptist Church, one of the oldest in the country, how early Baptists faced persecution for their faith. One of the last things they did before embarking on the plane which took them back to Kinshasa was to visit the retired missionaries in South Lodge, Worthing, and sing some items to them.

On behalf of the choir, may I thank all who so bravely accepted us into their homes and put up with problems of communication and perhaps, not too often we hope, our foibles over food. This has been a memorable month in Europe for all members of the choir and we think that Baptists in Britain will long remember our visit.

Official BMS Recording of KITEGA CHOIR OF ZAIRE

The cassette has many items from their repertoire and was recorded on their recent Centenary Tour of Great Britain

It is available from the
Information and Publicity Department

price £2 plus 12p postage

A NEW LEAFLET for children

'LET'S EXPLORE'

It deals with the BMS work in Angola and Zaire from the beginning to the present day

This leaflet is available on request
from the Literature Department

Baptist Missionary Society
93 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4AA

News in brief....

BAPTIST YOUTH WORLD CONFERENCE

Some 5,000 young people from 70 countries gathered together, 19-23 July, in Manila, Philippines for the Ninth Baptist Youth World Conference. This was the first time the conference was held in Asia. The BYWC meets every five years and the 1978 meeting, originally planned for Hong Kong, was changed to Manila because of uncertainty concerning visas to the British crown colony.

A Baptist leader from Taiwan spoke at the opening session on the conference theme, 'Jesus Christ, the One Light for All People'. A speaker from Sweden focused on youth and self-identity, while two leaders from the United States spoke on the themes of faith, and youth and mission.

For the morning activities, including Bible study, the young people were assigned to small groups of 12-15 people so that youth from different cultures would learn to communicate better with one another. The small groups also provided the young people with a sense of belonging which is sometimes missing in a large conference.

BRAZIL HAS MOST MISSIONARIES

IDEA, the information service of the German Evangelical Alliance, has reported that Brazil has more missionaries than any other country in the world. There are 3,000 missionaries from 150 different societies working in Brazil. The BMS has over 40 missionaries working mainly in Paran state but also in Mato Grosso and So Paulo.

The Protestant churches of Brazil, where 65% of South American Protestants live, report an increase in membership of 5.6% per year. That is twice the general increase in population. Brazil's 11 million Protestants are at present supporting 500 missionaries.

DIY CHURCH IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

A new church building for the Church of the Brethren (Congregational) has recently been opened in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. The church, which seats 350 people, took two years to complete and the work was carried out entirely by volunteer labour involving almost all members of the congregation, as well as help from three neighbouring congregations. Volunteers ranged in age from 10 to over 70 years and some 200,000 man-hours went into the construction of the church.

RUSSIAN BAPTISTS

In a year-end review, the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the USSR reports more than 6,000 baptisms of new converts during 1977. A large number of young people was among those baptized, the Council said. Also, more than 120 new pastors were elected and ordained by local churches during the year.

NO X-RAYS

A hospital without X-Ray facilities? Do you exclaim with horror and incredulity? So did some American friends who visited the hospital in Diptipur some years ago. To rectify the lack they despatched a machine which was, in any case, far too large for the needs of the hospital and was very much secondhand so that, even on its arrival, it was not in working order. Expert advice was sought from various firms in India, but on learning details of the make and of its vintage no one was prepared to undertake the repair of it or to make it usable, indeed they all said this was impossible!

Finally, nearly ten years later, as it was too heavy to be removed from the hospital compound, the Nursing Superintendent was

given permission to bury it in the foundations of a new block of buildings.

Not dead yet!

Just at that time a wealthy young man, Mr Agawalla, from a village about 12 miles away, offered to remove the machine and see what he could do. Believe it or not, aided by a number of skilled friends and by his own initiative, he finally succeeded in putting the machine into working order at some considerable cost to himself. He studied the techniques of X-Ray procedures and began taking pictures.

Mr Agawalla is now a very good friend to the hospital. His charges for patients sent from Diptipur are most reasonable and his work is good. Not only is he used by our doctors but his services are called upon also by a number of private practitioners in the area.

Well, there are still no X-Ray facilities with the hospital, but at least there is an excellent service available within reasonable distance and we give thanks for this good friend and the skill and initiative which he exercised.

AFRICAN BAPTISTS MEET

Baptist representatives from all over Africa met at Nairobi, Kenya, 22-26 May, for the first Pan African Baptist Conference. The conference was organized by the Baptist World Alliance Division of Evangelism and Education in conjunction with the two BWA vice presidents for Africa. The programme opened with the theme, 'Let Africa Speak' and representatives shared their problems and opportunities relating to evangelism and church growth in their countries. The last two days were devoted to discussions on the formation of an African Baptist Fellowship through which ideas arising from the conference might be developed.



BMS Brazil Missionaries and their families at Annual Conference