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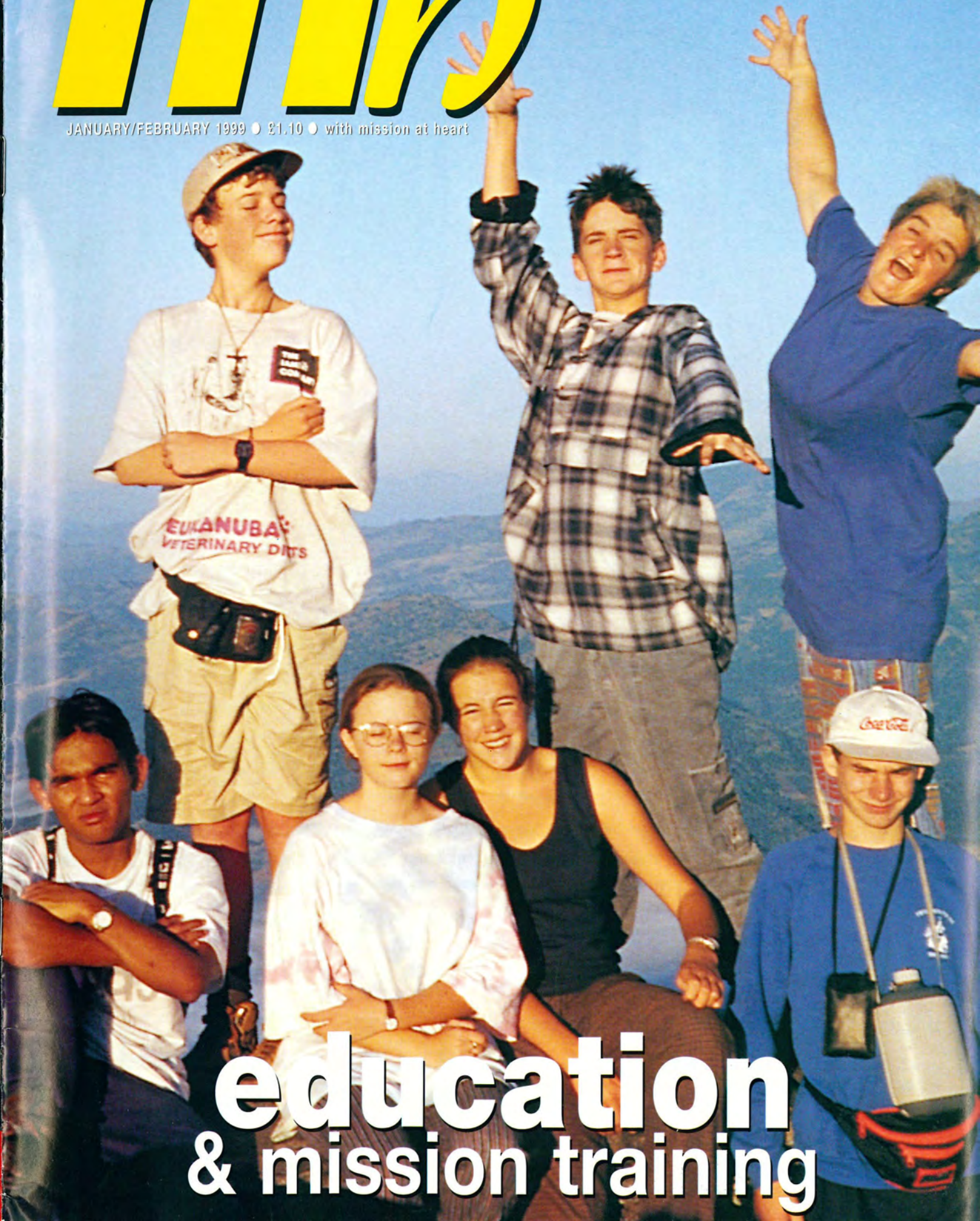
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people in mission  
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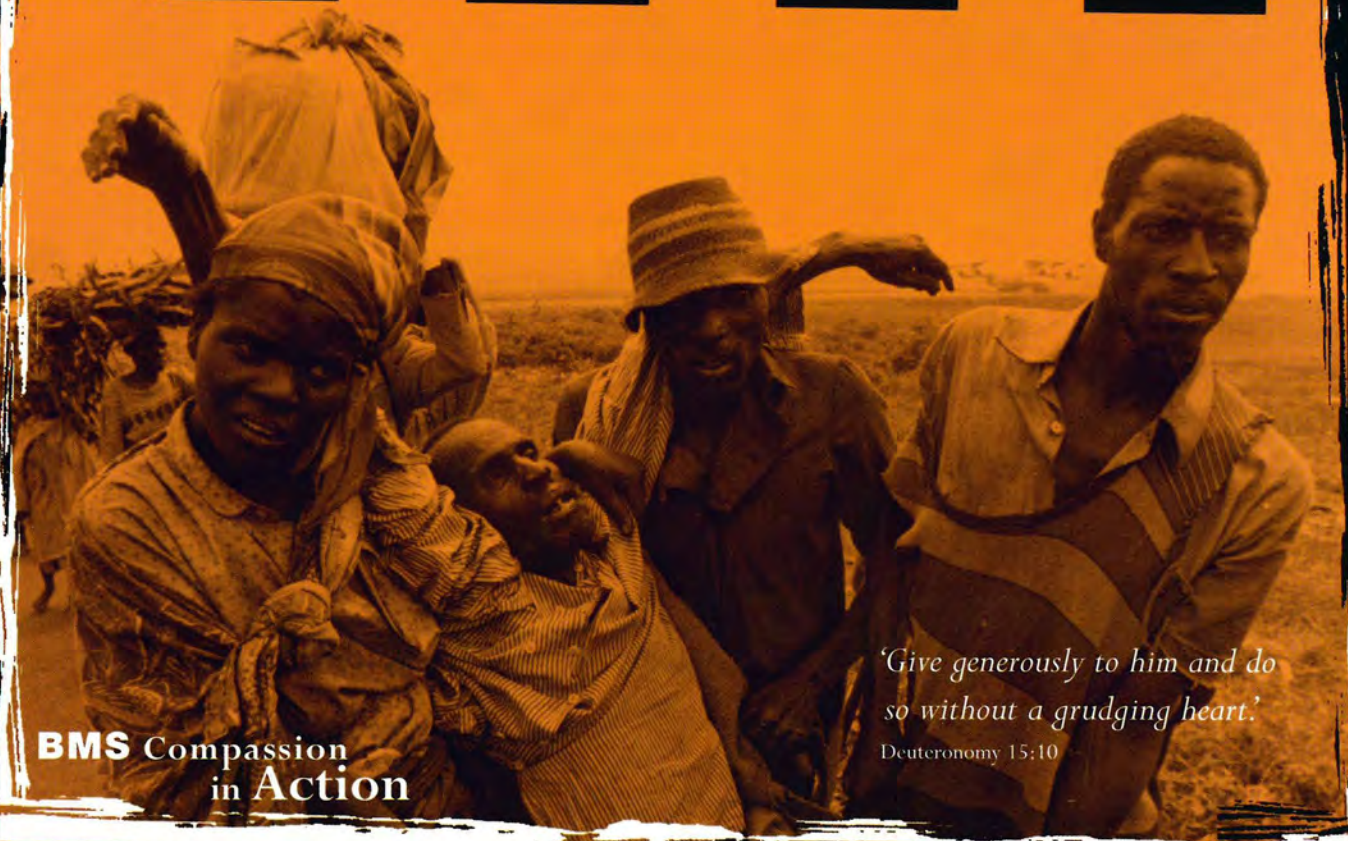
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**BMS**

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COVER PICTURE GRACE PENNEY AND STUDENTS FROM KATHMANDU INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTRE DESIGN SARAH PRENTICE

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**BMS**  
Publications





# news

Only 200 of the islands are inhabited, with a population of around a quarter of a million people. (CSW/Open Doors)

## Indonesia Enemies become friends



PANOS PICTURES

Muslim communities, previously hostile to Christians, have responded positively to unexpected relief shipments.

Around 25 tons of food, paid for by churches in Singapore, have been delivered to villages around Jakarta to help those worst hit by the drought and economic crisis that have created desperate shortages in the country.

These were the first deliveries in what is hoped to be a two-year commitment by Singaporean Christians. The supplies are purchased in Indonesia.

Each package contains a family's food for one week: rice, cooking oil, sugar, noodles and milk powder. Each box is signed 'The Gift From Singaporean Christians'.

Project Bless Indonesia executive director Andy Budi Janto Sutedja said, "Many pastors say they have received a great response from non-Christian

communities around them – some from people who formerly were against them, breaking windows and burning churches. In another part the

tribes are more open to working with Christians as a result of this effort. They used to be



very resistant; some of our workers were even almost killed a few years ago."

"There was a lot of need, and it's important for Christians to show the true love of God when people are in crisis," said Derek Hong, pastor of one of the participating churches in Singapore. (YWAM News)

## Turkey

A four year-old boy was killed and 25 others injured when a Christian bookstall at Gaziantep's crowded trade fair was the target of a senseless bomb attack. The stand was operated by Good News Publishing Company and was selling Bibles, Christian books and tapes in the Turkish language. The attack was publicly condemned by both the Turkish President and Prime Minister, and the man responsible has been given a life sentence in prison. (Open Doors)

## Pakistan

An attempt has been made by Pakistan's Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, to do away with the country's civil laws and replace them with Islamic law. According to Christians, this proposed amendment would restrict their religious freedom even further, and subject them to more persecution. It would mean that every citizen would be forced to observe Islamic prayers five times a day. (Open Doors)

## India

Following the election of the Hindu Nationalist Party in India, Christians — and especially Baptists — have come under pressure in North East India from anti-Christian groups, who accuse them of helping underground guerilla movements to destabilise the area. This area has a history of conflict, both tribal, and with the government of India for autonomy. One report says that churches have been destroyed, Bibles torn and set on fire. Christians have been beaten and put in jail. (BWA)

## Tanzania

The Baptist Convention of Tanzania has set itself a target of sending 50 missionaries internally and eight missionaries to neighbouring countries by the year 2007. The new goals have been adopted by the Convention to strengthen its mission and ministry. They also wish to strengthen Sunday Schools, encourage Bible studies and train qualified religious educators. They hope to establish a department to co-ordinate these efforts. (BWA)

## Albania



Four leaders of congregations met recently at the European Baptist Federation meeting in Kiev, to discuss plans for organising a Baptist Union in Albania. Those involved were Saverio Guarna (BMS), Adnan Pula (Baptist elder), Jonathan Steeper (Canadian Baptist missionary), and Alfred 'Freddy' Golloshi (co-paster in Baptist church). (EBPS)



## India New AIDS ministry in Madras

The increase in AIDS in India has created a new grouping in the country's caste system: with HIV carriers being shunned by relatives.

An adoption programme for AIDS patients has begun in Madras by workers with Youth With A Mission (YWAM), and through it,



YWAM

this new group of 'outcasts' is finding acceptance and hope.

Madras is a city of seven million people, and the number of cases of AIDS has risen significantly in the past few years, largely through sexual contact and drug use.

Volunteer workers get

free access to the two main hospitals in Madras, bringing in food and other supplies for the patients.

When patients are discharged they are put in touch with volunteers from a church in their home area who take on a support role. Tim Svoboda, who heads up YWAM's work in Madras, says: "AIDS isn't well understood oftentimes, so when people are diagnosed they can be rejected by their families. People are afraid that they can contract AIDS through everyday contact with people, and there is a great deal of shame associated with the disease."

It is reported that one man disappeared on learning that his wife was HIV positive, leaving her alone in hospital.

Deva Wilson Prabu, who heads up the AIDS ministry comments: "It's still early days, but we have seen considerable impact already. We have seen people welcomed back by their families, and also some real openness to the gospel."

(YWAM News)

## Mongolia Blind missionary helps others see

With a cane and the help of a Mongolian Christian friend, 27-year-old Marta Sloan - who has been blind for more than half her life - is a familiar sight around the Mongolian

capital, Ulaan Baatar, where she teaches English to blind students aged nine to 60.

As well as teaching a new language, Sloan also wants to encourage her class to



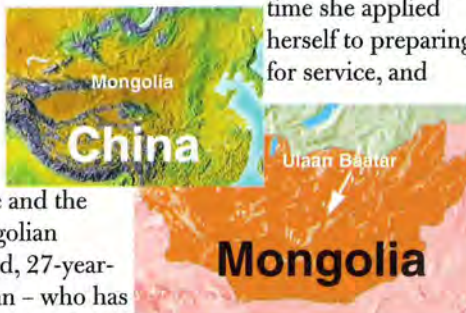
YWAM

learn that being disabled does not disqualify them from life. "Very few blind Mongolians work, or even believe they have the ability to because of the way society has traditionally viewed the handicapped," she said.

She is undaunted about living in a city that knows nothing about access aids for disabled people. Nor is she concerned about being overseas in a situation where many sighted single women would think twice. "My friend knows where it is safe to be," she says, "and as a foreigner I am less of a target. But the most important security comes from knowing that God wants me to be here."

She felt God calling her to become a missionary from the age of 12, a year before she lost her sight. From that

time she applied herself to preparing for service, and



gained a degree in inter-cultural studies. She believes

more room should be made for handicapped people who want to serve God full-time.

"There's not a single person that God can't use in some way," she said. "It is not only handicapped people who sometimes feel they can't be used. Others may feel disqualified because of something that has happened to them, or an experience they have had, but we all have something to offer." (YWAM News)

## Holland New flower power hits Amsterdam

Christians who wanted to share their faith at an



international homosexual festival chose to hand out flowers rather than point fingers.

Five thousand yellow roses with a note proclaiming God's love were presented to spectators and tourists at the Gay Games in Amsterdam, which drew an estimated 100,000 people to the city.



YWAM

Nearly 100 Christians from eight countries took part in the three-week outreach. Initially the organisers confessed to being 'a little nervous' about the way they might be received as they witnessed in different parts of the city.

"Since our focus was not so much homosexuals or the issue as such, but more on people and the good news that they are cared for and deeply loved, we did not get any aggression. If anything there was more surprise from the gay people we met," said Nellie Bosshardt, who helped lead the programme.

She added, "we believe that a homosexual lifestyle is not God's intention, but we weren't evangelising to communicate a certain view on homosexuality."

Those involved in the outreach played music and presented dances at key venues across the city. They also ran a coffee bar and offered free shoe-cleaning outside Amsterdam's Central Station.

One lesbian couple were given a card in one of the city's main parks. Even before they read the card, they asked, "Does it say that lesbians go to hell?" The 67-year-old Canadian outreach member stood between them, and replied,

"No, it says that God loves you."

Some 20 people made commitments to Christ during the outreach, though none from gay backgrounds. "Many people, among whom were a great number of homosexuals, perhaps for the first time in their life saw and received something positive from believers," said Bosshardt.

"The impact of the event will go far beyond Amsterdam," she added. "Our eyes were opened for the possibilities and the necessity. As a Church we have in a way ignored this group of people, and wrongly so." (YWAM News)

## Central Asia Closed countries: open hearts



PANOS PICTURES

People living in Central Asia face many difficulties: civil war, economic instability, and harsh religious laws. In some republics Christians risk arrest, interrogation and fines when they meet together.

Nevertheless it is reported that the number of Christians in Central

## Alistair Brown



### Reflects....

Kiev in Ukraine is one of the world's most beautiful cities. The river drifts lazily through its heart, the landscape rises and falls, and the old part has buildings so magnificent you want to stand and stare. Art galleries, memorials, churches – wonderful tributes to people's artistic and architectural skills.

The awesome St Andrew's Church (above) sits on the crest of a hill, its classic orthodox lines decked with gold edging and its crosses proclaiming a faith that Soviet domination could not suppress. I worshipped in the Central Baptist Church. I was deeply moved by the commitment of young and old, and their deep desire that others should know their Christ.

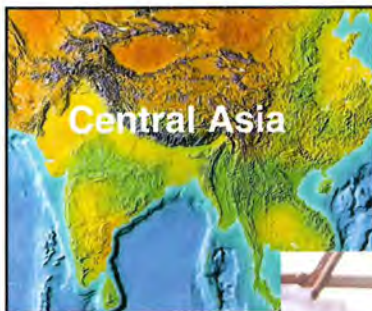
So, faith was not erased by a communist regime. But, if I'm scared for them, it's the challenge to faith that western secularism now brings. Big corporations are pouring into countries like Ukraine. The picture (above) has St Andrew's church in the distance, but the foreground is dominated by McDonald's and to the right is an enormous Nescafe advert across the whole side of a neighbouring building. McDonald's – or, the American Embassy as some called it – looks deserted, but it was busy inside and on weekend evenings it's overrun by young people. The dress code is Levi jeans, Reebok trainers and Nike t-shirts. They occupy every table inside and out, ordering Big Macs and Coke (same words in Ukrainian).

Will westernisation change them? Yes. Is it a rival to the simpler values of their parents? Of course. These kids have choices their parents never had. They're poor, but they aspire for everything this world offers. Being cool includes Big Macs and Levi jeans. It doesn't easily include beautiful choir singing and three hour church services.

Secularism won't be resisted in Ukraine any more than it has been here. Will its march be matched by the march of the gospel? I hope so. For the sake of a new generation, I hope so. ●

Alistair Brown is General Director of BMS





Asia is growing. Less than a decade ago, there was only "a handful" according to FEBA's development manager for the region, John Sutor, ; "now there are several thousand."

Currently radio

programmes are produced in two Central Asian languages for broadcasting on a medium wave transmitter. There are plans to add three more languages in the next two years. Cassettes and videos are also used to help in a teaching ministry, for a church that is growing rapidly without trained teachers or pastors.

Ethnic Central Asian Christian music is also regarded as an essential element in the radio programmes.

"I don't think that it's a coincidence that in some of these countries, the newly emerging churches have gifted musicians and song-writers in their midst" he commented. (FEBA Radio News)



PANOS PICTURES

# action

# card



## Clean Water

Planet Earth has very little fresh water and as human populations continue to grow, the fresh water is decreasing on a per capita basis. More than a billion people face the problem of how to acquire fresh water every day of their lives.

A person who has food to eat needs to drink at least one litre of water a day simply to stay alive. A person who is short of food needs to drink much more water. But it is often shortage of water which causes shortage of food because water is the essential requirement for food production.

No water, no food.

Most developing countries which are condemned to shortage of water are also condemned to the use of dirty water. More than four million children die every year from diarrhoea caused by water-borne infections.

"The number of water taps per thousand persons will become a better indicator of health than the number of hospital beds". Halfdan Mahler, former Director of WHO.

It is vital to encourage clean water projects, especially those which work through communities in the developing world, so that local wisdom and tradition may be taken into account.

The Church of the Province of Kenya works through local communities to build rain-water catchment dams and tanks, especially in the arid lands. Work camps involve members of the church and the local community. Volunteers from Christians Aware often share in the camps, keep in touch with the people and see the difference clean water makes.

Send a card of encouragement (43p stamp) to Rt Revd Alfred Chipman at the Diocese of Mount Kenya West, PO Box 229, Nyeri, Kenya. ●

BMS, Baptist Union, Christians Aware, Church of Scotland, Methodist Church, United Reformed Church

# 2000S

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# Mola - young man of vision

**OWEN CLARK**  
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 AND FUTURE  
 CHURCH LEADERSHIP  
 IN THE DEMOCRATIC  
 REPUBLIC OF CONGO  
 (FORMERLY ZAIRE)

he's not really blind, is he?" One parent nudged another. "I mean, you can't run a school if you're blind, can you?"

Mola, who really is blind, had invited parents and friends to the blind school he runs at the Lisala church in Kinshasa — some fifteen youngsters on the books, and one or two adults. Smartly dressed in suit and tie, he read his speech of welcome in confident manner, running his fingers across the stiff paper.

"No," said the other. "He must be

able to see a bit. Besides, how could he possibly get around Kinshasa the way he does?"

Mola is used to people saying things about him as though he were deaf as

■ **that's a young** ■  
 ■ **man of vision** ■

well as blind. In the street someone will say, "What a terrible shame to see such a fine, young man, blind!" His response is, "Don't feel sorry for me! God cares for me, and Jesus Christ is my Saviour. If you can't say as much you need to feel sorry for yourself!"

His attitude was not always so positive. As children at Ntondo, both Mola and his sister had an eye condition, but whereas a doctor saved his sister's sight, Mola went blind. He became angry and bitter. With God. "Why me? Why has God allowed me to go blind?" he demanded. Mola heard the gospel at church and in school, and in response gave his heart to Christ. In need of encouragement, he also became

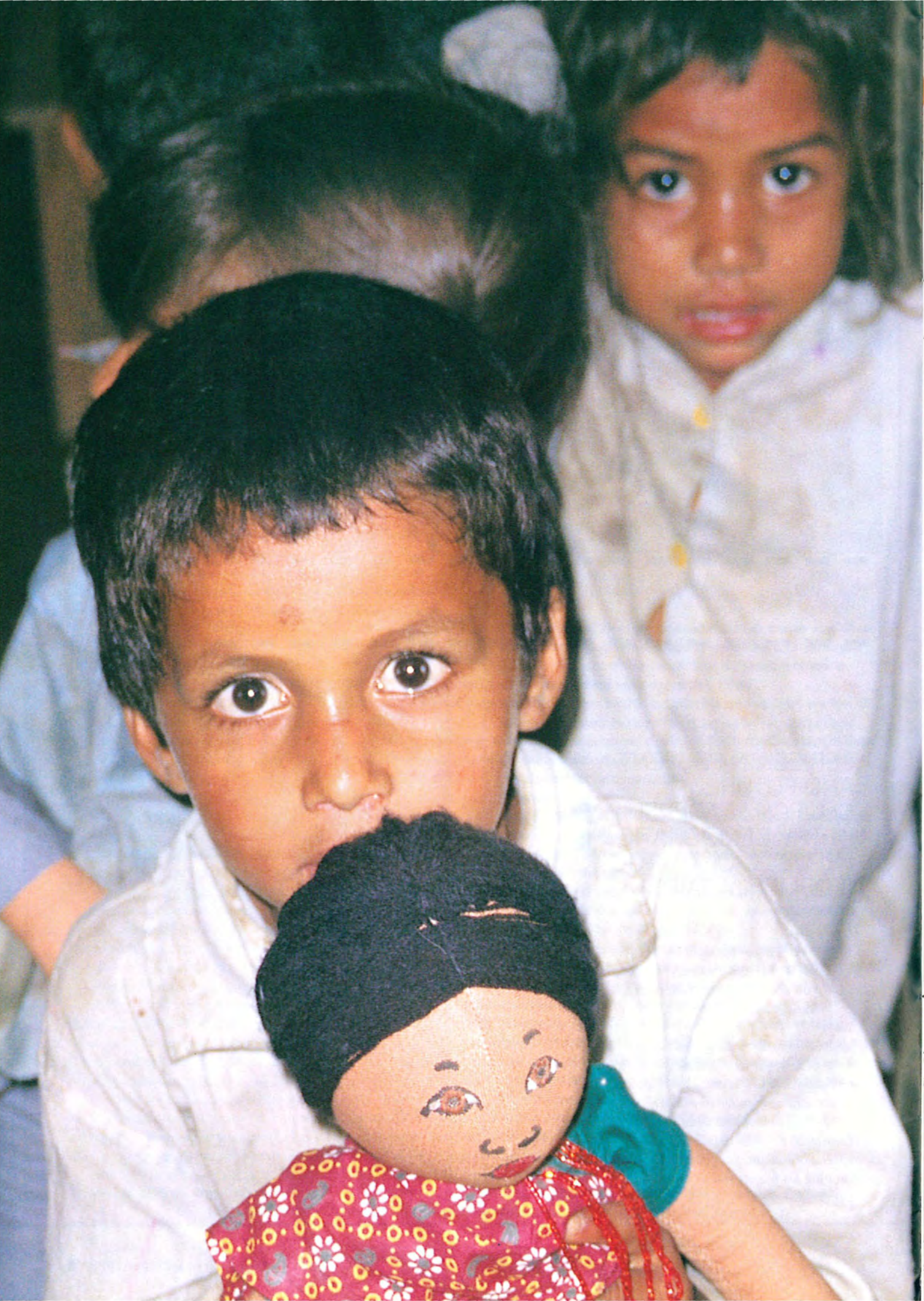
an encourager of others.

In his teens Mola was helped to get to Kinshasa and attended a school for the blind. There he learnt Braille and other skills. Continuing his general education, he eventually got his State Diploma. All the while his faith and understanding had grown. In spite of blindness God had been good to him.

Mola felt that it was now up to him to help other blind folk — encourage them out of their dark corners, help family and society to appreciate their potential, teach them what he had learnt, help them integrate in the church and the world. In faith, with no resources, he started the school, with two other teachers, one blind, to help him.

There are other things he'd like to do — carry on studying, marry his fiancée, a sighted girl, who accepted him against her family's wishes — but for the moment he says, "I can now see why God allowed me to go blind — so that he could better use me to bring hope to the blind." That's a young man of vision. ●

Owen Clark is a church worker with BMS in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



# when grown men played

## CORINNA WOODS TELLS OF A DARING EXPERIMENT IN EDUCATION

The country of Nepal re-opened its borders to the outside world in 1951 after a century of isolation. Nepal's education system dates back to this time, and it is to the country's credit that there is a primary school building of sorts in almost every village.

During the two years that I worked in a remote village in west Nepal, I observed almost complete educational poverty. Schools have buildings, but they are leaky, and mud-floored, with no door in doorways, or securable windows. They are given one teacher for every 50 enrolled pupils. There is rarely any furniture and no books, toys, drawing materials or PE equipment.

Teachers are only required to have a school leaving certificate (SLC), easily obtained by cheating, and someone to pull strings to get them their job. The teachers only teach for four out of seven periods each day, leaving children unoccupied for up to two-thirds of the school day. As they teach by subject rather than class teaching, they never get to know their pupils.

My assignment was to assess the quality of primary education and to find ways of helping the local community to introduce change. I quickly realised that geographical isolation meant that most people had never left their local area to see or experience anything different in schools, and this led to a cycle of poor teaching producing poorly educated teachers. Despite the excellence of a new curriculum being introduced,

government training tended to be all theory. So I organised a tour to Kathmandu for the education students so they could see what good schools looked like. The students marvelled at ten-year-old children in the British school doing "harder work than our SLC", and having never seen outdoor play equipment spent a break-time sliding down the slide! (They were aged between 18 and 30!)

Building on this I was able to use my influence as "external examiner" to set up teaching practice on western

**"No one has ever helped us like this before. We're so enjoying this!"**

lines, insisting on class teaching and full-time presence in the classroom. The results were encouraging; children came to school regularly, and made real progress, even in one month. But the teachers felt threatened by this demonstration and wanted nothing to do with it. I, however, felt confirmed in my diagnosis that subject teaching was the root of the failing system, and offered to help the primary school introduce class teaching.

Two schools responded, and for three months the two designated class 1 teachers worked at my home on their free afternoon, making simple teaching aids: flashcards, puzzles, matching games etc. They said one day, "No one has ever helped us like this before. We're so enjoying this!" We invited the local chairmen of the Village Development Committees to tea, to ask for funds for furniture and were well received, so we ordered proper tables and small benches, a lockable cupboard and new doors for each room

from a local carpenter.

I spent alternate days with these classes showing the teachers how to organise their time to include written work as well as talking; how to invite answers from the children instead of telling them everything; how to use books, toys, paint and scissors, and how to do PE and read to the children – every activity a new experience.

One sometimes frustrating aspect of the programme was the community interest – faces of men and women, boys and girls constantly peering through the windows to see what was going on and often asking "Show us the people" – the two rag dolls dressed as Nepali man and woman which were easily the favourite toys. I shan't easily forget wrinkled, old grannies standing holding with grinning delight the first dolls they had ever seen.

It became a regular routine for other teachers to arrive hesitantly in the classroom at lunch time to read the books and play with the toys. These were men of some standing locally doing puzzles, fitting shapes in sorting boxes with difficulty, and reading story books for the first time in their lives. During a class session one teacher sat with the children reading a small christian picture book, one of several I had added to the rat-proof tin trunk of books, the story of the crucifixion. He appeared angry and I thought was about to object to christian material being placed in his classroom – but no. He brought the book to me and said, "What terrible things they did to your Jesus. Where can I find out more about him?"

My prayer is that these two teachers will be able to maintain their new style of teaching. Also that the practical example of christian lives, lived among them may bear fruit, so that these people, too, may long to serve in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ.

Corinna Woods spent seven years in Nepal as a BMS missionary and teacher.

# education

I'm often reminded what a 'different' experience it is to teach geography to missionary children here in Nepal. For example, a field trip never fails to attract the attention of the locals, whether it's a traffic survey on one of Kathmandu's busy streets, or a river study out in the country. The children are used to local people peering over their shoulders at their clipboards, almost to the point where they can't see what they are writing! It always amuses me to observe the look of the villagers' faces as students measure the speed of flow of a stream by timing how long it takes a lemon to travel a given distance downstream. There is a puzzled expression

the United Mission to Nepal and the International Nepal Fellowship, for the education of missionary children. Today, as space permits, KISC also welcomes the children of other expatriates working in Nepal and seeks to provide an education in a christian environment. An international school, it provides boarding and day school for children aged 11 to 18 years. At present there are 90 students coming from many countries such as USA, Australia, Bangladesh, Germany, UK, Canada, Netherlands, India, Norway and Nepal. Students take IGCSE exams and Advanced International Certificate of Education. Maximum class size is 20.

Lyndsay and Kirsty McLellan of BMS also attend KISC. Lyndsay is in Year 9 and Kirsty is in Year 7. Both are going to be taking part in the school musical, Annie.

The longer I've worked at KISC, the more I have realised what a vital role it has in 'mission' work. At times I have been tempted to think that, in a country with such obvious need, I would be more useful working more directly with Nepali people. What good am I being to Nepal teaching geography to expatriate children? It is often implied that the education of missionaries children is not 'real' missionary work. People find it harder to give their money, time and prayer to



It is often implied that the education of missionaries children is not 'real' missionary work.....

which says, "Foreigners ARE strange. We always expected it. We EAT lemons."

I'll never forget the day we returned from a trip close to the end of the monsoon. It was a warm, drizzly day – perfect weather for leeches, (little black worms that suck your blood). Children emerged from the forest at the end of the day with feet, socks and boots covered in blood. Others had leeches drop down their T-shirts which made them look as if they had been shot. The combination of blood and rain made it all the more dramatic and, whilst the children examined their bodies almost with glee, I reflected on what the reaction of parents in the UK might be if I returned their offspring in this state after a school trip!

I've been teaching at Kathmandu International Study Centre (KISC), for four years. Previously I taught geography in a secondary school in Norfolk and worked as an instructor of outdoor activities and environmental studies in Snowdonia and Cheshire.

The school was founded in 1987 by

Students have the opportunity to go trekking, to explore the Kathmandu valley, to visit UMN/INF projects and to do rock climbing, gorge scrambling, mountain biking and sleeping out on hill tops. Field trips to study art, language and geography are regular features in a typical term.

Susan, Joon, Lyndsay and Kirsty are typical of students at KISC.

Susan's dad works at a small hospital in the hills. Susan has been at KISC since Year 7 and now she is one of ten students in our new Sixth Form. She lives at the KISC boarding house. Every term she travels five hours on a bus plus four hours of walking to be reunited with her parents for the holidays.

Joon's parents work in Nepal, supported by a Korean mission. He takes his IGCSEs in May. Last year his family went to the UK for further training and he attended a school in the Midlands. He kept in touch with his friends (and his geography teacher) by e-mail and "couldn't wait to get back" to KISC!

this aspect of work.

These days mission personnel are not prepared to compromise on their children's education. They want their children to have a good education in a christian environment which will prepare them academically and socially for their future studies and work.

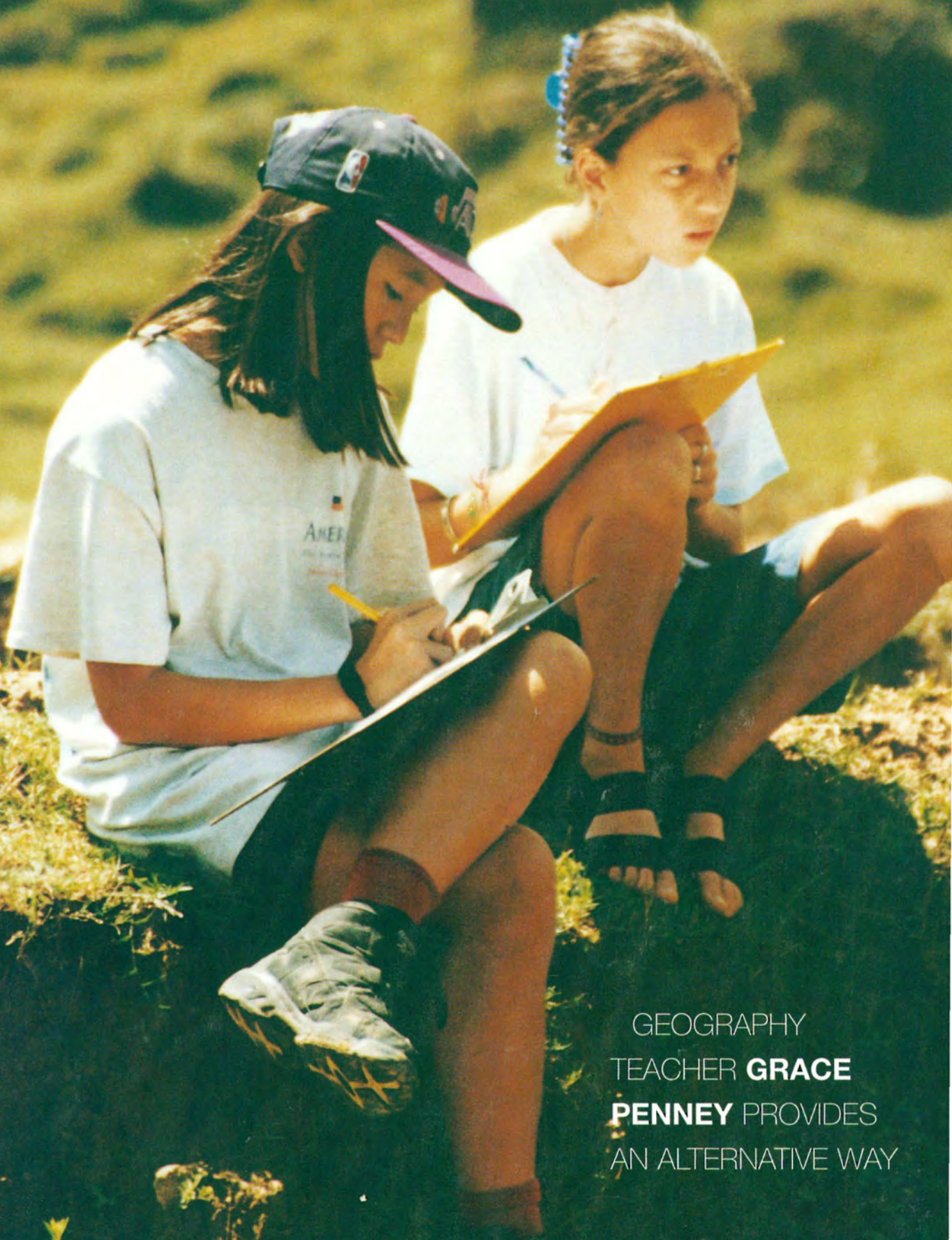
Although I have done no statistical analysis on the issue, I am certain from 'listening' that the education of children is the single most important factor influencing the length of service that mission personnel will do.

My role in providing quality education for mission children enables their parents to be involved in and committed to 'frontline' mission work as doctors, agriculturalists, engineers and educationalists. They are directly involved with the local people, but in order to be there they need this essential support.

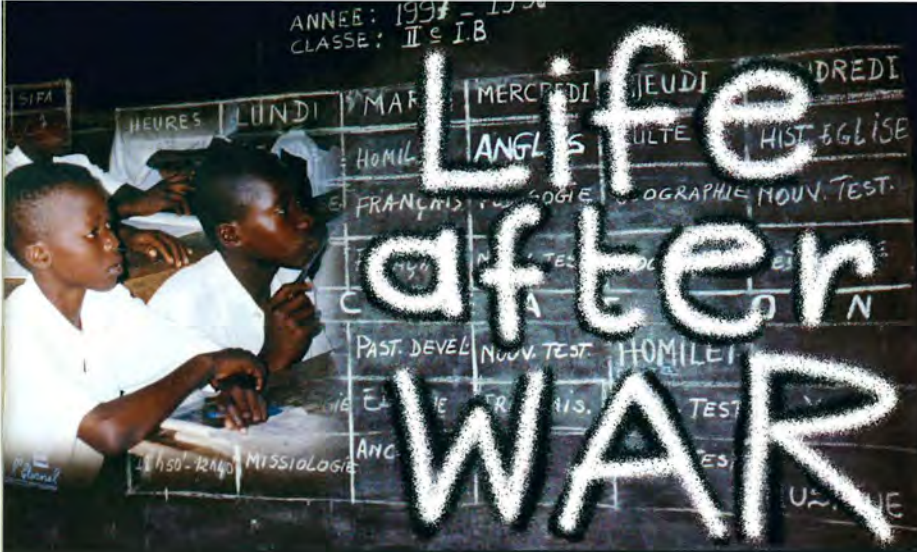
The encouraging thing is that we all have a part to play in mission. ●

Grace Penney is a BMS missionary based in Kathmandu, Nepal.

# i nternational study



GEOGRAPHY  
TEACHER **GRACE**  
**PENNEY** PROVIDES  
AN ALTERNATIVE WAY



# Life after WAR

# Democratic Republic of Life after WAR

**PAT WOOLHOUSE** HAS JUST RETURNED TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO. HERE SHE RELATES WHAT SHE FOUND HAD HAPPENED TO THE COUNTRY'S SCHOOLING.

**O**ur salary first! We're parents too and we need to buy uniforms and notebooks for our children!"

This was the general reaction when the government announced that, even though the east of the country is still at war and Kinshasa and Bas-Congo (this area) are recovering from six weeks of fighting and insecurity, the new school year was to start on 1 October. Teachers were understandably reluctant to leave their gardens, which provide a minimum of food for the family, in order to take up their chalk again without any guarantee of

money at the end of the month. In this province the situation was further complicated by the arrest of the generally popular Governor, accused of having "co-operated" with the rebels because he was forced at gun point to open the bank vaults in Matadi. The teachers' trade union representative said that work would not start until he had been liberated and restored to office.

In some families the young people had gone elsewhere for the holidays and travelling back has been complicated by a chronic shortage of money, few passenger vehicles on the road and in some cases, no identity papers. There has been so much



people to view things like the World Cup Live and other events.

Members at Chipping Campden Baptist Church have a vision for growth. Firmly believing that church planting is the way to make kingdom growth happen, they are planting a new church in the nearby town of Shipston-on-Stour.

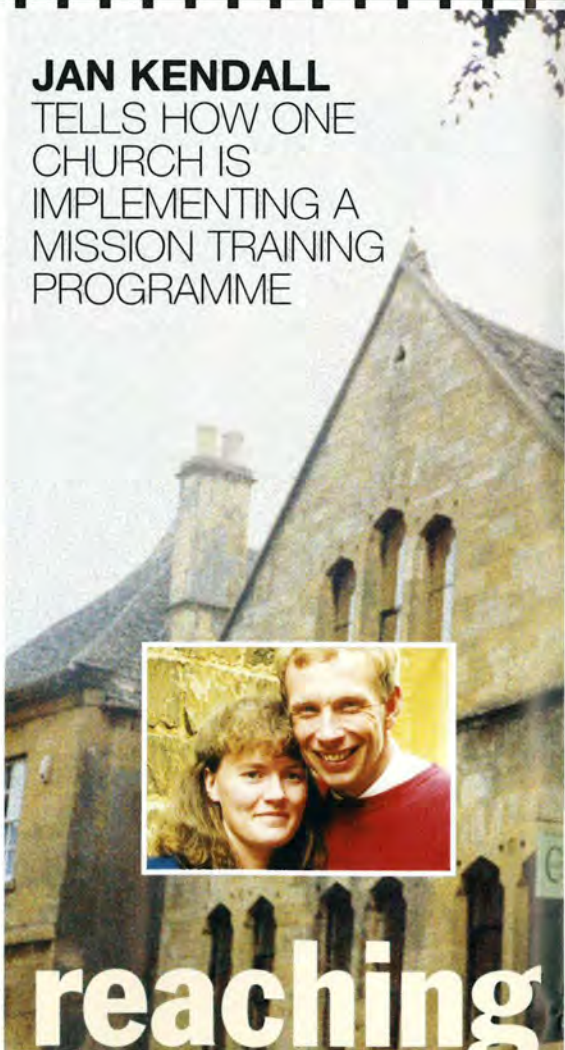
**JAN KENDALL** TELLS HOW ONE CHURCH IS IMPLEMENTING A MISSION TRAINING PROGRAMME

**m**ission isn't something that just happens overseas. Very often people get their mission training in their home church, and it is there they first get the bug for reaching out for God.

Chipping Campden Baptist Church in Gloucestershire has as its mission statement: 'to proclaim Jesus Christ to people today.' As minister Phil Deller says, they want to make Jesus relevant in today's world, to people in their community and further afield. They have renovated their old building, so that whilst it retains its aged facade, it is completely modern inside. They have a data projector which they use to invite

**We've got something worth sharing.**

They are just about to start their sixth Alpha course, to which they have 50 people signed up, 20 of whom have not been to church before. The whole church had to go through the first course, to see how it worked. Then it was up to them to bring others in. As Phil Deller says, "It's developing a culture of invitation in church, so that people are not embarrassed. We've got something worth



**reaching**

Congo

after

students ....  
will be trying to  
study without  
even basic pens  
and notebooks



less police harassment in the last year that folk had got out of the habit of carrying their papers but in the current situation travellers are having to identify themselves at regular road blocks. 1 October was also a Thursday, and the usual hesitation about coming back to school before "someone else" (the headmaster perhaps?!) has swept and washed the classrooms is even more noticeable when the new school year starts midweek.

All this means that at the beginning of the second week in October primary and secondary schools were only opening cautiously, certainly not in full swing. Some further education had restarted,

though with reduced student numbers, but other institutions were still trying to get organised. Indeed, in some places the outbreak of hostilities had called a halt to exam sessions or final lectures and when the new academic year begins some students will have to start by completing the previous year. There had been hopes that after a number of years when each institution had its own academic calendar, we were getting to the point where uniformity might be possible, but those hopes have now been dashed. Students at all levels of education will be trying to study without even basic pens and notebooks, let alone adequate uniform or

necessary fees.

Education in this country has really suffered in recent years. Unpaid teachers do not give of their best and many parents give up the struggle to find school fees for their children. The government was beginning to tackle the problem, but this war has been a great setback. ●

Pat Woolhouse is a teacher  
with BMS,  
working in Kimpese, DRC.



sharing. We need to restore people's confidence in the gospel."

But Chipping Campden's mission awareness does not end there. They are developing overseas

links. For a medium-sized church with a membership of 125, they are brimming with people training for mission.

They have two couples overseas with different agencies, one in Turkey and the other in Thailand. The latter work in a team, helping abused girls. Members Peter and Karen Lloyd were BMS volunteer workers in Nepal for almost a year; there's a woman in the congregation who was in Papua New Guinea for over 20 years, and still works on translating the New Testament into Gogadala, a local dialect, plus two men in training for ministry. The entire church works on its relationship with their BMS link missionaries.

In 1998 they hosted an Action Team

for the first time prior to their service overseas. The Albania Action Team went into local schools and took part in Sunday worship. The church appreciated the opportunity, and said things went "really well."

Chipping Campden Baptist Church has strong links with Ecce Homo, a welfare organisation in Romania. These links are built on relationship rather than giving aid. In 1998 eight went from Chipping Campden to visit Ecce Homo; and in 1999 some will come from Romania to the UK. Ecce Homo is a group of Christians who help poor families. They work with street children, in an orphanage, and distribute aid and welfare help in a town called Cluj Napoca.

Surely a church with a mission statement that is finding fulfilment! ●

Jan Kendall is BMS Editorial Co-ordinator and *mb* Editor

Main photograph Chipping Campden Baptist Church. Inset left to right: Peter and Karen Lloyd; Phil Deller; worship at Chipping Campden.

out for God



# in at the deep end

## RYDER ROGERS TALKS ABOUT LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN THE ALBANIAN CHURCH

**T**he in-laws can sometimes be right – Moses' father-in-law was. 'Do it all on your own, son, and you'll kill yourself'. Good advice is worth listening to, so that thought became a guiding principle that we tried to follow here in Albania.

Our vision has always been to hand over, watch over, and start again somewhere else. That's why when we were suddenly evacuated we were able to leave four young people ranging from

17 to 24 years of age to carry on what we had started – two responsible for teaching, one for the prayer-life of the church and one for music and worship. Right from the beginning we talked to

**Our vision has always  
been to hand over,  
watch over, and start  
again somewhere else**

those who became Christians about 'serving', that is, doing what God wants with the abilities he gives.

So, as soon as possible we got our

young people serving Jesus. Some with hearts of compassion worked in the church's Compassion Ministry, distributing clothing and food to the really needy. Others were taught to play musical instruments in our Worship Group. Those that felt that they had something to say about the Bible were helped to put their thoughts together for a Sunday service, or lead a Bible study. Any that had a heart for prayer were encouraged to share their concerns. Out of this 'service' we saw people emerging who showed signs of God's hand on them. So little by little we gave them space to get on and do it.

The problem with young Christians (and I don't just mean in age) is what Paul warned Timothy about – Satan's snare of self importance. Without oversight during our three months of enforced absence, two of them got big-headed, jealous, self righteous, and wanted to rule the roost. When we returned, we had to discipline them. One accepted it and repented, the other didn't and became very hard-hearted. Sadly this division created not just ripples but waves that eighteen months later are still sloshing around.

What we suffered, other young churches also experienced. The devil's main attack is to hit the leaders hard –







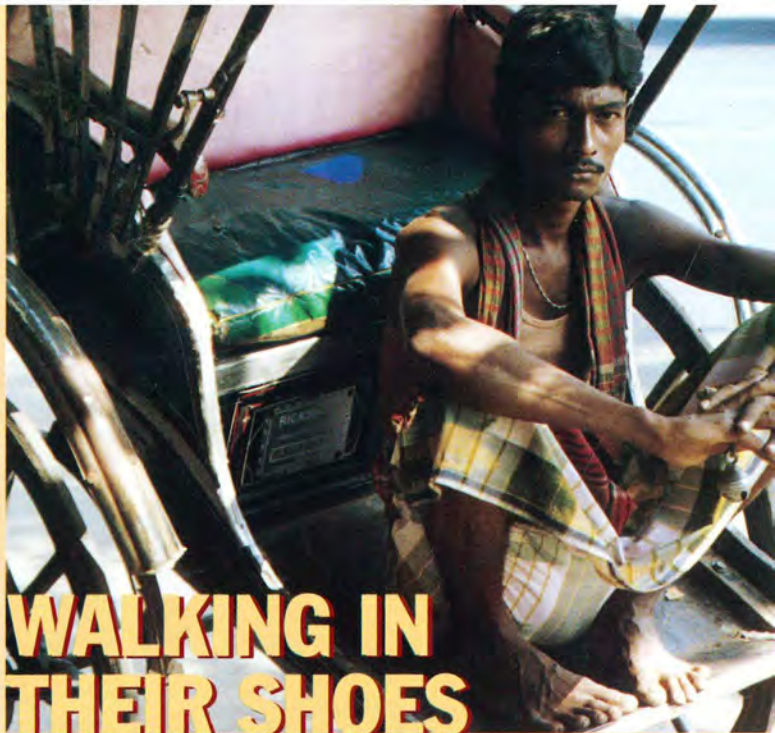
Left and below left: Ryder conducting baptisms  
Below: The Church at Bregu-i-Lumit



so that they fall on top of others creating a domino effect. However there are in Albania young Christians who have emerged as godly leaders, not only in their own churches, but for the evangelical community. For ourselves, in many ways, we are back to square one. Some negatively say "See, you can't leave young Christians on their own". How much that reflects the reality or missionary insecurity is open to debate, but we are not prepared to give up the vision. ●



Ryder Rogers and his wife Heather are BMS missionaries involved in church planting work in Albania



## WALKING IN THEIR SHOES

STEVE FLASHMAN

**W**hat a great title! It's a nice Christian cliché often used to help us get to grips with the concept of identifying with people in their need. But the sentiment doesn't fit quite right in the context of world mission among the poor, many of whom don't own a pair of shoes. Perhaps I'm over-reacting, but it seems to me that we are not very good at relating to people at that level.

I've had the privilege of working in Developing World countries for over 20 years, supporting the work of missionaries and local churches through humanitarian aid projects and creative mission programmes, and I've been learning valuable lessons along the way. The rickshaw pullers of Calcutta have been some of my teachers.

I was asked to preach at a gathering of 70 of these men, while our small team of volunteers distributed food and hot drinks and of course, shoes. I stood up to speak, but for once in my life I was speechless as I faced these bedraggled and weary men, who battled for 18 hours a day with the hazards of unpredictable traffic chaos, bare feet on the dirty streets, and the constant struggle to feed their families. How could I tell them, coming from my privileged position, that God cared for them?

I quickly prayed for God's help and within seconds knew what I had to do. I invited them all outside to the bustling city centre street, filled with noise of buses, bikes, rickshaws, lorries and any number of bizarre forms of transport all hooting loudly, demanding every inch of space. After getting one of the men to volunteer I asked him to sit on his own rickshaw, and standing between the two long, wooden poles, I took hold of them and started pulling the rickshaw, with its amazed passenger, down the crowded street. This was no publicity stunt. No cameras, no promotional pictures to impress people back home. Just a genuine attempt to say something about God's acceptance of people right where they are.

The only thing I regret was that I didn't take off my shoes. ●



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

# a hard day's night



**JOHN CLARK**  
DESCRIBES  
THE LIFE OF TWO  
THEOLOGICAL  
STUDENTS  
IN BRAZIL



The bus jolted over another pothole, its springs had long lost the resilience of youth and did little to cushion Edilson from the continuous battering on the last stage of his journey home. Most nights he slept for the 90 minute trip. A day's work in a tax office followed by an evening studying theology left him drained. Tonight however, was different. This was his graduation year and his five year course was drawing to a close. He had been invited to speak at the weekly seminary service. He had been almost moved to tears as he expressed how much he was going to miss everything. The bus did a particularly vicious jolt – well perhaps he would not miss everything!



It had been difficult at first. His secondary schooling had been done in a poor, overcrowded school. In his first term at the seminary he had failed several of the exams. His job, the new church plant that he and his wife Gidalva had started, and the seminary course, seemed to demand more hours than a day provided. He'd stuck at it though and gradually learned to cope with the demanding routine. He'd enjoyed the more practical subjects, particularly the church planting and mission strategy courses. Systematic theology had been a bit too philosophical for his liking and the introduction to Greek and Hebrew had been enough to make him steer clear of the biblical exegesis course. His option for the missiology course had worked out well, though he couldn't quite see how studying Hinduism and Islam was going to help him in his work on the outskirts of Fortaleza. Then he remembered the mission strategy class that evening. They had reflected on New Testament missionary methods and the way that the Holy Spirit had led the church to break down the social and ethnic barriers, and be witnesses to the gospel, not only in Jerusalem and

Samaria, but to the ends of the earth. Perhaps the study of world religions was not so odd after all...

Roraima was home before Edilson caught his bus. His flat was on the 12th floor of a new block of flats near the seminary, a couple of minutes drive in his new Astra. His son Eduardo was absorbed in his new computer game. Edilson's words in the service had spoken to him. He too was finishing his course. It had taken him a year less. His Master's degree in Sociology had given him direct entry into the second year of the course. His work with the national environmental protection agency could be dangerous at times, but it did leave opportunities for study. The out of season lobster fishermen had not taken kindly to their arrival just as they were emptying their pots, and they had been met by gun fire. The police they took with them had dealt with that situation fairly quickly, and the three hour boat journey home had given plenty of time for him to prepare for the New Testament exegesis class.

The Greek of James' letter was harder than last term's studies in John's Gospel but the letter had so much to say to the Brazilian scene that the extra



effort was worthwhile. His conscience nagged him. The comments on today's passage about social and racial

discrimination had been a little bit too close to home for comfort. Their block of flats, like the example cited by their teacher, discriminated against the maids and the workers. There was one lift reserved for them and another for the residents. Pity the maid who got in the residents lift.

There was a noise at the door, that would be Enflima, his wife, just in from the Masters course she was doing at the State University. They had met at work, she was a Baptist minister's daughter, very bright and effervescent, a contrast to his quiet, more solid personality. She was on her third masters degree and was talking about the possibility of doing a PhD in France on a government grant. The economic crisis would probably put an end to that possibility.

He'd not been a Christian when they met. At first she had refused to go out with him, but when he accepted to go to church with her she had relented. Marriage had meant a promise to continue to go to church with her. For fourteen years he'd gone to church twice on Sunday and to the mid-week service. He had been interested at an intellectual level but nothing more. Then one Sunday evening, through the message of a visiting preacher, everything had changed. He'd come to a living faith in Jesus Christ and at the same time God had called him to serve him in the Christian ministry.

Now he was in the last year of Seminary and minister of a fast growing church on the outskirts of town. What next? He hoped to start a Masters degree in Theology next year and was interested in the invitation to be part time teacher at the Seminary. What would he do if his wife got the chance to do the PhD? It would mean going as a family to France. It would mean leaving his church. What would he do? What about their son? So much to pray about. ●



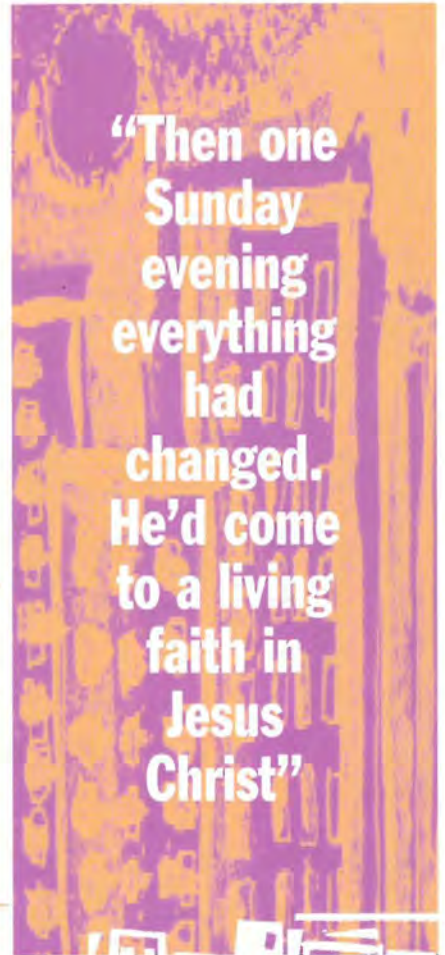
John Clark is a BMS missionary and lecturer at Fortaleza Theological Seminary, Brazil.



Photographs

Page 18: Bottom left: Edilson and Gidalva

Page 19: Top left: Pastor Roraima Braid



“Then one Sunday evening everything had changed. He'd come to a living faith in Jesus Christ”



our town: São Paulo

# São Paulo



A SERIES EDITED BY  
**JAN KENDALL** THAT  
LOOKS AT TOWNS  
AND CITIES AROUND  
THE WORLD WHERE  
BMS PERSONNEL  
ARE WORKING  
**BY STAN PORTER**

## History

In 1554 some Jesuit priests established a mission station called São Paulo dos Campos de Piratininga on the banks of the Rio Tietê. It developed into a trading post. The name was shortened to São Paulo and in the mid-1600s became a seat of regional government. By the mid-1800s it had become a small town.

In the late 1800s the coffee plantations were expanding and by the end of the century São Paulo state had

become the world's foremost producer of coffee. British and other foreign companies took the opportunity to invest in rail links and port facilities, and other industries such as textiles came to the area. Within a few decades São Paulo had become one of South America's greatest commercial and cultural centres – from a small town to a huge metropolitan sprawl.

## São Paulo population

1890	69,000
1900	239,000
1950	2,200,000
1995	18,300,000

## Introduction

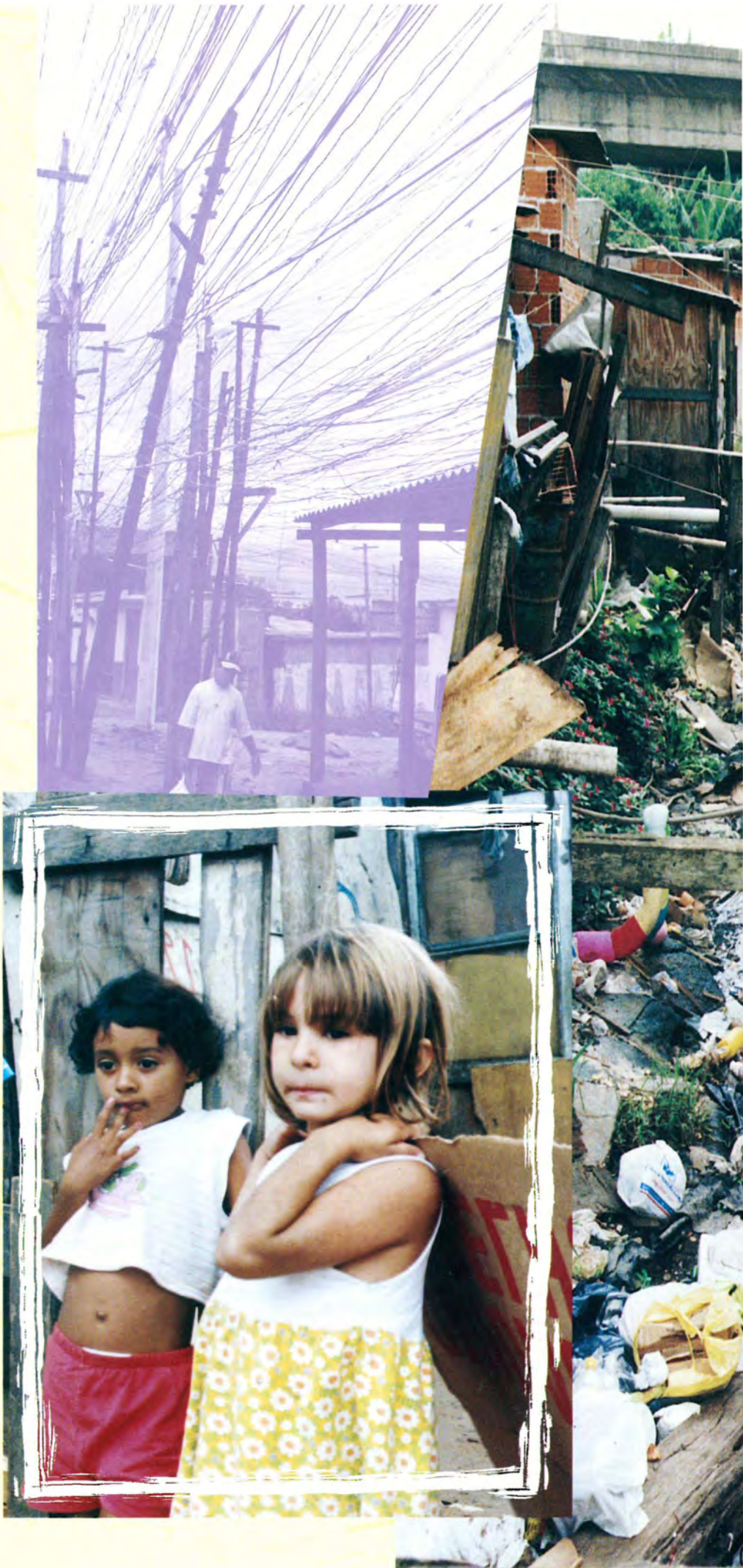
São Paulo is one of the three largest cities in the world, at least in population. Over 20 million people live closely packed into an area smaller than London. Two rivers, the Tietê and

Pinheiros, meet and form a triangle on which the original city developed, but it has long since expanded to beyond the rivers. They have not lost their significance, as one of the few bits of planning can be seen in the ring road that follows these rivers round the city. One side of the river the traffic travels clockwise and the other side anti-clockwise, on a road that varies from three to eight lanes in either direction. It is the third busiest road in the world! It is not unusual to hear on the news that there are 200, 300 or more miles of traffic jams in the city.

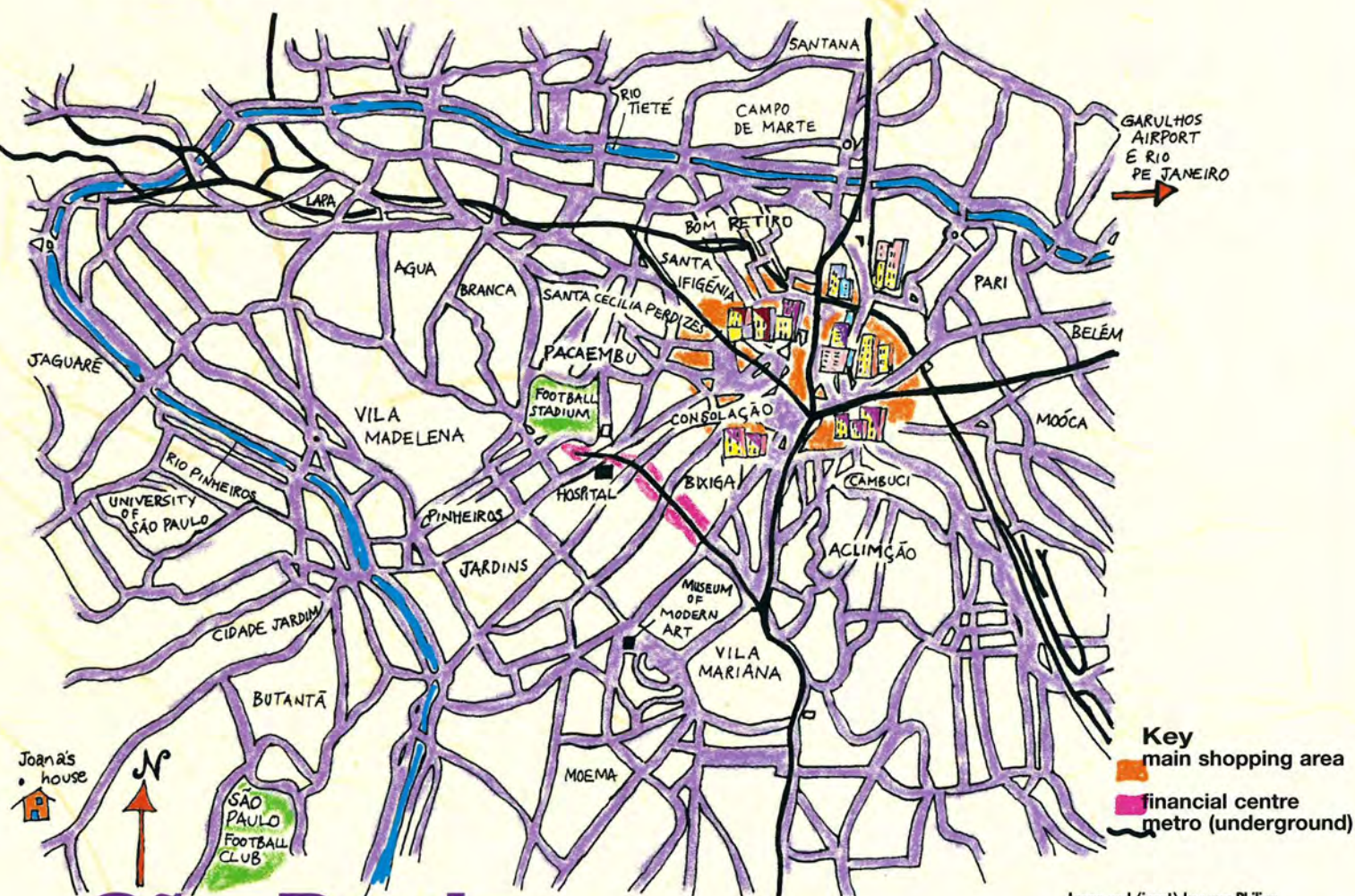
## First Impressions

by Jan Kendall

- Appalling roads – even main roads – with deep pot-holes, and huge sleeping policemen which are called 'lombardas', designed to slow the traffic down. If you had four people in a car, you scraped the car's underside in a serious way every time you went over one of these!
- Every house firmly locked behind railings in its own compound.
- Armed guards everywhere
- Buildings were never finished. Brazilians always seemed to be adding on a room for use by another family member.
- The noise! Car horns blaring, and dogs barking all through the night.
- Heavy rain soon after arrival meant the main roads became rivers and water gushed UP and OUT of the drains.
- In the São Paulo suburbs – poor areas, but not favelas – amazing electrical wiring. Every house plugging into the state supply for its own use.



# our town: São Paulo



## São Paulo

Joana and (inset) her son Philippe, in clothing knitted by one of the Porter's Link Churches

### Shopping

If you went to a supermarket you would find it dwarfed even Britain's bigger hypermarkets. One hundred checkouts is quite normal and the queues take around 15 minutes on a normal day and up to an hour or more at busy times like Christmas. If one of the checkouts has a query, the supervisors come round on roller skates to speed things up!

There are also large shopping malls all over the city. Even some smaller ones would have over 100 shops, and many are so big that after lots of visits you still discover parts that you had not seen before. They would usually have large food halls with every sort of eating place from McDonalds to plush high class restaurants, and also large games halls with rides for toddlers, computer games and bowling alleys.

### Religious scene

Just about every sort of belief imaginable would be found in São Paulo. The average Brazilian is very religious, whether that be Catholic,



Pentecostal, Spiritist, Animist, Baptist or whatever. There is no shortage of places to worship but it is not always easy from their names to fathom out what doctrines might be taught there! This is one reason why most orthodox Baptist churches are very insular, and do not share in public meetings or outreach with groups that are not affiliated to the Baptist Convention. One of the biggest needs in the Church in São Paulo, and in Brazil generally, is good sound teaching.



### Profiles Joana

Joana was born in Rio de Janeiro, one of seven sisters, whose mother was widowed whilst Joana was still young. She married a conservative Baptist, Edimilson, an electrician by trade, and they came to São Paulo seeking work. Together they rented a small house in Taboão da Serra on the southern edge of the city. The house

# our town: São Paulo

was beside a stream in a low-lying part of town and Joana took various cleaning jobs to augment Edimilson's meagre salary. The following January a flash flood caused the stream to overflow and their house was flooded to a depth of about seven feet and everything was ruined. They started again, but the same thing happened three years running. On one occasion Joana was nearly nine months pregnant, and had to scramble up onto the roof of her house and stay there all night to save her life. Joana and Edimilson are members of the Taboão da Serra Baptist Church, and are an example to all in living the Christian life. When Joana lost all her possessions yet again in another flood her comment was: "We have Jesus, so we have everything!"

## São Paulo – a tale of two cities

People, people and more people; cars, cars and more cars; houses, houses and more houses ... But there's a big divide.

On the one hand you have the apartment blocks, and although many



condominiums – walled complexes of a number of apartment blocks, with 24 hour security guards – often armed – cleaners, gardeners, play areas, party rooms, swimming pools and barbeque areas. The people who live here would work in air-conditioned offices, and banks. Most families would be entitled to two, three or even four garage spaces, and would use them.

So many cars produces a major traffic problem in the city with massive snarl-ups and terrible pollution. The city council have tried to counter this with a rota system. You cannot use your car on a Monday if the registration ends in 1 or 2; on Tuesday if it's 3 or 4 etc But many just buy another car with a

different registration.

Against the walls of these condominiums, or on any scrap of unwanted waste land, is the other São Paulo. Here the houses could be a few feet square, made of any scraps of wood, tin or other

materials that can be found on the scrap heap. They are often grouped into districts known as favelas. They would be unlikely to have running water, bathrooms or proper toilet facilities. There would be little or no furniture, and spare clothes would be stored in plastic bags in the corner. Sometimes there will be so many living in one house that they have to take turns to sleep.

Favelas quickly become centres for crime, drugs and prostitution.

The millions who live in these conditions have often come from other deprived areas of Brazil, looking for work. All too often they are disappointed. If they are lucky they might get work as guards, cleaners or gardeners in a condominium or a factory, but many end up pulling hand carts round collecting waste paper, metal or something else to sell as scrap. For others it's worse still and they end up at one of the many sets of traffic lights asking for charity or trying to sell something like dusters made of cheap cloth.

These two cities are interwoven geographically into a tight unit known as São Paulo, but are as far apart in other ways as the north and south poles. The chances of moving from one to the other are remote, and the greatest tragedy of all is that those who live in luxury are almost completely blind to the existence of the other face of São Paulo that is right on their doorstep, except to see it as a nuisance to be avoided at the traffic lights. ●

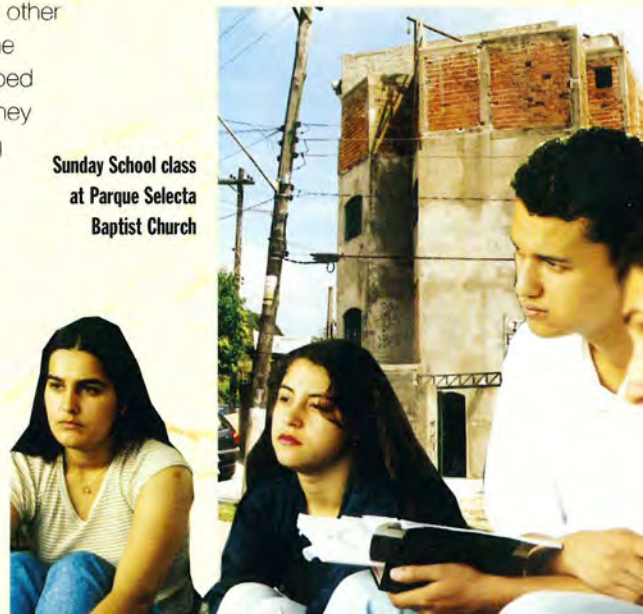
are office blocks, the great majority are living apartments.

They are usually the des-res of the middle to upper classes. Some of them can be 20 to 30 storeys high, with one to four apartments per floor. Often each apartment will have five or six bedrooms, most of them en suite, and every luxury and modern convenience you could imagine. Some even have their own private swimming pool!

Even most of the simpler apartments would have a separate room and bathroom for a live-in maid. These buildings are grouped in closed



Sunday School class at Parque Selecta Baptist Church





# volunteers & action teams

## BMS VOLUNTEERS

### Bomb site – a dentist's view



Dentist **SIMON SHILLAKER** and his nurse wife **SALLY** spent four weeks working at Chandraghona Christian Hospital in Bangladesh as BMS volunteers. Simon speaks about their work.

There is no trained dentist at the hospital, so with the help of an X-ray technician and an interpreter, I was able to treat 200 patients, using a head torch for check ups and my own equipment for fillings and extractions. People's teeth ranged from very good to 'bomb site' and it was a concern to see some children with teeth worse than their parents due to the arrival of sweets. For that reason, I visited an orphanage to teach oral hygiene to the children and to lecture at the nurse training school on the prevention of decay.

Sally worked on the children's ward and also gave some teaching to hospital staff. One of the mothers she met on the ward had a poorly son. Her husband was also sick at home, unable to work or visit. Consequently he couldn't raise the money for treatment and his wife hadn't eaten for two days, as he was unable to bring food. The hospital does not provide meals for

patients or visitors so they have to rely on other family members to bring and cook food. We found it difficult to watch people unable to receive treatment because they could not pay for it.

Back in England and reflecting on our time in Bangladesh we feel very privileged to have lived there. The experience made us examine our own lives and materialistic situation here in the UK, and it has given us greater confidence to speak out about the Lord. There is still no trained dental care at the hospital – a dental clinic and dentist are needed to continue the work, but perhaps if you have the time and skills, you could offer some help.... ●

## BMS 28:19 ACTION TEAMS

Extracts from the Albania Action Team diary, prior to their service overseas.

### Tuesday 1st

Twenty-seven intrepid young people meet at All Nations Christian College in Hertfordshire, completely unaware of what the next five weeks will hold for them. Can't believe it's real and we're really here. The five weeks training is all that stands between us and Albania! Scary.

### Sunday 6th

Someone tried to convert us to Islam today! In preparation for going to Albania, a country with a large Muslim population, we visited a mosque so that we could learn something about the people we would be meeting and how to communicate with them. It was an eye opening experience...

### Saturday 12th

Our time at All Nations is now almost over. Didn't look much on paper but it was highly intensive. We learned many things, from theology, to the life story of a banana (don't ask).

Today we're spending the

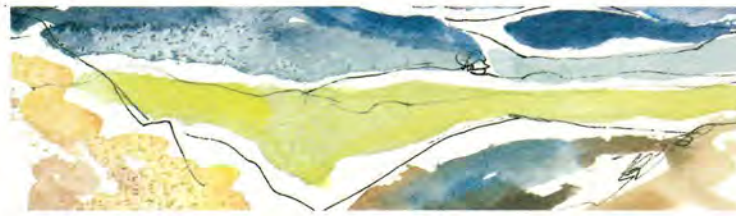


day with former Albania missionaries Glyn and Gill Jones. Time to ask all those important questions like, what's the food like? Is it safe? Will the people welcome us? Cabbage, liver and more cabbage was one of the answers to the food question – yuk!..

### Monday 14th

Today we said farewell to All Nations – and also to comfortable beds and hot water as we arrived at Tynddol Challenge Centre in Wales. The Centre's idyllic setting amongst the Welsh mountains and





on the banks of a babbling brook was a breath-taking sight. Unfortunately, despite the babbling brook, the Centre's water supply didn't stretch to more than five showers in the morning before running out of hot AND COLD water. We'll be spending ten days here involved in outdoor pursuits and team building...

relying completely on him. Looking back we can see how much this has helped us develop as a team and as individuals, although at the time we didn't appreciate it as we pulled ourselves out of yet another bog.

**Wednesday 23th**

Off to Charney Manor, a beautiful house set in the lovely countryside of Oxfordshire.

Today was a day of giving thanks for hot showers, comfortable beds and top grub!

**Friday 25th**

Off to Baptist House, the HQ of BMS, for the morning. We learned about writing prayer letters and articles, spoke to the Finance Director and had a guided tour of the house. Then, after a lovely lunch, it was tearful farewells as each team headed off on their church training placement. We went off to Chipping Campden Baptist Church in the Cotswolds...

**Monday 5th**

It's all over - or it's all beginning, depending on which way you look at it. The church placement has ended, and with it, the 28:19 training. We had a great time at Chipping Campden. The church was really vibrant and we established lasting friendships. We worked with people of all ages and led the whole Sunday service at the end of the week. Our hosts had obviously heard that the Albanian food wasn't up to much because we've never eaten so many roast dinners in our lives! A definite high point! All in all it was a fantastic experience that will never be forgotten. Now it's off to Tirana, Albania to work with the Way of Hope Baptist Church and to put into practice all that we have learned. ●



Albania Action Team

**Tuesday 22th**

Our last night at Tynddol. We've been so exhausted by all the physical exercise and sleeping in fields that we haven't had time to write a diary entry before now. One of the hardest activities was the canoeing. The water was indescribably cold and the weather was - well, Welsh! It took its toll as we swam, dragging our canoes 100 metres to shore. For many of us, it was at this stage when we had to hand it all to God, admitting our weaknesses and

Time to shower, sleep and get Carolyn Cole, our boss lady, to wash all our clothes!

**Thursday 24th**

This will be our last night all together with the other teams until we come back from Albania in April next year. We had a social evening with lovely food, decoration, barn dancing, games and a chance to dress up. The girls were all in posh dresses, and the boys were, well - clean!



**EDUCATIONAL ENROLMENT**

Figures given are a percentage of age group enrolled in education. The gross enrolment ratios may exceed 100 per cent because some pupils are younger or older than the country's standard primary, secondary or tertiary age.

Country	Primary		Secondary		Tertiary
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
	1993	1993	1993	1993	1993
Albania	97	95	-	-	10
Bangladesh	105	128	12	26	-
Belgium	100	99	104	103	-
Brazil	-	-	-	-	12
Bulgaria	84	87	70	66	32
CAR	51	92	-	-	2
China	116	120	51	60	4
Croatia	87	87	86	80	27
El Salvador	80	79	30	27	15
France	105	107	107	104	50
Guinea	30	61	6	17	-
India	91	113	38	59	-
Indonesia	112	116	39	48	10
Italy	99	98	82	81	37
Nepal	85	129	23	46	3
Sri Lanka	105	106	78	71	6
Thailand	97	98	37	38	19
UK	113	112	94	91	37

The World Guide 1997/98, published by Instituto del Tercer Mundo



Adult Sunday School class, Fortaleza, Brazil

**The world's least literate nations**

Figures are 1993 adult literacy rate, given as a percentage.

1	Niger	12.8
2	Burkina Faso	18.0
3	Somalia	24.9
4	Nepal	26.3
5	Mali	28.4
6	Sierra Leone	29.6
7	Afghanistan	29.8
8	Senegal	31.4
9	Ethiopia	33.6
10	Burundi	33.7

**Lowest education spending**

Figures are a percentage of GNP (latest available year up to 1994)

1	Somalia	0.5
2	(Dem Rep of) Congo	1.0
3	Nigeria	1.3
	Indonesia	1.3
5	Sierra Leone	1.4
	Haiti	1.4
7	El Salvador	1.6
	Guatemala	1.6
	Brazil	1.6
10	Madagascar	1.9
	Uganda	1.9
	Dominican Rep	1.9
	Georgia	1.9

**Highest education spending**

Figures are a percentage of GNP (latest available year up to 1994)

1	Uzbekistan	11.0
2	Tajikistan	9.5
3	Norway	9.2
4	Namibia	8.7
5	Botswana	8.5
	Denmark	8.5
7	Finland	8.4
	Sweden	8.4
9	(Republic of) Congo	8.3
	Zimbabwe	8.3

Making beads, Nepal



**Those engaged in theological education in Brazil**

Studying for a Doctor's degree	6
Studying for a Master's degree	221
Studying for a B Th degree	3052
Studying for a B Educ degree	1040
Studying for a B Music degree	708
Studying for a B Missions degree	44
Studying at medium level	522
Studying a basic music course	218
Studying at Post-graduate level	185
Others	846
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6842</b>

Figures are for 1996, and include students studying at 34 different theological seminaries throughout Brazil

## THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE: DOES IT PLAY A PART IN MISSION?

**fact 1** There is a demand for professional English language teaching throughout the world.

English language training institutes are rapidly appearing in cities throughout the world. Being computer literate and having a command of the English language are recognised as the best qualifications for a well-paid job, and give access to the wider world. Gone are the days when teaching English to foreigners was done by out-of-work actors and ministers' wives. There is a wealth of expertise, research and materials which enable those with a qualification in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) to do a professional job, meeting the demands of an increasingly discriminating clientele.

**fact 2** Trying to learn a local language gives insights for teaching English.

One does not have to be an expert in TEFL with years of varied experience and a doctorate in applied linguistics before offering for service in this area. A great deal can be learnt on the job by trial and error. Curiosity about how language works and the conviction that God has given us language that we may understand each other and him better, also help.

For up-to-date information on short training courses in TEFL in the UK, write to:

UCLES, 1 Syndicate Buildings, Hills Road, Cambridge CB1 2EU or Trinity College London, 16 Park Crescent, London, W1N 4AP. Tel 0171 323 2328

*The above was abridged from a longer article by Jenny Dorman, BMS missionary and English Language Consultant with the United Mission to Nepal.*



Above: Favela children at pre school group São Paulo, Brazil

Left: A classroom in Nepal

Below: Students at KISC, Nepal



# projects prayer people



## PRAYER FOCUS



**Margaret Gibbs:**  
Durres, Albania

Formerly a BMS missionary in Nepal, Margaret Gibbs is now in Albania responsible for teaching English to students at the Theological College and for the education of the children of colleagues Paul and Elisabeth Towlson. Margaret and the four children: Jessica (11), Michael (9), Evelyn (8) and Philip (4) are getting along well and have settled into their new schooling pattern. Tailor-making lessons for each child can be difficult, especially as Jessica is older than the children Margaret has taught in the past.

## PIPS UPDATE

### Project 8019 Grant to FEBES (Baptist Federation of El Salvador) of £3,600

FEBES was formed five years ago by church leaders who, continuing their work as Baptists, needed a fellowship grouping to work together. (This was after BMS's former partners ABES broke off all relationships with all the mission groups working with them including the staff of the theological seminary and some church leaders and pastors.)

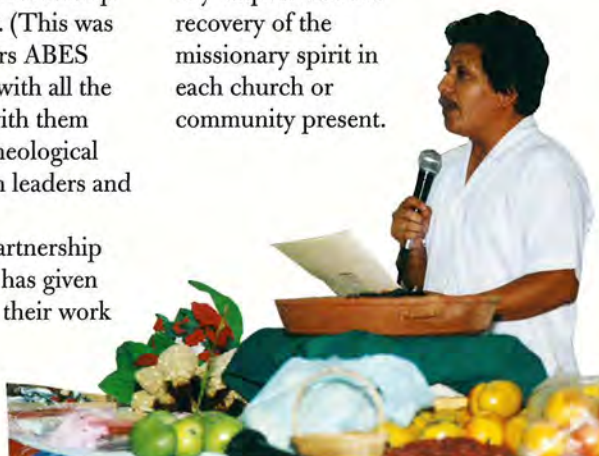
BMS signed a formal partnership with FEBES in 1997, and has given them financial support for their work and agricultural projects.

FEBES have reported excellent attendance at special events held in


1998. Four celebrations were planned during the year, to unite the 12 churches which make up the Federation.


The first was a Great Easter Vigil to which 250 adults and 65 children came. The programme included musical groups, testimonies, Bible studies, meals together, and a procession through the neighbourhood adjacent to the church.

Three hundred and 20 adults and 50 children came to the second event, held at Pentecost. The programme for this day emphasised the recovery of the missionary spirit in each church or community present.



### Please pray:

 thank God that Margaret has already built good relationships with the children and pray this will develop

 for wisdom and creativity in lesson planning and that Margaret and the children would enjoy their time together for good relationships with the theological students



**Joyce and Stuart Filby:  
Bredene, Belgium**

For some time now, as numbers increased at the church started in the Filby's home, they have been seeking more suitable and permanent premises. The whole church was very disappointed when 'The Boat', a pub which they believed was for them and which had been promised to the church, was given to someone else. They were even more dismayed when it was reopened as a gay bar but the whole church continued praying. Then, suddenly, the bar closed and two months later the owners went bankrupt. A few weeks later the church was asked if they would take the building, at a slightly lower rent and with the previous tenants having cleaned it up for them! God is very good! The ground floor is a restaurant with a bar for a planned youth cafe, upstairs is a large lounge which will hold around 120 as the main church and there are two bedrooms which will be used as Sunday school rooms.

**Please pray:**

- P** thank God for his goodness and provision
- P** the church plans to outgrow the building within two years, expecting in faith that God will continue adding to their number. Pray it will be so.



**Angela and Paul Foster:  
Pokhara, Nepal**

Paul and Angela and their children George, Olivia and Harry have been in

Nepal since August 1998, undergoing language training and orientation. They were amazed at the welcome they received, especially the children who were a little nervous about going to a new school. Waiting for them when they arrived were 'welcome gifts' from their class mates; pictures, photos of the school, pieces of writing about themselves and even a tape of the children talking and singing! The family visited two Nepali churches in their first few weeks. Each time they were asked to introduce themselves and managed to say their names and that they were from England, in their best Nepali. Everyone smiled and clapped! The couple are due to complete their initial period of orientation very soon when Paul will begin work with the International Nepal Fellowship as an anaesthetist. They will continue language training, both formal and informal, throughout their time in Nepal.

**Please pray:**

- P** thank God that the children have settled in well to their new school and for the friendship of the other children
- P** the Nepali language is difficult to learn – pray for the whole family as they seek to communicate with those they meet daily
- P** for good relationships to be built between Paul and his colleagues and that he quickly settles into a new working environment
- P** that the whole family would build good, supportive friendships with both Nepalis and other expats



**Peter and Margaret Goodall:  
Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Peter and Margaret have come to the end of their time in Sri Lanka. They return to the UK at the end of December and retire following a period of Home Assignment. They have

overseen a number of excellent projects during their time in the country including: pastoring a church, working with the William Carey Institute – a theological and leadership training school, overnight accommodation for hospital outpatients and visitors, computer, sewing and English courses. There are also plans for a number of social projects which should be up and running soon. Peter and Margaret are happy to be leaving the work in the hands of some excellent workers now in place.

**Please pray:**

- P** for guidance as they seek the next step in their lives
- P** that they will settle quickly into the UK
- P** for those continuing the work in Sri Lanka, especially for Heshan, the new pastor of the church



**Rosimar and Timothy Deller:  
Goiania, Brazil**

What can appear to be a frustrating barrier can sometimes turn out to be for the best, as Tim and Rosimar have found. Tim has been advised not to take on extra work until he is given the all clear by his doctor, and so has been concentrating on theological seminary teaching, putting on hold plans for the launch of a church plant project. Whilst it has been a frustrating time for him, it has allowed him to get alongside his students more and to participate, as the only Protestant, lecturing on a teacher training course for teachers of Religious Education. He was frightened to find what is being taught on that course. That is, that all religions lead to salvation and an encounter with the living God: be it Afro-Spiritism or any other ism. From this opening, he has been asked to participate in the





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beginnings of ecumenical dialogue in the State. Rosimar has been coordinating the praise and worship department of their local church alongside studying for a degree and being involved in other musical activities. She has also worked on a project helping street children get into government shelters and has gained experience at a friendship house. ●

### Please pray:

**P** for strength – both Tim and Rosimar have had some health problems recently

**P** for wisdom for both in knowing what roles to take on and when to rest

and friends involved in spiritism. When she was pregnant with her first child, she felt she wanted to be free from spiritism, and she'd heard what she describes as 'a sort-of message' in the Catholic church, but her mother forbade her to go. Evil spirits often came on her mother, to which her mother would say, "It's because you're going to that other church. You're betraying our religion."

When her first child was 11 months old, he became very ill. Her mother said the only way his life could be spared would be for Ana Christina to spend a week in a spiritist centre to appease the spirits. She said, "It was a terrible week, because of all the evil practices they were doing, speaking in God's name, but doing terrible things. I was worse; my son was worse. I was afraid to leave the house because I could see myself killing my child throwing him out of a window or something like that to appease the spirits."

This situation created tension with her partner who thought she was 'going mental.'

One Saturday, at the height of all this, she left the house, with the intention of killing herself. She said, "I came to this road (ie the road in which Usina Baptist Church is located). Something told me to turn and look back. I didn't see the church, but I saw the cross on the church building. I came in through the gate thinking there might be some activity going on here, but there was only the pastor, his wife and a young seminary student here. I came and sat on the steps and cried. The pastor and his wife came and talked to me about the love of Jesus. At that moment I accepted Jesus. From that moment on, my life changed."

But her family, including her partner, were not happy about her decision. They did not want her to be a believer and persecuted her.

But she hung on to her new faith. The pastor came and took away all the things she had used for witchcraft. He put them in a sack and burnt them.

Her son recovered. Her family continued to threaten her that he would die, but today at seven years old he is very much full of life. He reads the Bible because he wants to and not because she tells him to.

When Ana Christina became a Christian, she wasn't married – just living with her partner. As she was not married, she could not be baptised. Her partner refused to become a Christian. He saw her in tears one day because of this situation, and asked her why she was crying. "It's because I want to get baptised, and I can't because you won't marry me officially" she replied. In turn, he said, "If that's the problem, I'll marry you." This was the first step in her husband coming to faith in the Lord.

Today her husband, mother, mother-in-law and aunts are all believers. There is just one cousin who has not yet come to the Lord, and Ana Christina has brought many people to Christ through her testimony. ●

David and Sheila Brown (BMS personnel working for the Brazilian World Missions Board)

## PEOPLE WORLDWIDE



### expanding prayer focus

In this new series BMS personnel introduce friends and acquaintances whom they meet from day to day.



### ANA CHRISTINA RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

Ana Christina was brought up in a spiritist atmosphere, with all her family



### BASHAR DHAKA, BANGLADESH

Bashar and his family were in bed. It had been raining for two months and each night they had been watching anxiously as the water level rose outside. Most people would have a roof to clamber on when things got really bad, but Bashar knew his roof was not



Photographs: top of page 30, and below, floods in Bangladesh

ASSOCIATED PRESS



strong. So he decided the safest thing would be to move up into a nearby tree. At least they were slightly above the worst.

Bangladesh is a flat country – water and sanitation systems are basic to say the least and easily overflow. Virtually all of Dhaka was waist deep with this filthy water.

Fortunately about one-third of the country is spared the floods including the Hill Tracts above Chittagong, where I am based. I needed to get to Dhaka Airport, but this was far from straightforward. In the end I chose the only viable option: to fly.

Approaching the capital from the air, I was shocked to see the extent of the disaster: mile upon mile of water, and even vehicles underwater along submerged roads.

The airport is protected by a 15 foot tall embankment built ten years ago under similar circumstances. This kept the airport open – just! The water level was dangerously high, a mere three inches from the top. All essential diplomatic staff had received their orders to leave, so the airport was bustling with activity.

As Bashar drove me to the airport he was anxious in case the embankment finally gave way. He was also concerned that his 13 month old son had severe diarrhoea.

He dropped me off at the airport. I was relieved to be able to leave, but he had no such opportunity, trapped in a country where hepatitis and cholera are now well established and market produce in short supply. Daily there are stories of heroism and near escapes: the husband of one of the office staff in Dhaka nearly got sucked down an open drain as the cover had been swept away

by water. It was only by the quick reactions of his two companions who pulled him out literally by his hair and shoulder, that he was rescued. ●

Sue Headlam (Community Health Programme nurse with BMS)

### **D** LUANA RAILWAY FAVELA, FORTALEZA

Luana is just 17 and has given birth to her second baby. The picture shows her a week after giving birth. She was

forced to have the baby by the state hospital staff before she was ready – she wasn't fully dilated, but the hospital staff forced her to push. As a result of the pressure exerted, her eyes became bloodshot (as you can see from the photo) and she had to have 42 stitches. She was discharged from hospital after a day.

Her family helped her bring up her first child, but said if she still wanted to live with them, she would have to give away the new born child. So she gave her second baby away.

It was through BMS missionary Andy Eaves's visit to the Railway Favela that he found Luana, and he was able to put her in touch with BMS midwife Mary Parsons. ●

Andy Eaves (BMS community worker) as told to Jan Kendall



## New Staff Appointments New Director for World Mission

David Kerrigan, BMS Regional Representative for Asia, has been appointed as the new Director for World Mission.



This appointment comes about with the merging of the Department of Operations which deals with strategy and partnerships, and the Department for Missionaries, which deals with all matters concerning overseas personnel with effect from 1 February 1999. David Kerrigan will head this new department.

David says, "In so many parts of this country I see God at work through our churches, and those same churches committed to the worldwide task of making Jesus known. With new areas of work established and a strategy for expanding our work around the world, this is clearly an exciting time for the BMS and the churches of our three Unions."

# BMS news

## Help for the back of beyond



A bundle of rice, beans and flour does not sound much, but it's been the difference between life and death to 250 families in Roraima, a little-known and under-developed state in the north of Brazil, with a population of 350,000 of whom 30,000 are indigenous people, and 230,000 are immigrants from north-east Brazil.

The capital Boa Vista has a population of 200,000. It is to be found 740 km north of Manaus, the rain forest capital with a link road – tarmacked in



places – that is only passable at certain times of the year. There are ten Baptist churches in the state, nine of them situated in Boa Vista; the other is in the town of Mucajaí.

Back in March 1998 drought and then fire swept through Roraima. The drought was the longest ever experienced and had dried the swamps and rivers. Herds of cattle died. The ensuing fires started in 63 separate places, and destroyed over 30,000 square kilometres of jungles, towns and villages – a massive

15.3 per cent of the total land area of the state. Four thousand agricultural workers and 6,000 indigenous people were left with no means of providing their own food.

The Roraima Baptist Convention appealed for help, and the BMS Relief Fund sent them £10,000 on 31 March.

The Convention used this and other money received to help 250 families over a period of five months. The money provided a 40 kg bag of food – basic items like milk powder, salt, sugar, oil, manioc flour, beans and rice – but enough to last them until the next harvest, and New Testaments. Brazilians believe in catering for both physical and spiritual hunger at the same time.

The distribution of the supplies was done by a team of volunteers led by Ezequias Silva Feitosa, the General Secretary of the Roraima Baptist Convention. Feitosa has lived in Boa Vista all his life and is a layman who works as a political advisor to a Roraimian politician.

As a result many people came to faith in Christ. It is expected that several new congregations will emerge from amongst these afflicted people.



## New Regional Secretary for Europe

Andrew North, currently BMS Missionary Support Manager, has been

appointed as the new Regional Secretary for Europe, following Regional Representative for Europe John Passmore's move to become Regional Secretary for Asia and North Africa.

## New Manager for Mission Personnel

One of David Kerrigan's two 'right hand men' in the new Department for World Mission will be Joy Knapman, currently Director for Missionaries. She will take up the post of Manager for Mission Personnel (although this title has not been fully ratified) from 1 February 1999, and this will involve her in the recruitment of missionary personnel and other missionary matters.





# October 1998 General Committee Report

## First Steps in New Volunteer Programme

BMS has made the first steps in launching a new volunteer programme.



Alistair Brown unfolded a strategy for expanding the BMS

volunteering scheme in which BMS could be the main agency for British Baptists and others to fulfil their calling and give time to God.

This will not just be one programme – rather a whole family of volunteering programmes, linked together by a common ‘surname’. They will give scope for medical teams of all disciplines; practical teams undertaking identified tasks; evangelism teams; summer teams; mission students as well as youth action teams and solo volunteers.

A lot has to happen to make this all come about. New posts will be created for visionary and organisationally gifted people to be volunteer organisers – these may be nationals recruited overseas or missionaries sent from this country.

The projects will be self-financing. BMS, in turn, will help people raise their finances and will publicise what others have done for their fund-raising.

General Committee voted to extend the BMS Volunteer Programme and empowered the BMS Board of Management to take any

decisions on staffing and procedures to allow expansion of the Volunteer Programme. Alistair Brown said, “We are not beyond the age of attempting great things and expecting great things.”

## New Scheme for Co-ordination in Wales

A new strategy of co-ordination in Wales will take place over the next five years, which will result, after that time, with only one Co-ordinator covering the whole of Wales.



At present two BMS Co-ordinators cover the principality, with Gareth Hutchinson taking responsibility for South Wales, and Delyth Wyn Davies, working part-time, covering North Wales. Gareth Hutchinson retires at the end of 1998, and his leaving has precipitated a rethink, and a new strategy concerning how BMS work in Wales will be done.

Richard Wells, Director of Communications, proposed a three year plan to General Committee, which emphasised recruiting and training active voluntary group help. The accent on BMS



promotion and education work would change from “having it done to them” to “having a hand in doing it”.

General Committee members asked that this programme be extended to take up to five years, especially, they argued, as the South and Central Wales Co-ordinator had not been appointed yet. This amendment of the scheme taking five years was carried.

## New Candidates Accepted



Gordon and Ann McBain’s offer of service was accepted by General Committee.

Gordon and Ann are members of Hoddesdon Baptist Church. Gordon is at present Tutor and Assistant Bursar at All Nations Christian College, and Ann

describes herself as a part-time social worker, and full-time housewife.

They have been accepted for work with ACT in North Africa, subject to approval of ACT, when it is anticipated that Gordon will become ACT’s Personnel Director. Both Gordon and Ann served with BMS in the Democratic Republic of Congo in the 1980s.

## Finance Plan Approved



BMS Treasurer Mervyn Hancock asked BMS General Committee to approve the Estimates for 1998/1999. Mr Hancock said, “I view this as a transitory budget. There are decreases in some areas, and increases in others in line with the BMS Strategy.”

This ‘transitory budget’ of £4.9 million was approved. Of this, nearly £3.5 million will be spent on overseas work.

BMS Finance and Administration Director, Chris Hutt spoke of the need for incoming finance to increase by four per cent to be able to meet all spending requirements for the forthcoming year. This means that every member of a Baptist church needs to give £27 or more a year.

## Check Out

January/February 1999

January

Arrivals

Iain and Karen Gordon from Kathmandu, Nepal

Departures

Bob and Ruth Ellett to Butwal, Nepal

Mike and Daveen Wilson to Trapiá, Brazil

Mark and Andrea Hotchkin to Guinea Conakry, Republic du Guinée

Owen and Deanna Clark to Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

Reuben and Katie Martin to Zagreb, Croatia

February

Arrivals

Saverio Guarna and Betsy Guarna-Moore from Tirana, Albania

Departures

None

# world

# mission link



## Ampthill gives clear signals



**Children at Ampthill Baptist Church were all set for a fun day.** Named Lighthouse Brazil Day, after their Lighthouse Sunday School, they used the BMS children's Window on the

World (WOW) project book, based on Brazil.

Making sure all things Brazilian were included in the day: football, food and favelas to name a few, they also learned about BMS missionaries based in Fortaleza, Brazil.

At the end of the day they were also able to send some money towards the BMS WOW Children's Project.



Word on the Street



## Scottish Borders Giant Link-Up

**This was a Link-Up visit with a difference.** Not only did BMS personnel Ann and David MacFarlane come to visit their Borders West Link-Up group, but they brought a team of 20 Italian Christians with them! They came from five different churches in South Italy: Mottola, Bari, Barletta, Gioia del Colle, and Altamura.

A barbecue was held for the visitors at Galashiels; seven-a-side football contests arranged at Selkirk; plus a ceilidh at Peebles; and a 'Hunt the Haggis' car treasure hunt organised for the young people. The team also took part in outreach work in holiday clubs and street evangelism.

Alastair Sinclair, co-ordinating the visit, said: "The visit involved considerable organisation and hard work both from the visiting and receiving churches, but we all felt the result had been well worth the effort and the sense of God's presence in it all was our benediction."



The Boys' Brigade Appeal 1997/8

## BB overshoot their target

**Last year Boys' Brigade Companies raised over £8,000** to help re-equip Yakusu Hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The hospital had been gutted and all the equipment looted by retreating soldiers of the then-Zairean army in March 1997. The BB had been set a target of £5,500, but reached their highest total for six years. Contributions came from small and large BB companies, from boys aged between five and 18.

## Empire-building or sacrifice?

**e**arly Christian missionaries to South Asia were willing to endure incredible hardships. Theirs is often a tale of debilitating illness, personal tragedy and premature death. Moreover, most of the early Protestant missionaries came from the lower-middle classes of European society and practiced a sacrificial lifestyle. For instance, contrast William Carey (1761-1834), the cobbler from Northamptonshire who made India his home, with Robert Clive (1725-1774) of the East India Company who salted away a massive personal fortune through his ruthless exploits in India, and retired to England to enjoy his booty. Carey gave away his earnings from printing and translating for the missionary cause in India, where he died.

Carey's wife had shown signs of mental instability before the couple sailed from England with their young children. The death of their eldest son within a few weeks of arriving in India pushed her over the edge into complete insanity. Several times during their life in India she attempted to kill her husband and children. There was no psychiatric care or mental hospitals for her and people like her.

Clive and Carey, empire-building or servanthood? – Two contrasting stories of the West's historic interaction with Asia. Clive is mentioned in all history books. Few know about Carey and missionaries like him. Yet it was Carey who left a more lasting legacy in India, and was hailed by Rabindranath Tagore as the "Father of modern Bengal". Since post-colonial guilt has paralysed mission in some sections of the Western Church, shouldn't we be telling our young people the stories of servanthood and sacrifice which have redeemed the missionary movement? ●



Vinoth Ramachandra is South Asia Regional Secretary of IFES



**"Now let's see where were we? ... Oh yes, ... 'when baptising by immersion, one must make sure that the convert fully understands the symbolism of his act with Christ's death and resurrection. See further under Christology page 287'  
Lets go there and check that out - shall we?"**



# SEX

**SEX** - part of a three year youth project  
'Sex, Drugs, Rock n' Roll. A resources pack presents the issues of morality, pregnancy and abortion, marriage and divorce, homosexuality HIV and AIDS in a worldwide context, making it relevant to young people in the 14+ age group in Britain today.

**Pack available free of charge.**

Contact BMS Resource Department on 01235 517617  
or email: [resources@bms.org.uk](mailto:resources@bms.org.uk) for more information



**Warning: Not reading this project could seriously damage your health**