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# *missionary herald*

*The monthly magazine of the  
Baptist Missionary Society*

*September 1975*

*Price 5p*

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The history of the Baptist Missionary Society records the vital contribution made by women to Christian service, at home and overseas. This month we feature some of the women who now share in the work.

## Indian women who are leaders

by Jean McLellan,  
BMS missionary in India 1947-74

Photos by courtesy of  
Ludhiana Fellowship



At the Christian Medical College and Hospital, Ludhiana, Punjab, India, and the associated hospitals, women play a significant role. In many ways they contribute to the development of the entire community, both professionally and socially, and interwoven through all, the intangible qualities of Christian character are displayed.

Come with me on a flying visit to Ludhiana and meet a few of the leading personalities, serving in differing capacities.

**Dr. Mary Mathew** (above) is a Ludhiana graduate, having been in the College since she was seventeen. A radiant Christian from a wonderful Christian background in the South, she is a member of the Martoma Church. She has had the opportunity of further study in

Dr. Rao has a flair for drama and each year produces an excellent play, very often from well known classics. This runs for five evenings and city personnel are invited. She also produces a moving nativity play in which the young people home from school play a leading part. At the annual convocation of the Medical College, Dr. Rao announces the achievements of the students during the year, both academic and athletic. There are inter-college and state matches in sport and many shields have been obtained. Dr. Rao also encourages the orchestra and musical society functioning in the College.

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**Dr. Lakshmi Rao** (right) has been a member of staff since the mid-forties, joining when she was

very young. She comes from a Christian family in mid India, near Poona. She is a charming person, gifted, and one who knows her students as individuals. She entertains the students in her own home a great deal. In addition to being Dean of the College she is a bio-chemist doing a full-time job in the Pathology Department.

Vellore, India, the Medical College, Lucknow University, Edinburgh, and the U.S.A. Dr. Mathew has been Professor of Medicine for several years.

You can realize the responsibility which she carries for the education of 350 medical students and also several post graduate students. Dr. Mathew maintains a very strong Christian witness, she is unafraid to speak out on occasions on various committees, and is deeply involved in all the Christian activities in the College and Hospital. Without being encouraged to come to a Christian College Dr. Mathew would have had difficulty in fulfilling her dream of becoming a doctor, but, in her humility she could not have known that this would take her to the very top of her profession.

**Miss Manohari Sigamoni**, another leading personality, is in a different discipline. Manohari is the Director of Nursing. She took over from Miss Jean McLellan about a year ago. God led us to Manohari in a very unique way through the Conference of the Christian Medical Association in Madras, when the chairman of the Ludhiana governing body, Rev. Kenneth Sharp, was present and when Miss McLellan



made the original contact. There was a close follow through for one year, and then Manohari (above) joined the staff as assistant professor at the College of Nursing and took over as Director of Nursing in May 1974.

She is an outgoing personality, full of life and charm. Her Christian background is that of the Lutheran Church, in which her father was a minister for many years. She trained at the Vellore College of Nursing, gaining a B.Sc. degree in nursing. She brings many gifts and talents.

Meet another leading personality, Miss Edna Hyratt, a Baptist who was educated at the Wynberg Allen School, Mussoorie, with which the Society has been associated for many years. She is a member of the Union Church, Mussoorie, where she was baptized. Edna is a very capable person professionally and otherwise. For many years she was responsible, as a Ward Sister, for the main medical female ward in the hospital.

During the nursing upgrading she came in on administration, and a year later was one of the early members of senior staff to earn the post-basic B.S., degree of the Punjab University. Edna is now Deputy Nursing Superintendent of the hospital. She does an excellent day to day practical working out of her deep Christian

faith. She is gentle, quiet, and has a deep influence with many members of staff and the patients.

Miss Aleyamm Abraham is the Principal of the College of Nursing. She comes from South India, and trained at the Vellore Hospital, where her brother is a Professor of Mental Health in the Hospital and College. Aleyamma has been with us for many years, as Senior Tutor. During the upgrading of the nursing department, she was able to study for a post basic B.Sc., degree and later to take one years condensed study at the Columbia University, New York, gaining an M.A., degree in College Administration. The financial backing of a great deal of this study came from friends in U.S.A. She has joined a group with the Medical staff in Bible study which eventually leads to a degree in theology, and Miss Abraham took first place in the group.

Miss Sodhi, gained the gold medal of the Punjab University at the close of the two year post-basic degree in B.Sc., nursing at the College of Nursing of the Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, (below). The staff take the post basic course at either Chandigarh or Vellore.

Miss Sodhi is one of the 10% staff of other faiths who have stayed with us and done so well in the educational field. She is a Punjabi, a quiet unassuming person, who will go far in the profession.



**Mrs. Prem Hari Singh** is typical of some of the married staff without whom we could not run the hospital. One of our own trainees, a deeply, dedicated gifted person. She has qualified as a tutor; served as acting principal of the College of Nursing, and supervisor on the administrative staff of the hospital, the position she now holds with credit.

Her husband also trained in the College as a technician, then took a degree in his own subject. They are both deeply involved in Christian activities of all kinds, and in their own home are an example of real Christian living, with a delightful family of three, the eldest boy now about fifteen years of age. They have been responsible for initiating an outreach Christian centre in Mogha, a near-by town, where her husband runs a clinic. The witness started by services in their own home and now a small building has been made possible. They are witnessing exciting happenings in these days of opportunity.

Other ladies hold positions of responsibility, and one could tell of many more. There is **Mrs. Kaul** (right) who heads up the dietetic department and is responsible for all catering arrangements for staff and students. She is a graceful, charming person, very capable, and comes from an outstanding Christian family. Her father was padre in the Church in Allahabad, India. Her husband is the publicity officer for the hospital. She is assisted by Mrs. Joshi, another able, charming Christian from the South, who is a therapeutic dietician. Mrs. Joshi's husband is the dentist and both are keen Christians.

There is a Ladies Guild in the Institution which is comprised of the wives of several members of staff. They help a great deal in the hospital and the community. They raise funds for the hospital and give assistance in running a stall for "eats" at the nurses annual sale. They also visit patients in the hospital and take them books to read. They also assist financially with the furnishings of some necessities for the patients.

There are also the delightful lady guides who wear white saris bordered with the College colours, who will give you any assistance you need if you come to Ludhiana, as a patient or as a visitor. Then there are several dedicated staff of the fellowship department who are around



talking with relatives and patients, serving in the bookroom, and in many other ways.

India is a land where women have of recent years been given great place in the professions and with a lady prime minister, this can scarcely be wondered at. In the College and Hospital and out in the Community Health outreach, the early pioneer spirit of Dame Edith Brown continues. She was the intrepid medical Baptist pioneer, who laboured so hard to gain recognition for women in medicine in India and founded as the Punjab Medical School what is now one of the leading international teaching centres for medicine and allied disciplines in all India. She was followed by other Principals—ladies, who played a very significant role, Dr. Aileen Pollock of Edinburgh, who died so suddenly at the age of 44 years in the midst of activities; Dr. E. R. B. Snow who carried on until 1960 and saw the first pioneer medical group taking the M.B., B.S., degree in a co-educational College.

As missionaries decrease in number in India, and this is particularly true of Ludhiana Medical College, Hospital and College of Nursing, do pray for the nationals who carry such responsibility. In all they do may the love of the Lord Jesus Christ be made credible to those who know Him not.

# Working with the women of Bangladesh

by Valerie Hamilton,  
BMS missionary in Bangladesh from 1967

*"The women's place is in the home"* is a statement we rarely hear in Britain today. It is not frequently expressed in Bangladesh either, but for an entirely different reason. It is a fact which is taken largely for granted! In a land influenced by the Moslem way of life, it is never doubted that the woman of the house belongs to the kitchen and should rarely be seen, let alone heard.

This is the reason why visitation of the homes is so important. Many women are unavailable elsewhere, but on the whole make us very welcome in their homes.

Perhaps "women's lib" is beginning to reach Bangladesh, for some girls are allowed to leave home to take training to become teachers or nurses. Opportunities to witness come as our workers visit them in their hostels. Not only do we need to pray for these workers regularly, but also for the girls themselves as perhaps they find themselves to be the only Christian, among many others of other beliefs, in strange towns.

Those of us who have had the privilege of meeting and teaching the new converts from the Hindu faith in the villages north of Dinajpur, have found that many find this fact hard to accept, that there is no difference . . . between male and female . . . but all one in Christ Jesus.

"I believe, therefore, my wife will do so", is an attitude which has had to be dealt with time and time again.

On visiting a new church in North Bangladesh, I announced that there would be a women's meeting in the afternoon. On arrival, I found the front half of the church filled with children

and the back half with men, and in the corner three or four women. It took some time to convey the idea that I really did mean it to be for the women!

But once understood, they are thrilled, thrilled that we are ready and willing to teach them. "We want to read our Bible"; "We want to pray to Jesus"; "Please teach us", are requests I have heard many times from the women.

I write here of Northern Bangladesh, but I know groups in other parts of the country would say the same.

At a women's camp in Khulna, in March of this year, I was very impressed by the quality of the women of our churches, but once again became aware of the fact that they are so few in number. We were thrilled to hear how burdened these women are for their neighbours and friends and how they go out in two's and three's to visit and to take services. Please continue to share in this work with them and us, by praying that the Lord will strengthen and bless their efforts and also that He will raise up more national workers, who are wholly committed to the Lord, to help them in the work.

Please join us in prayer too for the camps we hold several times a year. Here we have tremendously exciting times as thirty or so representatives from the new churches gather together for sessions in prayer and Bible study, reading and writing, sewing, first aid, child care, etc. What great opportunities we have to show these sisters in Christ more of Him and His love for them.

You have been asked to pray for workers, please pray also for the provision of literature. The need is urgent for first reading books and for apparatus to use alongside them and also for good supplementary readers. We thank the Lord that others too are waking up to this great need and that He is providing the necessary financial resources. The only problem seems to be finding time to sit down and prepare such material.

We praise the Lord for what He has done among the women of Bangladesh and commit to Him all that is still to be done. We believe that we shall see still greater things done in His name and for His sake among them.



(top to bottom) Debolmoni, Michael, Anando, Premlal, Sunetor Mohan, Sundar Mala, children of leprosy hospital patients going to school.

## CHANDRAGHONA

Celia Moon, B.M.S. Women's Secretary writes about the hospital for which £10,000 is to be raised by women.

### The Hospital

It started as a dispensary seventy years ago to serve the tribal people of the Chittagong Hill tracts, who were very poor. The building had bamboo walls and a corrugated iron roof: hot in summer, cold in winter and noisy in the rain. When the white ants attacked it, it had to come down.

So, in 1908 the old dispensary was replaced by the Arthington Hospital, a masonry building very modern for the time, housing thirty patients. The wards had cement beds, short and narrow

to suit the hill people. The beds were easy to keep clean but were not very comfortable. The operating theatre had to manage without a pressure sterilizer for three years.

Later on, the Indian Government gave a grant which helped to add a maternity ward and a children's ward. Water was brought from the stream which flowed through the grounds as this was pure compared with the river water.

In the 1950's the area near to Chandraghona was developed rapidly. Chittagong became a major port, a great paper mill was erected close to the hospital at Chandraghona, and the building of the Kaptai dam near Rangamati was begun, leading to a great hydro-electric scheme. Chandraghona, the small village on the edge of the hill tracts, is now close to factories and a good motor road. Facilities at the hospital have improved, the mill providing electricity, a better water supply and a new operating theatre.

Six years ago, with money from the B.M.S. Medical Appeal Fund, a big re-building and extension scheme was begun, resulting in a good modern hospital at Chandraghona.

Dr. Swehlamong Choudhury has been Medical Superintendent for the last ten years. He was brought up in Chandraghona and is a well-known and much loved person, and a member of the local Church. He has also been the President of the Baptist Union of Bengal. Dr. Choudhury has made eye surgery his speciality and he has restored sight to many needy people.

Dr. Robert Hart joined the staff at Chandraghona early last year. As well as the surgery normally expected in a general hospital in the tropics, Dr. Hart undertakes specialized surgery required to correct the results of Leprosy. Some patients whose hands have become deformed by the disease can have surgery to straighten the fingers so that they are able to work again.

Mrs. Mary Hart is a nurse, and she is helping with the under-fives clinics held in Chandraghona and in the villages around. They treat the children for various complaints, and try to prevent diseases by vaccination, and by combating malnutrition.

Jean Westlake is Nursing Superintendent in the hospital, and is also engaged in public health

work in villages across the river. Myrtle Johnstone is in charge of the Nurses' Training School where some 55 students are working. Christine Preston has been working most of the time in the operating theatre.

Towards the end of last year, Margaret Robinson joined the team at Chandraghona, and took charge of the Leprosy Home and Hospital. She is impressed by their sense of humour, in spite of deformities and disabilities. They have a chapel of their own and some are enthusiastic Christians, meeting for prayer every day and ready to speak of their joy and peace to new patients.

### The Chaplain

One important member of the staff is the hospital chaplain, the Rev. Tapan Sarkar who is also pastor of the Chandraghona Church. He has an office in the out-patients' department where he has \* Bibles and books for sale. He also leaves numerous tracts about for patients and their families to take. He visits patients in the wards and works among the student nurses. Every morning the nurses gather together for prayers and then conduct prayers in the wards. The staff also meet weekly to pray for the special needs of the hospital.

### Patients

Leprosy patients used to be isolated in the leprosy village where they lived with their families. Now only a few live on Leprosy Hill: those who need special treatment. Nearly all the patients can be treated with drugs which control the disease, so they can go home and live in their villages. They return at intervals to have a medical check and to collect a supply of medicines.

Most of us know something of Chikankala who has had both feet amputated because of leprosy. After thirteen years of being unable to walk, she now has her "new legs". She has been a grand witness for Jesus Christ, rejoicing even in her disability because it brought her to Jesus.

Jakub Biswas has also lost both feet and he too is a keen Christian. He has begun a correspondence course with the Bible School at Dacca



(left to right) Jubendra Trippera, Blesto Trippera, Nural Hague, leprosy hospital patients.

which should enable him to qualify as a pastor. He hopes in time to be pastor at the Leprosy Home and Hospital.

Bindya Barman is a seeker. He came into the hospital for an operation on his legs. While waiting in the ward, he heard others talking about their faith and he began to read the Bible. On the day of his operation he was very anxious, not on account of the injection or the prospect of having his leg in plaster, but in case the doctor began the operation without asking God to help them make him well.

\* See Chaplain's report on p. 140

# The Chandraghona



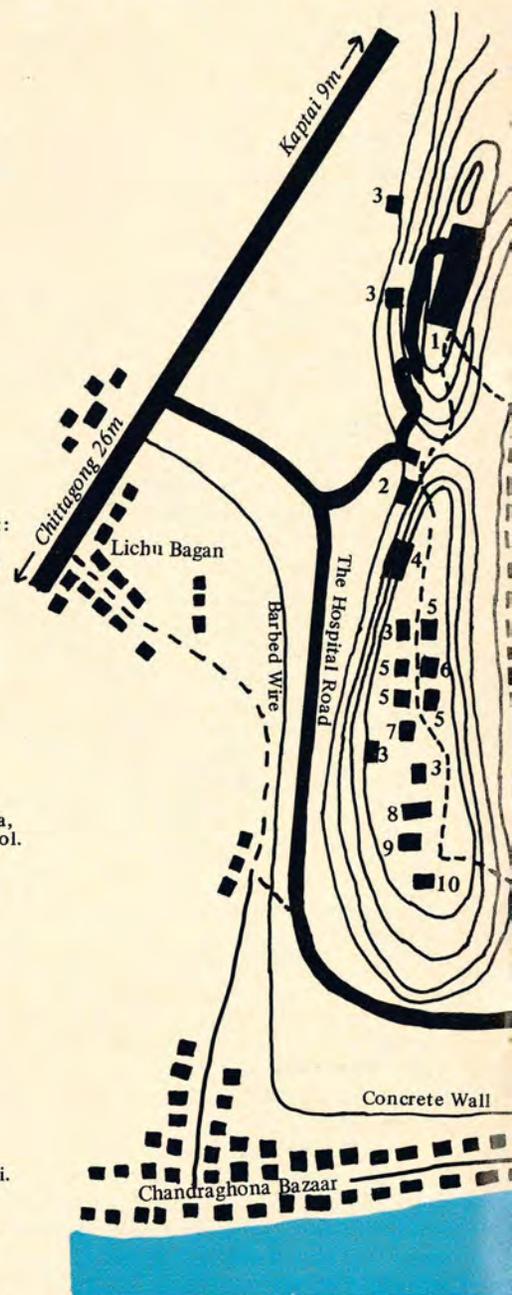
## Key to Chandraghona Complex

### Leprosy Home and Hospital

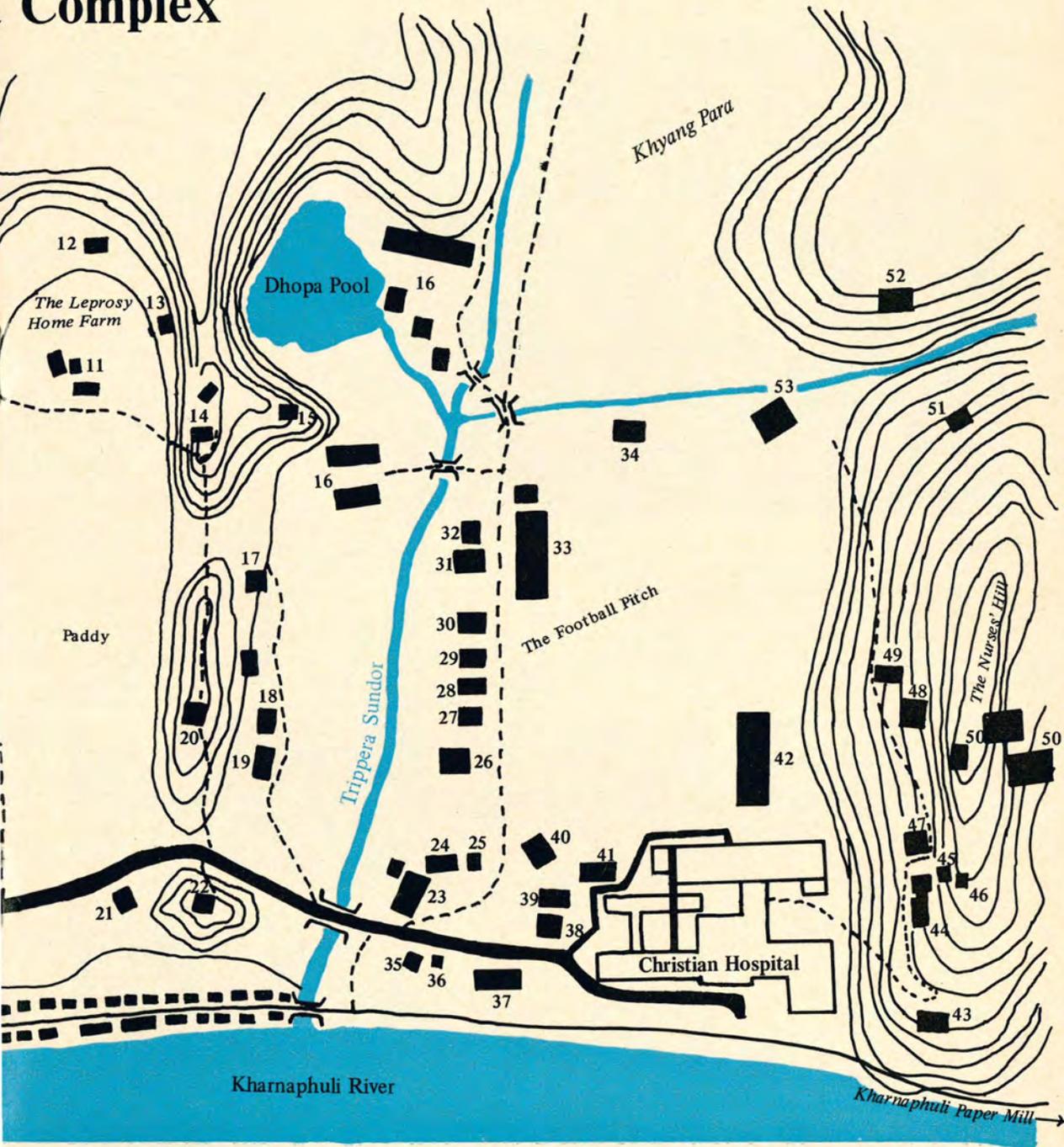
- 1 Leprosy Hospital – 3 male wards and outpatients.
- 2 Cookhouse.
- 3 Family accommodation.
- 4 Female ward.
- 5 Male hostel.
- 6 Rice store.
- 7 Weaving shed.
- 8 Pastor's house.
- 9 Church.
- 10 Ma Ching Ma's house (the first leprosy patient at Chandraghona).
- 11 Farm buildings.
- 12 Farm supervisor's house.
- 13 Leprosy home Majhi's house (organises work teams, bazaaring and general internal maintenance).
- 14 Paramedical workers houses.

### Christian Hospital

- 15 Male night nurses' hostel.
- 16 Domestic staff accommodation. Now called Shahajokormochari i.e. washermen, sweepers, cooks, door men.
- 17 Home of Dispensary Supervisor: Mr. Bipul Mondal.
- 18 Home of Workshop Supervisor: Mr. Joseph & Madhobi Baker (wife is a ward sister).
- 19 Home of X-ray technician: Mr. Shishir Byapari.
- 20 Home of Meg Robinson, Ann Rudland & Jackie Whitelock.
- 21 Home of Mr. John G. Davies & Assistant Storekeeper Mr. Jibon Halder & family.
- 22 Home of Dr. & Mrs. R. Hart & family.
- 23 Male nurses' hostel.
- 24 Male nurses' dining room.
- 25 Male nurses' cookhouse.
- 26 Home of Medical Superintendent: Dr. S. H. Choudhury.
- 27 Home of Tutor: Mrs. Ranu Gain.
- 28 Home of Hospital Chaplain: Rev. T. K. Sarcar.
- 29 Home of Lab. Technician: Mr. Prem Raksam.
- 30 Home of Storekeeper: Mr. Protap Biswas.
- 31 Home of Dr. S. K. Baroi.
- 32 Home of Cashier: Mr. Robin Sammader.
- 33 Male nurses' hostel – also accommodates compounder students and single male members of staff.
- 34 Home of Mr. Dan Kumar Chakma, a teacher at the government school.
- 35 Book Store.
- 36 Electricity transformer.
- 37 The Red Building comprising garage & workshop, physiotherapy dept, and main store.
- 38 Garage.
- 39 Bathroom.
- 40 Store.
- 41 Hospital cookhouse.
- 42 Private cabins.
- 43 Church.
- 44 Female nurses' hostel.
- 45 Female nurses' cookhouse & dining room.
- 46 Female nurses' bathroom.
- 47 Sisters' house.
- 48 Home of two Bengali sisters – Mrs. Gauri Sarker & Miss R. Baroi.
- 49 Female night nurses' hostel.
- 50 School buildings.
- 51 Home of Mr. Thwengya Khyang who works locally.
- 52 Home of hospital steward: Mr. J. D. L. Mitter.
- 53 Home of assistant lab. technician: Mr. Santwal Baum.



# Complex



(i) The Trippera Sundor is the boundary between the Chittagong District and the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

(ii) Khyangs are a tribe – very small and a village of them are settled near the hospital hence Khyang Para.



The private cabins looking towards the two storey block; ground floor, female ward; first floor, Nurses' Training School.

### The Private Cabins

One problem that arises from the variety of patients coming to Chandraghona has been partially solved by the provision of four private cabins to house the better-off families with their patients.

Two children in one family were born with cleft lip. Silpi, the girl, was six years old and her brother Sapu only just over a year. Their father was a business man who wanted Sapu to succeed him in the business so he made enquiries and it was decided to operate on both children. The family moved into a private cabin and stayed while the children were under treatment. Both children have recovered well from the operation. Sapu will be able to work with his father when he grows up, and Silpi will have much better marriage prospects as she looks so much nicer.

### Nurses in Training

The Training School is very important to the country of Bangladesh as there are only about five hundred trained nurses in the whole country and far more are needed.

Students selected for training live in the nurses' hostels and there are strict rules even for their leisure hours, in accordance with the custom of the country. They are, for example,

only allowed to have visitors permitted by their guardians, and then only on the veranda of the sisters' bungalow, in view of the nurses' hostel.

One student, Swimraching, is a local girl whose family have lived in Chandraghona for generations. Her father and sister have worked as cook for missionary families. Her elder brother trained as a compounder and is now on the hospital staff. One of her sisters trained as a nurse at Chittagong Medical College and is now a staff nurse.

After matriculation, Swimraching applied to do nurses' training at Chandraghona and was one of the twelve accepted out of thirty applicants. She has worked well in both studies and practical (not to mention spending annual leave gardening at home). Now she is in her final year and will take her government exams in December in medicine, surgery and nursing. If she is successful she will be posted to the Chittagong Medical College to take her midwifery training. Afterwards she will be given a government hospital staff nurse's appointment: another well-trained nurse to serve her people.

Another student, Usha, comes from Barisal, the flat delta area, where people fish or farm and travel by boat half the year. Usha is an Anglican who had already taken a two-year midwifery course at an Anglican hospital before applying

to Chandraghona to join the Hospital Certificated Course. At first it was difficult to adapt to being a student again, but Usha worked well and was always glad to help in the labour room. She was at Chandraghona during the 1971 disturbances with all the anxieties and danger.

Usha completed her course successfully and stayed on as theatre staff nurse for nine months, a good teacher and a reliable member of staff. By then she had been away from home for more than three years and her family wished her to move nearer to them. So, when offered a post with Save the Children Fund on the island of Bhola, she gladly accepted. Later she was promoted to area supervisor, the island having thirty clinics for the under-fives and a big immunization programme.

Christine Preston was able to visit Usha last year and was thrilled to hear how much her Christian witness and practical skills were respected by those responsible for the Save the Children Fund programme.

#### **Sisters' Bungalow**

While the hospital buildings, the nurses' hostel and some other buildings have been

modernized, others, including the sisters' bungalow, are in urgent need of re-building. In November 1973 the B.M.S. Women's Committee asked for a project for the women of the Baptist Churches in the British Isles to work for, and so the Women's Chandraghona Project was accepted.

The Project really started at Assembly 1974 and it aims to raise £10,000 in two years (in addition to the normal giving to Women's Work). Gifts have come in ranging from £1 up to £500. Some are from individuals who read a description of the bungalow in the March Missionary Herald. Large amounts have come from groups organizing coffee mornings and bring and buy sales, or even taking over empty shops for a week or two.

Up to the end of June the total amount received was over £7,000, so there is a good chance of achieving £10,000 before Assembly 1976.

Please send your individual or group gift to  
**Women's Secretary,  
Baptist Missionary Society,  
93-97 Gloucester Place,  
London,  
W1H 4AA.**



**Ailsa Muir (New Zealand physiotherapist) carrying Chikankala Chakma. Her husband Chikanya is to the left.**

*Chandraghona photographs by Christine Preston, art work for plan by Arthur Pallett.*

## More news after twenty years!

Were you a "Wonderlands" reader in 1956? If so, you may be interested in a follow up to something you read then! The final paragraphs of a story from West Bengal, entitled "*A ray of God's sunshine*", read:

"Imagine, therefore, my tremendous joy when this year I saw Kiron again—a lovely, fine woman of twenty-six years, wife of a headmaster, mother of three children and leader of the women of the little Baptist Church which they have established in the tea-gardens in Alipur Duars about two hundred miles away from our village. She has two daughters, both of whom are coming to the hostel which the B.M.S. has just opened for schoolgirls in the village.

"And Kiron is going to find work to earn enough money to pay the thirty shillings needed to keep them in the hostel. She wants her children to have the schooling and discipline and Christian teaching she so greatly appreciated. She is a very happy, strong character."

Here is the next chapter in the story by Morfudd Edwards, now retired and living in Glasgow.

Recently I had a long letter from Kiron, now aged about forty-six. Life continues to be full of adventure for Kiron, for she is the mother of eight

children, of whom the first six have taken the long and difficult journey back to their mother's village, where they have been resident in the Baptist Mission hostels and attended High Schools. Above everything else the parents (Kiron is the prime mover) wanted the young folk to have a Christian upbringing and the discipline of the hostel life! She valued that immensely herself.

The two older girls have now finished their school and college five or six hundred miles from home, the other in a college nearer home. Two of the remaining four girls are in the Balurghat Baptist hostel and attend local High Schools; the other two are at their own village school and prospects are not so bright for them as the financial burden is becoming too heavy for the parents. The father of the family is a village headmaster, and Kiron herself is a Baptist Union evangelist working amongst women.

The grit and determination and loyalty to God of this woman are quite outstanding. She and her husband are united in their resolve to bring up their children in the Christian way of life, so they have slaved to give them this opportunity. It would have been so easy for them to say they could not afford this, and just to educate them in local government schools, leaving out for them the discipline of hostel life which in the past has had such a formative and lasting influence on young people of the Christian community.

I thank God for every remembrance of Christian women like Kiron.

## Hospital chaplain's report

The following facts, taken from the report of the Rev. T. K. Sarkar, Hospital Chaplain at the Chandraghona Hospital, Bangladesh, shows the strength of the witness that is being made.

"Sold—159 Bibles, 335 New Testaments, 62 hymnbooks, 9 English Bibles, 52 English New Testaments, 109 Christian books.

Free distribution—7 Bibles, 12 New Testaments, 4000 tracts, 39 Christian books, 3000 booklets, 50 English booklets.

Three-quarters of the books sold were to non-Christians, and the free distribution was all to non-Christians. 7 former patients are now doing Bible Correspondence courses. Each Sunday morning about 30-35 non-Christian patients attend the short service in the outpatient department waiting area."

There is a desperate need for more senior trained nurses at the Chandraghona Hospital and if you feel that your nursing qualifications could be used within the missionary team at this Christian hospital, write to Rev. Mrs. A. W. Thomas, c/o B.M.S. 93 Gloucester Place, London, W1H 4AA.

## Conference for Business and Professional Women

The conference is held annually and this year it will be on Saturday, 18 October, at the Mission House. Each auxiliary has been invited to send a delegate.

After the conference, delegates will be ready to pass on something of what they have heard to groups in their areas. Why not invite your delegate to speak at a group meeting or write a report for you to read?

# CALCUTTA

The Rev. Ernest Madge, the General Overseas Secretary of the B.M.S. is spending some months of this year in Asia. When in Calcutta, India, he wrote about different aspects of life in that city and the articles will be appearing regularly in the Missionary Herald.

IT was 5.15 a.m. Sunday morning 27th April and flight BA 870 was approaching Calcutta airport. The captain told us over the inter-com that the temperature even that early in the morning was 27C, 81F. When the aircraft came in to a halt and the doors were open, I sniffed the air and knew indeed that I was back in Calcutta. It was hot and had a steamy feeling and a smell which typifies Calcutta for me, like a laundry, or the exhaust of a coal fired railway engine.

Driving into the city between 6 and 7 a.m. we overtook buses already crammed full, with people hanging on to the outside by various precarious hand and foot holds. The street markets were already functioning and by Sealdah station, refugee families (where do they come from, there have always been refugees at Sealdah!) were sorting out their rags and preparing to cook something, though what, was not visible, on tiny fires on the pavement. In contrast with the dirt underfoot, the gol mohar trees were glorious to behold, with their brilliant red flowers against the drab buildings and blue sky.

A little further on, there were two of Mother Teresa's sisters waiting for a bus, setting out on some errand of mercy. Which led me to reflect on the many varieties of church work in Calcutta. There is the Cathedral, as it is still called, though the former Anglican churches are now part of the CNI, looking like a bit of England dropped down in India. Our ancestors, particularly the establishment, left their work in India in the form of buildings just like the parish churches of England. In those days the Cathedral was the church of the British Raj at prayer, but nearly 30 years of independence have brought a wonderful transformation. The building still looks out of place but it is used by a lively Indian congregation, with a devoted and able

Indian presbyter, engaged in social, medical and relief work throughout the city.

The Baptist churches of Calcutta are not quite so English, though they have the pillars, verandas and shuttered windows which distinguish the buildings put up by the British in the 19th century.

Calcutta is a city of many languages which is seen clearly in the congregations. They worship in English, Bengali, Hindi, Oriya, Telugu, Chinese and several other languages. There are the Armenian Churches now little used as the Armenians slowly move away to the UK and other countries. There is the "Portuguese Church" so called, a Roman Catholic Church, built by the early Portuguese settlers, and a reminder that there were churches in Calcutta before William Carey. His contribution was to turn the thoughts of the Churches outwards towards the Indian population, between whom and the foreign population, a wide gulf existed, which few sought to bridge.

The B.M.S. presence in Calcutta is only a fraction of what it used to be. Only one missionary resides here permanently, Miss Joy Knapman, though two retired missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Hazelton are in charge of St. Mary's Home, an Anglo-Indian charity for old ladies. Miss S. Masterton who works among students, is a member of Charlotte Chapel, Edinburgh. Very few missionaries but the 17 Baptist Churches of the Calcutta and Suburban Baptist Union continue the witness in one way and another.

Calcutta is hot, dirty, noisy, crowded but God's people are here. Some churches could be called well-to-do with congregations of well-educated capable people holding responsible and well paid jobs. Others are much poorer and lacking in leadership. Some of them have numbers of Anglo Indians for the most part down-at-heel and neglected, a rather pathetic remnant of the old days. Three churches are composed of Telugus, workers in the jute mills that line the banks of the Hooghly, now facing unemployment and redundancy because of the depression in the jute industry. Then there are the Chinese, hard-working shopkeepers and artisans for the most part. All these churches are seeking to serve Christ in one way and another. They ask our fellowship and prayers.



Stanley Mudd, M.A., takes up his appointment as an Overseas Assistant Secretary from 1 September. Mr. Mudd served as a missionary in India and Bangladesh from 1953-72, when he returned home to a teaching appointment. His parents were missionaries with the B.M.S. in China from 1906-47, and his brother is currently warden of the Missionary Guest House, Selly Oak. Mr. Mudd is married and has two sons who attend Eltham College, the school for the sons of missionaries.

Andre Ntemo has written describing the first service of worship held at Maquela. His letter is printed in full on the back page. When you have read it you may wish to send a gift to the B.M.S. to assist in the resumption of their work in Angola.

Other letters tell of the plight of the returning refugees from Zaire. They have no homes and very little food but are rejoicing in their freedom. The photograph below shows part of the congregation at worship on 18 May.



## Missionary Record

### Arrivals

- 1 June. Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Clark and family from CECO, Kimpese, Republic of Zaire.
- 14 June. Rev. C. J. Parsons from Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- 16 June. Miss M. Kingsley from Gorkha, Nepal.
- 17 June. Mr. J. Spiller from CECO, Kimpese, Republic of Zaire. Rev. J. O. Wilde from Dacca, Bangladesh.
- 26 June. Rev. and Mrs. (Dr.) W. T. Morgan and son from Delhi, India.

### Departures

- 1 June. Rev. A. Ferreira for Curitiba Brazil, via Portugal.
- 24 June. Dr. E. Marsh for Berhampur, India.

### Deaths

- 9 June. Rev. A. N. Sears (Elected General Committee 1935-38; 1952-75; Honorary Member since 1975).
- 19 June. In Worthing, Rev. Albert William Hillard, aged 82 (Zaire and Angola 1917-53).

## Acknowledgements

The Secretaries acknowledge with grateful thanks the following legacies and gifts sent anonymously or without address (23rd May, 1975 to 23rd June, 1975)

General Work: Anon., £1.00; Anon., £8.00; Anon. (Bangor), £20.00; Anon., £10.00; Anon. (G.W.), £1.00; Anon., £7.00; Anon., £10.00; Anon., £15.00.  
 Medical Work: Anon. (M.C. Edinburgh), £3.00.  
 Relief Work: Anon., £1.50; Anon., £6.00; Anon., £2.50.  
 World Poverty: Anon. (Edinburgh), £3.00; Anon. (R.P.), £2.00.

### LEGACIES

	£
Mrs. E. M. Clark	2,000.00
Mrs. E. L. Edmondson	500.00
Mr. L. A. Gales	50.00
Mrs. E. K. Gleghorn	250.00
Mrs. E. Holroyd	425.00
Mrs. J. E. Mann	50.00
Florence S. Messenger	95.40
Miss D. L. Newman	200.00
Mrs. L. M. Scott	100.00
R. G. Walton Turner	100.00
Mr. D. A. Weakley	10,016.19

## Word and action to raise funds

The Whetstone Baptist Church, Leicester, held a sponsored twelve hour Bible reading. The aim was to read the whole of the New Testament. They managed to do this and, as a result, raised £85.00 for B.M.S.

Stony Stratford Baptist Church has a lively group of young people. Susan Brazell (aged 10) and two friends organized a small garden party which brought in £10.50. The following Saturday the Bible Club had a coffee and games morning which resulted in a further £9.50 being raised.

The local B.M.S. secretary received a cheque for £20.

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ANGOLA.

*Dear brother/sister in the Lord,*

*Many greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who loves us and freed us from our sins. To Him be glory for ever and ever.*

*Don't be surprised, I am writing you from my country, Angola, at Maquela where I am since 30 April 1975. I am writing this letter to you as one responsible for the ministry of the Lord at Maquela.*

*As many of you know, the three fields of activity of the B.M.S. were unoccupied since 1961. Considering the change of the situation since 25 April, 1974, and the declaration of Portugal to give independence to the people of Angola, the B.M.S. sent two missionaries to visit Angola, Rev. H. F. Drake and Rev. F. J. Grenfell, (February–March 1975). They visited Angola during three weeks. After their visit, they decided that from the beginning of April some Angolan pastors have to return to Angola to begin the ministry of the Lord. So, my name has been put on the list of the Kibokolo church area, with four others, at Béu.*

*When I arrived, I began my ministry by making contact with the people. People are very happy to have a Protestant church, especially the Baptist. After making the contact, we started our first worship on 18 May.*

*So, I would like to call this letter an historic letter. Why? Just because since the B.M.S. started this ministry in Angola in 1879 at San Salvador, and in 1899 at Kibocolo, it is the first time to have a Protestant community here. The day of 18 May was a wonderful Sunday for us at Maquela. It was an anniversary day of Pentecost for the Christians through the world. It was a windy day, that let us think of the strong driving wind the day of Pentecost. The first worship we had, let us think as well of the day the church began in Jerusalem. It was really a joyful day for us as for all Christians through the world. Many persons gave testimonies. Forty-one persons attended service the first Sunday and the second Sunday, on 25 May, fifty-six attended. We thank God for His wonderful love. We are praying outdoors and we use bamboo pews to sit. Continue to pray for us and for our country.*

*Being back in our country does not mean that it is the end of all problems. The problems do not lack. We know that we will face many other problems, but we still put our faith in the Lord. We still believe that God will not leave us alone. He, who solved many of our problems, will help us to solve those we are going to face. So, keep praying please for us.*

*Yours sincerely in the Lord,*

*André Ntemo*

**P.S. The need of missionaries is very important, doctors, nurses, teachers, pastors. Pray that some former missionaries or new missionaries come to help us. Thanks.**