

Missionary

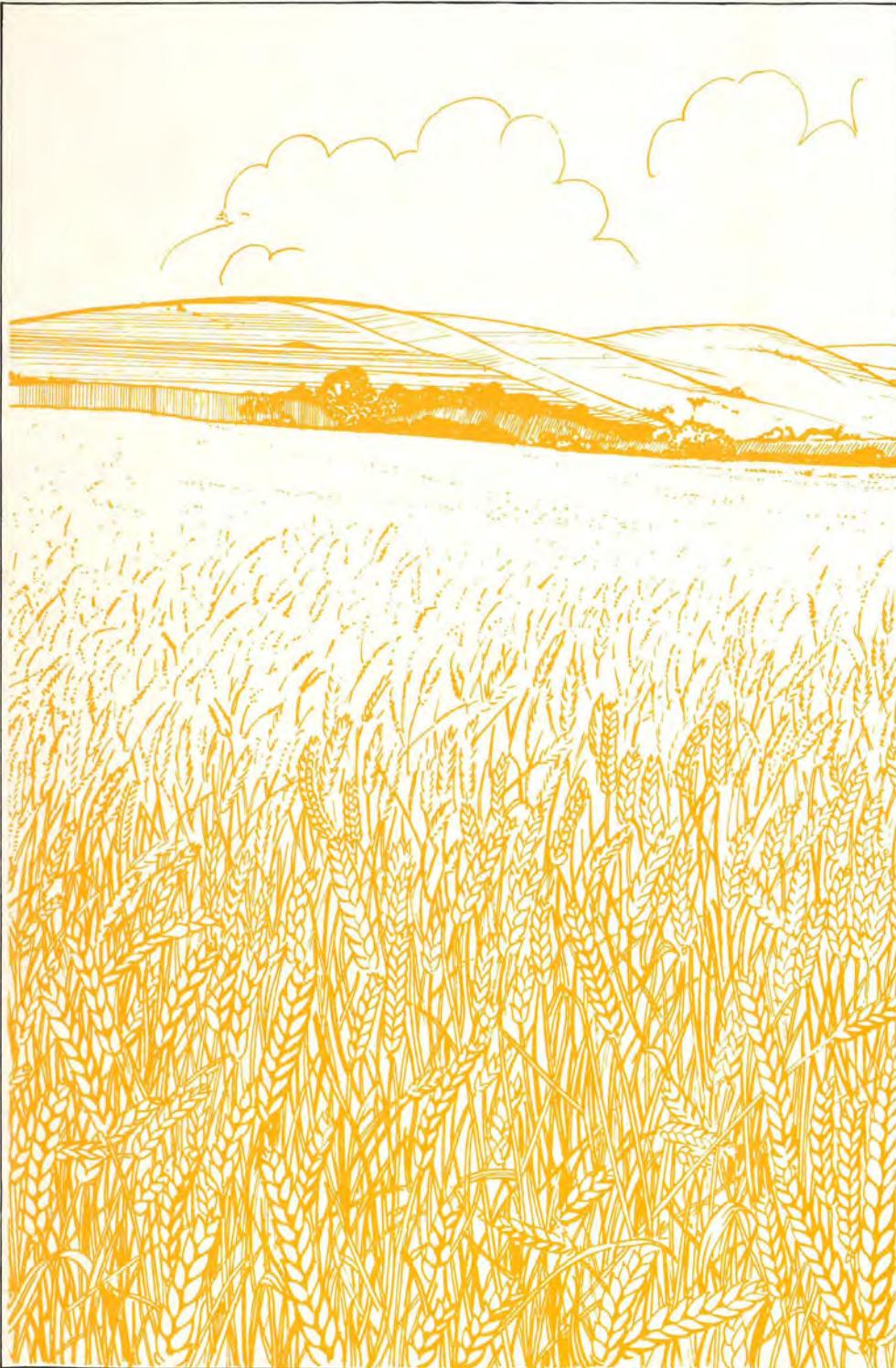
# HERALD

The magazine of the Baptist Missionary Society



**AUGUST 1977**

**Price 10p**



**FIELDS  
READY  
FOR  
HARVEST**

# FEED HIM FOR LIFE

by Peter Hewlitt  
Chairman of Operation Agri Committee



*Learning to fish*

There is a saying, 'Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him to fish, and you feed him for life.'

This principle is the basis on which Operation Agri has acted since its foundation in 1961. At the BMM Conference at Swanwick that year, a few men realising the need, formed the nucleus of the work which has done so much to help our Agricultural Missionaries in their dedicated service.

### **Reluctant to change**

The teaching of new skills and new methods of husbandry needs much patience and hard practical work. Even among the sophisticated farmers of more advanced countries there is still a lingering reluctance to change ingrained habits. People living in other countries and farming by age old methods handed down from father to son through the years are no more ready to change.

It is obvious that in order to teach and demonstrate new methods and new crops, certain things are necessary. Tools, fertilisers,



*Distributing pure bred chickens*

machines, and all sorts of ancillary equipment are needed, and this is where Operation Agri comes into the picture. The BMS looks after the missionaries, we look after their requests for the tools to accomplish their task.

### **Advances made**

Those who read the *Operation Agri News* will know quite a bit of what has been achieved. The introduction of new types of rice has meant an enormous increase in the crops and many thousands of acres are now producing quantities undreamed of in past days.

Thousands upon thousands of chicks have been hatched from pure-bred stock sent out to Africa, and have been distributed over a wide area. The difference between the old native jungle fowl, laying 25 one and a half ounce eggs a year, and the new stock producing 200 two and a quarter ounce eggs in the same period, has caused a revolution in the appreciation of the value of poultry. Then when the large birds themselves are compared with the little native stock, the value as meat is an added bonus.

### **The thirsty land**

Irrigation is another aspect of husbandry which has received much attention. Our men in the field have done wonders in the conservation of water in large 'tanks' or ponds, and Operation Agri have supplied pumps to raise water from rivers and wells. Much previously unproductive land is now supplied with water and even if the desert is not literally blossoming as the rose, it is certainly producing good food.

Another side of conservation is the terracing of hillsides. Instead of losing the topsoil through the scouring of the heavy rains this is now held and, where the hills were useless after a season or two, they are becoming more productive than ever.

We of the Operation Agri Committee are proud to be able to stand alongside the BMS in all this work, and to be able, through the generosity and support of Farming Partners and other friends, to meet the requirements of the men in the field — the Christian missionaries, with mud on their boots and God in their hearts, who are working with the people they serve towards a better world.

THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY  
93/97 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4AA  
Tel: 01-935 1482

Secretaries  
Rev A S Clement  
Rev H F Drake, OBE

Editor  
Rev A E Easter

Enquiries about service to:  
Rev (Mrs) A W Thomas

Films, slide sets, posters, maps, literature  
are available depicting our work

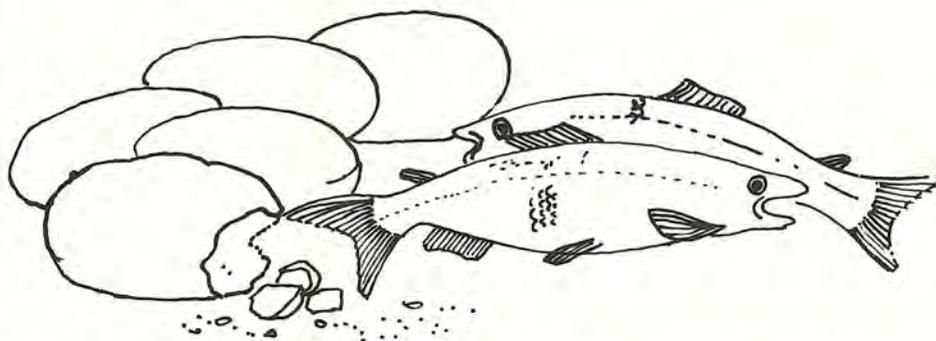
Departments concerned with  
Young People's, Women's, and Medical  
support work are always available  
to offer help and advice

We share in the work of the Church in:

Angola  
Bangladesh  
Brazil  
Hong Kong  
India  
Jamaica  
Nepal  
Sri Lanka  
Tanzania  
Trinidad  
Zaire

Printed by  
Stanley L Hunt (Printers) Ltd  
Rushden, Northamptonshire

# COMMENT



Christ said, '... you give them something to eat'. In obedience to the Master the Baptist Missionary Society, from the days of Carey till now, have considered it one of the responsibilities laid upon them to help the people, of the lands in which they are privileged to preach the Gospel, to have their physical hunger as well as their spiritual hunger satisfied. With the apostle James we believe it is no help to the spread of the gospel if we ignore the malnutrition and the hunger of the people to whom we would convey the riches of Christ, even as He himself did not ignore the bodily needs of those who had eagerly listened to Him as he declared the love of God. The disciples were ready to dismiss the crowd and let them make what provision they could for their own needs, but the Lord would not hear of this.

In most of the areas in which we stand with the church of Jesus Christ we have agricultural missionaries at work. But let it be remembered that not one of them works in a watertight compartment. They are there because the Lord has constrained them and while they are exercising their skills in husbandry to train the people of the land, they are, at the same time, working with the church to declare the unsearchable riches of Christ. They are working, too, with the doctor and

the nurse concerned about malnutrition and seeking ways with them in which a balanced diet can be available for all. Together they are declaring the wholeness of man and God's concern for the whole man.

In the next month or so our churches in this country will be holding their harvest festival services. Many take the opportunity of this occasion, in thankfulness to God, to engage in some project in support of the agricultural work of the Baptist Missionary Society. Amid the plenty of our western style living they consider the impoverishment and hunger that persists in many parts of the world. We hope that the information contained in this issue of the *Missionary Herald* will provide material for such projects and stimulate you in your prayers and your thinking about our brethren and sisters overseas. We would also remind you that Operation Agri has posters and leaflets to help you in your harvest display and that there are other aids available from Mission House.

The centre page spread in this issue would form a useful centre piece to a harvest display or serve a useful purpose on a missionary notice board. Extra copies of the magazine are available on request and we hope you will make full use of the facilities which are available to you.



*The paddy field*

by Jill Brace

# WATER OF LIFE

At the United Nations Water Conference, held last March in Argentina, various statistics were reported which are worth our attention because they reveal some facts that are not usually appreciated.

## **Abundant resources**

For one thing about 97.5% of the enormous amount of water in the hydrosphere is salt water contained mainly in the oceans and seas. The remaining 2.5% is the fresh water which we draw on for our daily requirements. These daily needs obviously vary a great deal from person to person, place to place, and according to the type of society considered.

In some rural areas as little as two litres (about three and a half pints) are used daily by each person. At the other end of the scale more than 400 litres (88 gallons) are required each day in some highly industrialized urban areas. If the average daily consumption per person throughout the world is taken to be 200 litres (44 gallons), with the present population the yearly consumption would be less than 300 cubic kilometres (72 cubic miles). But in fact only about half this amount is actually used at present and this is a very small total compared to available resources. For instance, the average yearly discharge of the Mississippi alone is about

600 cubic kilometres (144 cubic miles), ie, four times as much as the total population requirements.

So what do we gather from this mathematical exercise? The fact is, contrary to what we are sometimes led to believe, there is no shortage of water in the world. Nor should this come as any surprise to us: has not God said He will supply our every need according to His riches? He is 'the fountain of living water', the source which never runs dry.

The problem then is not one of resources but rather of their organization and

management. The natural distribution of water over the earth is highly variable, both in place and time, with the result that vast quantities of this precious commodity are not utilized to their best advantage. For example, to return to statistics, about 70% of the earth's fresh water is in the form of ice in the polar regions and in glaciers. Suggestions have been made of towing icebergs to places where fresh water is needed, but this must remain a theory rather than a practice for the present time. However, there are other ways in which we can use the resources we have, these may be less spectacular but are still of considerable profit.

### Channelling through

At this point let us turn our attention to a specific country where BMS missionaries are working and where the water problem is being tackled in a particular way. For Alan Casebow at Diptipur in the State of Orissa, India, the problem is one of a large amount of rainfall inconveniently concentrated within a few months. During the monsoon period which starts in June and lasts until September there is the danger of crops being damaged due to flooding. Although, in the case of rice, which needs to be covered by three or four inches of water, the danger period comes later with the fickleness of the September rains. In the drier months which follow the crops can easily be lost.

The solution is twofold: drainage schemes can prevent damage from flooding during the monsoon, and conservation of the rainfall and subsequent use of it through irrigation prevents wastage of resources and provides the necessary water during the dry season. Irrigation enables two or even three crops to be grown during the year whereas reliance on natural means only produces one. Furthermore, once every three years or so, due to the irregular September rains, even that one crop will be a poor one unless irrigation is used.

In 1975 the 'Food for Work' relief programme was begun whereby 1,500 families were paid one kilogramme of wheat, plus one rupee, for each day's work of digging out reservoirs and irrigation channels. Alan Casebow has been busy in recent months with the completion of a canal, or channel, being cut through a hill. The cutting is 18 feet at its deepest point and will take the overflow water from a large tank or reservoir, built in 1975, to four smaller ones, thus bringing the valuable water to many more acres. Last year, as a result of the water conservation work carried out during the relief programme,

an estimated 800 acres of crops in villages around Diptipur were saved from failure.

### New ways of cultivating

The situation in Bangladesh is similar to that in India as regards the monsoon rainfall, but Bangladesh is a country of many more rivers. Indeed the meeting of the three main rivers in the south forms the largest delta in the world. The surrounding plain is subject to annual floods which can cause much damage but which also leaves silt on the land thus making it very fertile. The country is further subjected to flooding from two other sources: the Himalayan snow can melt too quickly, and there is always the danger of flooding from the sea. This then is the situation facing agricultural missionaries in Bangladesh.

One aspect of the problem is being tackled by David Stockley who has introduced a new method of cultivating the land on the hillsides in the south-east of the country. During the monsoon, when as much as 200 inches of rain falls within four months, all the rich top-soil is washed off the hillsides. The traditional form of cultivation involves the trees and vegetation on a chosen hill being cut down, dried and burnt, after which seeds are planted in the ash and top-soil. When the latter is washed off the hillside during the monsoon it may take up to ten years for nature to repair the damage before another crop can be grown. In comparison, 'Bangladesh terracing,' as David has called his technique, controls the eroding activity of the rain and, by permitting moisture to penetrate into the hillside, allows two or

even three crops to be grown per year. The terracing method entails planting lines of strong grasses at three feet vertical intervals so that over a period of six or seven years terraces are gradually formed as the soil, washed by the monsoon rain, builds up behind the grass barriers. The technique is simple and cheap and enables 16 or more crops, as opposed to just one, to be grown in an eight year period — a considerable improvement!

### Utilizing to the full

In Brazil, Frank Gouthwaite has hopes of making use of the water resources there in quite a different way. He is considering the possibility of keeping chickens to provide eggs and thus a means of income for the local people. Hens lay best when they think it is summer time, ie, when they have 17 hours of 'daylight' per day, and electricity is the easiest way of providing this. Frank is therefore wondering about using some of the water resources to generate electricity to provide light for the poultry and for other purposes.

Drainage, irrigation, hydroelectricity and terracing. These then are ways in which BMS agriculturists in India, Bangladesh, and Brazil are seeking to utilize their water resources to the full. Certainly, we are dependent upon God to supply the water as with all our needs, but what we do with it is our concern. Let us praise Him for the water of life, both in the physical and spiritual sense, and may we aim, in co-operation with Him, to be good stewards of both.



*Old irrigation method in India*

# Money Wanted

by Stan Crees ★

This is not the purchasing officers of Operation Agri requesting payment for a tedious aspect of their work. The title refers to the first item on the list of requirements for the self-help project at the Delhi Girls' Hostel.

New boring for tube well . . . 3,000 Rupees

Operation Agri is supporting this new scheme to cultivate and irrigate four acres of land attached to the hostel to assist Marion Bushill and her helpers to feed the girls. Although this is the newest project that we in Operation Agri have been called on to help it is a long way from being the one which keeps the purchasing officers busiest, in a far from boring, rather challenging, variety of investigations, enquiries and purchases.

---

★ The joint purchasing officers of Operation Agri, Stan Crees and David Hitchcock, have the responsibility of meeting the equipment and livestock needs of the agricultural missionaries of the Society. Here Stan outlines some aspects of this work — Ed.



## The list extends

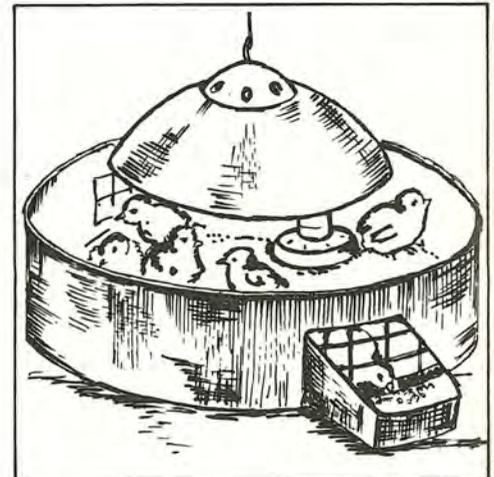
Before he returned to Zaire towards the end of last year John Mellor left a long list of requirements for the expansion of the agricultural project at Tondo. Since then he has been busily adding to the list in almost every letter he has written (20 in all) as he finds this or that piece of equipment needs a replacement part, or the cultivations required for a new crop demand modifications to earlier plans. The largest item on John's list at the moment is a second-hand tractor purchased with the help of Peter Schwier (who himself served a term as an agricultural missionary) and Jack Last — just two of the growing army of helpers who assist the purchasing officers in their task. The smallest item is probably the centre screw retaining the fuel filter bowl and element of the Lister engine.

All of these items are located, checked for their suitability and the relevant costs and gross weights noted. When sufficient equipment is listed to make up a reasonable shipment the details are sent to the agency in Zaire applying for exemption from duty on the goods. The various items are collected together and packed into drums or cases ready for shipment when that clearance is received. It is a relief to send the final

documentation to the agents in Zaire after all the correspondence involved.

## Paper work to be done

At the time of writing just such a large consignment of goods has been waiting at the 'ECHO' warehouse and elsewhere for duty exemption to be granted. A colleague who has been involved in the preparation of part of the consignment telephoned to ask about its progress on behalf of interested friends in the local church. It was suggested that, as clearance to ship was still awaited, the church friends should first of all pray that permission would soon be granted.



*The old (background) and the new way of pumping water at Gange High School, Delhi, India*

# for a Boring Job

Within ten days of this conversation the appropriate papers were received and shipment can now proceed.

The despatch of livestock provides additional problems in that careful plans must be prepared to ensure speedy transit of the animals to their destination. We rely on our air freight expert, Stuart Sandys, for these arrangements. The flight plans are then communicated to various people on route. The animals, when located, must be ready for the stress of the journey and be covered by the appropriate health certification so that their journey by air to Zaire or Bangladesh



will finish with a smooth passage through customs. To learn that livestock have arrived without serious loss is a real cause for praising the Lord.

## All co-operate

Such are the rewards for the tasks undertaken on behalf of the agricultural missionaries. A consignment of tools to Brazil; information and grants to Bangladesh; wide ranging support for the agricultural project at Diptipur all result from the teamwork of Operation Agri officers and their helpers, close co-operation with the BMS and backed, of course, by those in the churches who give so generously to support this work.

The following is an abbreviated list of recent purchases and grants:

## Bangladesh

Support for former leprosy patients' co-operative in providing cash, seed store, ploughing bullocks, cattle shed, land purchase etc	£1,000
Dinajpur Model Farm budget expenses	£1,500
Spares for Rangunia Land Rover + shipping costs	£310
Agricultural orientation expenses	£150

## Brazil

Various Hand Tools (Stillsons, Wrenches, Drills, etc)	£20
Bedford Socket Set and accessories	£48
3 Masonry Drill Bits, 2 Drill Bit sets and 1 foot pump	£21

## India

West Utkal Agricultural Centre repair and upkeep of farm property	£70
Machinery repair and replacement	£170
Protective clothing for Farm staff	£17
Fertilisers and Pesticides	£200
Development and Relief Reserve Fund	£670
Delhi Girls' Hostel kitchen garden project	£2,500

## Zaire

Midget Rice and Grain Thresher for Tondo	£427
Knapsack Sprayer	£34
MF 135 Tractor (second-hand)	£2,125
Merrytiller and Land Rover Winch spares and accessories	£60
Staff Wages, Running Costs and Land clearance at Tondo	£1,400
Seeds from UK sources to CECO	£20
Massey Ferguson Tractor spares and tools + air freight charges	£154
Land Rover (second-hand) + spares and accessories for CECO	£4,278



*Landmaster cultivation*

# OUR FARMING



**BOB and MIRIAM YOUNG**, from the Granton Church, Edinburgh, went to Bangladesh in 1971. They have recently returned to Dinajpur after furlough and have eagerly settled down to the routine work on the farm and have welcomed the opportunity of getting out and about among the people, trying to help them in their everyday farming.

When **COLIN and DOREEN FOULKES** first saw a man walking across a field behind two bullocks, holding the end of a stick which was stirring the soil, their first impression of agriculture in Bangladesh was that they had gone 'Back to the Bible'. They arrived in Barisal in 1975 and the first year was spent in language study. They have now moved to Khulna to help in the expansion of agricultural work there. They are in membership at the Thomas Cooper Church, Lincoln.



**DAVID and JOYCE STOCKLEY** were the first BMS agricultural missionaries, since Carey, to go out to Asia. In 1952 they went to Barisal for language study and then to Khulna where they laid the foundations of the agricultural work there. Now David and Joyce are at Rangunia training both expatriate and native advisers, and travelling widely about Bangladesh advising and helping Co-operatives and teaching ex-leprosy patients how to terrace the hill land on which they have settled. Their home churches are at Croham Road, Croydon, and Earlsfield.

## BANGLADESH



**FRANK and PEGGY GOUTHWAITE** come from the Edward Road Church, Birmingham, and went to Brazil in 1976 to help in the agricultural project at Potinga, Paraná. Initially they had to concentrate on language studies in Curitiba but with that now successfully behind them they are able to settle down in Potinga and plan the future of the new project.

## BRAZIL



### COST OF OUR AGRIC

In addition to the value through the 'Operation A Baptist Men's Movement to provide in its main budget a sum of money (over £50,000) to cover the support of missionaries and their families, passage costs to and from courses, pension contribution items.

# EVANGELISTS

## ZAIRE

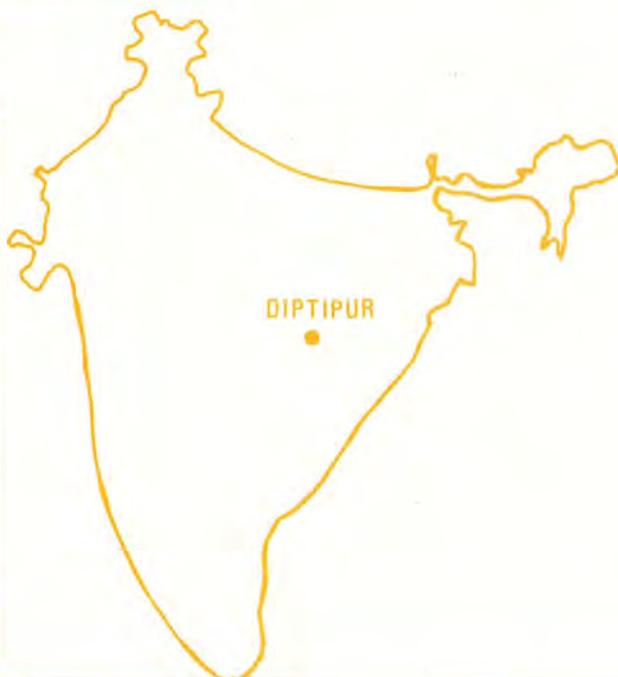


**JEAN FLOWERS** went to Kimpese, Zaire, in August 1976, as an agricultural volunteer helper and has been working at CECO, the Conference Study Centre. She has battled cheerfully against frustrations caused through lack of the basic essentials in farming, but is glad to have had the opportunity of working for people in a poorer country and encouraging them to produce more and better crops. Jean comes from the Thomas Helwys Church, Nottingham, and soon her short-term service will come to an end. Is there anyone who will succeed her?



**JOHN and RENA MELLOR** have connections with the churches at Guildford, at Queen's Road, Coventry and the Brethren in Manchester. They first went to Tondo, Zaire, in 1969 and since then have been occupied in poultry projects and in goat and rabbit breeding, all in an endeavour to give the people a more balanced diet.

## INDIA



### CULTURAL WORK

able help received  
agri' scheme of the  
, the Society had  
dget a considerable  
,000). This was to  
the agricultural  
nilies, housing, etc,  
n the field, training  
utions and other



**ALAN and JEAN CASEBOW** first served as agricultural missionaries in Zaire and then went to Diptipur, in Orissa, India, in 1965. For the past few years they have been fully occupied in the relief programme and in a large number of projects such as experimenting with new crops, irrigating the land, constructing reservoirs and educating farmers in modern techniques. They will soon be leaving Diptipur and an Indian successor is being sought. They come from the churches at Sarum Hill, Basingstoke, and Shoreham-by-Sea.

# THE BASIS FOR SECURITY

by Stanley Mudd

Bangladesh has been described as the most crowded spot on earth yet this pressure on land is a comparatively recent thing. Men in just their 50's can look back to an idyllic pastoral existence in their boyhood. There is no doubt that they are looking back through rose coloured spectacles, but it is equally true to say that the kind of pressure there is on land today did not exist then at the beginning of this century, and more people were able to grow enough to feed themselves from their own plot of land.

## The solution

One of the lecturers in agriculture at Allahabad once said that to change the agricultural system in India and to improve it, it would be necessary to change the shape and the size of the fields which the peasants

work. He also maintained that the peasant farmer was extremely efficient within the limits imposed by the size of his field, and within the limits imposed by his inability to get better seeds or better fertilisers.

What he said of India would be true of many parts of the world. Why then doesn't the Bengali or the Indian change the size of his field? This has in fact happened, but in an unhelpful way. The traditional method of passing on land has been to divide it between all the sons of a family. This has obviously meant that individual holdings have become smaller and smaller. It should also be remembered that in the uncertainty of life in the East there is a very strong desire all the time to have some land somewhere. It is the one pledge against inflation and against

all the chances and changes of life. If one has a plot of land, however small, it is possible to grow rice and feed one's family for at least a part of the year.

## Thinking of the short term

How easy it is to criticize the desire for short term gains. In Assam the cattle owners will graze their herds on the hillside, and the easiest way to make new grass grow is to burn the old. But when this is done the tree saplings and any other vegetation is also destroyed. The grass grows again to some extent but when the rains come there are no tree roots to hold back the soil and gradually the hills become denuded. It is easy to point out that a whole hillside is the price which has to be paid for a few years grass, but are we in a position to preach about short term gains when it is clear that we in the west are squandering energy as we think only in the short term.

## The climate devastates

When we think about the situation, say, in Bangladesh we must remember that incredible ferocity on occasions of the tropical climate. A north-wester, which is very localized indeed and occurs usually in the Spring can completely devastate several acres of land.

Cyclones, of course, devastate much larger areas and in the space of two hours it is possible for a man's entire food supply for a year to be destroyed. Or, a little bit too much rain, a little extra snow melting away in the Himalayas away to the North, and serious flooding can occur in Barisal. Floods occur which can completely drown the crops over a very wide area and leave nothing.

This kind of destruction of a man's work, however hard and diligently he has worked, has encouraged a religious fatalism which is noticeable in Islam and which is even to be found among some Christians.

## Too much but not enough

The surprising thing is that even though they get so much rain there is still a shortage of water for agricultural purposes during the dry season. It is in this situation that pumps are invaluable to move water from storage tanks or from tube wells. But where machines are used it is necessary to have mechanics available to service them and keep them in order. Even a minor fault can cause a great delay and a loss of crops if in order to effect a repair a pump has to be shipped a long distance for an overhaul, and this sort of situation can so easily arise in a country like Bangladesh. The peasant farmer has so many obstacles and setbacks to overcome.



*The modern way of getting water at Dinajpur, Bangladesh*

## HOW IT BEGAN

We have received an interesting letter from the daughter of Dr Holman Bentley, an early missionary in Zaire, telling of the first consignment of chicks which were sent to Zaire at the request of Dr Bentley. They were sent by Sir Edward Brown, one of the founders of the Agricultural Department of Reading University and the leading poultry breeder of his day. This happened before 1905 so the BMS work of improving chicken breeds in Zaire has a long and honourable history.

## MAKE A DAY OF IT

A church in Bristol decided to make full use of the missionary deputation visit. They invited the members of the church and congregation to stay to dinner at the church following the morning service, and they met the missionaries informally during the afternoon and in this way learned a great deal about the work overseas. They termed this venture 'A Mini Summer School'.

## STAMPS BRING IN THE MONEY

Rev Peter Ledger who organizes the BMS Stamp Bureau reports that recently a lady sent an accumulation of stamps she had had for years and her little parcel realized £100 for mission overseas. In response to the appeal for used stamps another reader sent in a small selection of apparently ordinary King George V stamps. They were all ordinary except one, and that one sold for £15. Mr Ledger also reports that the wholesale price for current British stamps of all sorts has just risen by an average of 30%. So we can all do a lot more for BMS by letting the Stamp Bureau have our used stamps. Send them to — Rev Peter Ledger, 33 Brickhill Drive, Bedford MK41 7QA.

## A PRISONER'S GIFT

Among the contributions recently received by the BMS was one from a young Canadian girl in prison. She committed an offence as a drug addict, but before going to prison was converted and is now a shining witness to her fellow prisoners. Her family in Canada sent her the money for her personal use but she has asked that it be used for the relief of hunger and suffering in the Chandraghona region of Bangladesh.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## INVOLVE THE YOUNG PEOPLE

The Reading Auxiliary invited the young people of the churches to arrange an exhibition depicting the work of the BMS. The result was a very colourful and informative display that was created with imagination and stretched the whole length of the hall where the welcome meeting was held. They also invited the young people to research and present reports about serving missionaries who have gone out from churches in the Reading area. Those reports were read out by young people at the welcome meeting.

## RADIO DOCTOR

Dr John C Allen, who is a member of Melbourne Hall Baptist Church, Leicester, has been working with the Radio Doctor Service in Sydney, Australia. He is a member of the Christian Medical Fellowship and on his way home to this country offered to give three months service at a hospital in Zaire. Dr Allen has settled into the work at Yakusu.

## AN OLD FRIEND

Dr Stanley Thomas has written to say that the picture on the cover in the top left hand corner of our May issue brought back many memories to him. The smiling woman is Poto Aja, an early convert to Christianity in the Kond Hills of India.

Dr Thomas says, 'one afternoon we were walking round the village and came to her house. We knocked on the door but there was no reply. However, according to custom we went in and, as there was no one in the room, we went through to the verandah. We found Poto Aja clutching her arm. She looked at us and gave a great smile. "The Lord has sent you just when I needed you. I fell down a few minutes ago and my arm is very painful. How wonderful that you should come just now," she said.

Her arm was broken and it called for treatment in hospital, but she never forgot that experience and neither did I. Poto Aja was, like Barnabas, a great encourager and was never slow in giving her testimony to the goodness of God in her hour of need.'



*Yakusu Hospital, Zaire*



*Fishing at Diptipur, India*

The problems of malnutrition in developing countries were brought sharply into focus at the time of the Nigerian Civil War in the late sixties. As television pictures of starving and undernourished children penetrated into our homes we were forced to give our attention to the plight of the underfed. Mistakenly, some thought that such conditions only existed in time of war. The more thoughtful pondered on the grim fact that 60% of the world's population are malnourished; they wondered why this should be so and how it could be alleviated. It is not surprising that on such a subject innumerable books and reports have been

written and many and varied opinions expressed. But for our part we simply look at the problem through the eyes of those who are in daily contact with poverty and malnutrition in the countries where BMS missionaries are working.

#### **Supplementing the diet**

For us in the western world the 'staff of life' is, of course, bread made from wheat flour. For those who live in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, it is wholemeal wheat flour and rice which form the basis of the diet, while in Africa the staple foods are maize and cassava (manioc). A bowl of rice, a

# FULL NOT

by **Dr Ian Acres**

cassava pudding, or a helping of maize, would each appear to be a meal in itself for those who judge food by its bulk. It is true that they are filling and provide much of the energy requirements, but they do not contain the body-building elements, mineral salts and vitamins which are necessary to maintain health and resist disease. Thus in Zaire, for example, a villager will not feel that he has had a proper meal unless he has had some fish, vegetables or salt with his cassava. Similarly, in the Indian sub-continent, fish, lentils (vegetable protein) and oil are used to supplement the rice.

#### **Adverse factors**

By tradition then, and assuming it is possible, people in the less developed countries like to have a mixed diet. The problem is that in most cases they do not have the opportunity of choosing what they would like to eat and are therefore prevented from getting those foods which are necessary to maintain their health and that of their children. The reasons for this are several. In Bangladesh, for instance, when there is little chance of storing rice, failure of the crop because of adverse weather or climatic conditions brings disaster to the small farmer who, because of his limited resources, literally lives from hand to mouth. When the Zaire River, due to abnormal rainfall in the hinterland, does not rise and fall at the usual times, there may be a sudden shortage of fish and consequently an unexpected end to the supply of much needed protein. Moreover, in times of economic difficulty, especially in families where there are many mouths to feed, the problem of getting enough to eat becomes very acute. Sometimes parents will sell fish and eggs in order to get money for clothes rather than use these nutritionally valuable foods in the family meals.

For reasons such as the above, people in the less developed countries are often forced



*Preparing cassava in Zaire*

# BUT FED

to exist on a diet which not only gives them insufficient stamina for a good day's work but lessens their resistance to disease and, in the case of children, hinders their proper physical and mental development. Other factors in this pathetic situation are a lack of knowledge of food values and of alternative foods when one kind is unavailable together with, not surprisingly, a resistance to changing the patterns of feeding which have been traditionally practised for centuries, such traditions being sometimes based on taboos and abstention on religious grounds.

## Education for all

So the problem is vast and complex. While the United Nations and governments wrestle with it in the economic sphere, we have to decide how we can cope with the problem in a practical way in the places where missionaries are working. Undoubtedly, education and example are basic in any attempt which we make to alleviate the situation. Education can take place on many levels: starting in the schools we can teach girls about nutrition and so prepare them for their role in family life. The boys can be encouraged to look upon agriculture as a worthwhile occupation, just as useful and satisfying as an office job in a big city. Mothers who attend ante-natal clinics or who bring their children to under-five clinics are eager to learn all they can about foods which help their little ones to grow strong and healthy. Men too are in need of education, men who may already be farmers but using wasteful methods, inferior seed and primitive equipment. They can be shown the benefit of co-operative methods, the use of more prolific seed and how to make the best of limited resources and facilities. Education does not mean radically and suddenly trying to change the eating habits which have evolved over centuries. Any such rash attempt would meet with little success. It may be necessary gradually to introduce new foods,



*Ploughing by the old method in India*

especially as alternative supplies of nutritive value, but essentially the aim must be to enable people to help themselves, a long-term project but one of lasting effect.

## The missionaries' contribution

Because the problem is complex it needs a united and co-operative approach from those who educate, from those who are agriculturists and from those whose work is medical. Because the problem is vast one may well wonder how missionary societies who continually experience financial crises can hope to make any significant contribution. President Mobutu of Zaire is reported to

have been critical of those who come to advise on matters of agriculture and rural development and never leave the shelter of the big cities. Usually, BMS missionaries are carrying on their work in rural areas, seeing the needs of people living in the villages and understanding the problems which confront them. Those who work overseas believe that they are called by God not only to serve spiritual needs of people but also to provide their physical well being. In this sense, missionaries have a contribution to make, far out of proportion to their limited resources, in alleviating the suffering of some of the world's undernourished millions.



*Public health worker in Nepal*

# BOOK R E V I E W



**History, Criticism and Faith, by Ed Colin Brown.** Published: Inter Varsity Press £2.95.

Gathered together in this volume are four essays, each by an expert in Biblical studies, each revealing erudition and supported by copious footnotes and extensive bibliographies. It is a book which will appeal to the student and the scholar rather than the general reader. The issues raised in it are of great importance to the interpretation of the Scripture, to a Christian understanding of History, and to Christian Theology. Gordon Wenham of Belfast considers the question of the historicity of the Old Testament, taking into account the view of modern scholars such as Von Rad, Bright De Vaux, and North, and surveying present trends in Biblical criticism.

The historicity of the New Testament is discussed in two essays, one by F F Bruce under the title 'Myth and History' the other by R T France in 'The Authenticity of the Sayings of Jesus'. In the former much attention is paid to the views of Bultmann; in the latter to the views of the late Norman Perrin as expressed in his last book; *Rediscovering the Teaching of Jesus*. The final essay is by the editor, Colin Brown, and on the theme of 'History and the Believer'.

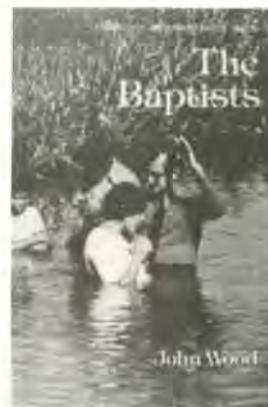
ASC



**Community Health Care, by Dr Stanley Browne.** Published: Ludhiana British Fellowship 25p.

The first part of this well illustrated booklet tells the story of the Community Health work as seen by Dr Stanley Browne. Professor Betty Cowan takes up the story in the second half and it is clear that both doctors and the laity needed persuading that it is much better to prevent disease rather than treat an illness which through adequate diet and hygienic living could have been prevented. Working in the slum areas of Ludhiana and in villages, already much has been accomplished and it is gratifying to read of the enthusiasm of medical students and young doctors. This is an interesting, informative and well illustrated booklet which illuminates one facet of the great work being carried on at the Christian Medical College and Hospital at Ludhiana, founded by our own BMS Dr Edith Brown in 1894.

DH



**The Baptists, by John Wood.** Published: Religious Education Press 90p.

This book is designed for young people and for the RE class in schools.

This is plain from the style and the questions for discussion or research at the end of each chapter, and from explanations such as, 'after (the church meeting) he (the secretary) writes summaries of the discussions held. These summaries are known as minutes.'

The reader is supposed to have some idea of the Christian faith since the writer says, 'I have stressed the points at which they (Baptists) differ from their fellow Christians'.

This is a book written very much from the point of view of British Baptists. Americans and Russians are mentioned and there is one line on the Church of North India, but there is scarcely a word about Baptist churches in other parts of the world or their organization. Provided one remembers that the book is written for the British teenager at school who has some understanding of the Christian faith and that it is useful as a resource book for a project on Christian denominations, then it should prove most helpful. The recommendations for further reading are up-to-date, minority opinions within the British Baptist churches are given adequate mention and the emphases on Baptist faith and practice are in the right places. The printing of particular church's annual accounts is an excellent idea and the questions arising from its study thought provoking and helpful.

SM



**The Fight**, by **John White**. Published: Inter Varsity Press £1.20.

This book is written by a professor of psychiatry at the University of Manitoba and is for the newly converted Christian. I read it at a sitting, which is not to be recommended for this is a study book needing to be thought over, and which, to most chapters, has Bible references to be looked up and considered. It is written as an attempt to help the student to meet many of the difficulties and disappointments which are likely to be faced in the Christian life. It treats them in a way that many will find helpful.

The subjects considered cover a wide spectrum, from a statement of the immediate results of conversion, through praying and witness to holiness; with chapters on 'His Imperial Majesty'; on relationship with others inside and outside the Christian community; on freedom from drudgery; and then finishing up with a section on 'the last enemy', death.

Written from a 'Conservative Evangelical' standpoint, the writer keeps to the middle path in many ways and gives much good advice. In discussing relationships with others from whom you differ, he says, 'have a courteous and respectful attitude toward them. Remember they have hopes, problems, fears, just as you do. Share anything about Christ that you can without trying to lure them over the fence.' And in writing of witnessing, 'Be courteous — don't pretend to know things you don't know. If you argue try to understand what the other person is saying.'

**THIS FULL COLOUR  
PICTURE, 20" x 30", OF  
ALAN CASEBOW AT  
DIPTIPUR  
IS AVAILABLE FROM  
THE MISSION HOUSE**

**PLEASE SEND 45p TO  
COVER POST AND HANDLING**

---

**OPERATION AGRI POSTERS**

---

**SLIDE SETS**

---

**AVAILABLE FOR YOUR  
HARVEST PROGRAMME**

The background, wording and spelling tend to be American, but this is a book which could be recommended to a Christian student finding that the Christian life is not the bed of roses which he had imagined, and finding the Christian Church tryingly imperfect.

GHB

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretaries acknowledge with grateful thanks the following legacies and gifts sent anonymously or without address. (2-30 May, 1977)

**General Work:** Anon: £30.00; Anon: £22.30; Anon: £2.00; Anon: £6.00; Anon: £3.00; Anon: £3.00; Anon: £1.00; Anon: (GW) £1.00; Anon: £19.00; Anon: £25.00; Anon: (Cymro) £7.00; Anon: £5.00;

**Medical Work:** Anon: £100.00 (J B Alloa).

**Agricultural Work:** Anon: £10.00.

### Legacies

	£ p
Miss M A Beynon	100.00
F E Blandy	37.50
Mrs E M Clarke	283.56
Mary Cooper	2,043.20
Miss E M Couch	100.00
Miss A F Cracknell	100.00
Mr H S Dawson	125.00
Miss G M Edwards	100.98
Kate Hayes	500.00
A F Heyman	50.00
Mrs G A Hilton	302.00
Rev J T Jones	5.00
Miss K A Leigh	300.00
Morton Trust	1,000.00
Miss G M Northmore	2,951.14
Miss E M Pendle	7,500.00
Mrs Rendall	70.00
Mr R D Rennie	100.00
Mrs M Tristram	850.00

### MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

#### Arrivals

Miss S Finch on 27 April from New Delhi, India.

Mr and Mrs D J Hampshire and family on 28 April from Stewart School, Cuttack, India.

Mr and Mrs O W Clark and family on 7 June from CECO, Kimpese, Zaire.

#### Departures

Dr Elizabeth J Marsh on 10 May for Berhampur, India.

Mr and Mrs S J Bull and family on 13 May for UMN, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Dr J F and Mrs Carrington on 15 May for Kisangani, Zaire.

#### Death

Mrs Mary Biggs (wife of Rev W J Biggs) on 15 April, in Mussoorie, India, aged 88, India Mission 1920-1958.

# BMS OPERATION AGRI BMM

A GROWING CONCERN TO EXTEND CHRIST'S KINGDOM



SEEDS  
INSECT-  
ICIDE

BOOKS  
EDUCA-  
TION

SPARE  
PARTS

CHAFF  
CUTTER

PUMPS  
ELECT-  
RICITY

FARM  
REPAIR  
WAGES

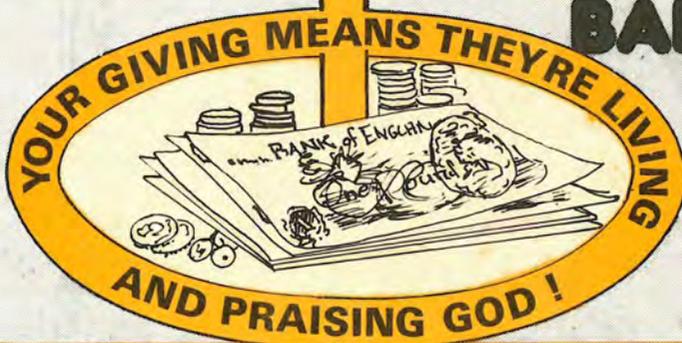
GARDEN  
TOOLS

FORESTRY  
EQUIP-  
MENT

GRANTS  
FOR  
TOOLS..

..AND  
TRAIN-  
ING

**BRAZIL**  
**INDIA**



**BANGLADESH**

**ZAIRE**

Suggested Harvest poster design by  
the Camden Road Church, London