

Ten Years of VMM

- 1969 April 17th Edwina Gateley moved into 1 Victoria Road, Mill Hill, NW7 to found the Volunteer Missionary Movement.
- October The 1st four week preparation course was held at Oak Lodge. 21 volunteers were sent to: BURUNDI, ETHIOPIA, MALAYSIA, MALAWI, NIGERIA, TANZANIA, UGANDA, ZAMBIA
- 1970 July The VMM staff was increased to two.
- December The VMM was set up as a Trust with its own Trust Deed. It was also recognised as a Registered Charity.
- VMM sent its first volunteers to GHANA, CAMEROON and RODRIGUES
- 1971 November VMM sent abroad its 100th volunteer.
- 1972 January VMM sent its first volunteers to PERU.
- July VMM sent its first volunteers to KOREA.
- September VMM sent its first volunteers to PAPUA NEW GUINEA
- 1973 January Bryan Legg (Group 3) was appointed the first Assistant Director.
- 1974 February VMM sent its first volunteers to LIBERIA.
- November The VMM Community was formed.
- 1975 January Chris Rosser (Group 6) replaced Bryan Legg as Assistant Director and worked with VMM until September 1977.
- May VMM sent its first volunteers to PAKISTAN.
- November VMM sent its first volunteers to YEMEN.
- 1976 February VMM sent its first volunteers to BANGLADESH.
- June The VMM acquired its first Community House with the help of St. Joseph's Missionary Society. This was 76, Millway, Mill Hill, NW7.

1977

June

The Preparation course for Group 21 was held in the community house in Mill Hill.

VMM sent its first volunteers to UPPER VOLTA

The Diocese of Westminster generously agreed to offer VMM a Centre of its own, on the compound of All Saints Pastoral Centre, London Colney, Herts.

October

VMM moved to London Colney

November

The first preparation course (Group 22) was held at London Colney.

His Eminence Cardinal Basil Hume became the Patron of VMM.

VMM sent its first volunteers to SIERRA LEONE and BOTSWANA.

1978

January

Sue Hesilton replaced Betty Yates as VMM Secretary. Betty Yates worked with VMM for 7 years.

Maria Gabriel (Group 12) and Su Hood (Group 14) joined the VMM team.

April

The VMM Centre was officially opened by Cardinal Basil Hume.

August

VMM sent its first volunteers to ISRAEL, SUDAN and TRANSKEI.

November

VMM sent its first volunteers to GUYANA.

1979

January

VMM opened a full time office in Dublin, Ireland with Marie O'Hearn as director.

March

VMM hosted the first International Lay Missionary Conference at which 8 countries were represented.

April 12th

Edwina Gateley, founder director of VMM, after 30 years of running the administration, is taking a 1 1/2 year sabbatical in order to make an on going contribution to the life and work of VMM.

Maria Gabriel has been appointed as Administrative Director.

CELEBRATIONS....

The WMM 10th Birthday was celebrated in true style. Fifty supporters and cheer leaders including 25 returned WMMs joined us for Mass and luncheon. Bishop J. O'Brien, Bishop in Hertfordshire, was the chief concelebrant.

The lunch was African Style and included tastes of melon, zatske, yams, sweet potatoes, pineapple, guava and mango (not all together)! Members of Group 26 came back to help and did a magnificent job.

Fr. Sean Murphy MSM and Su Hood Group 14 gave the addresses covering the development and devious ways of the WMM - past present and future!

... WITH THANKS

.... To all those who made the 10th Anniversary Celebrations so memorable — to all those who cleaned, scrubbed, decorated, cooked, served and washed up — to all those who contributed to the WMM Special Version of "This is Your Life '73" — and to all those who sent telegrams, greeting cards & letters (150 in all) from all over the world. I'd love to thank each one individually — but it's just not possible. So I hope you will accept my sincere "Thankyou!" through this Newsletter.

And finally — Thankyou Maria & Su and all the resident WMM Community for the enormous amount of work you put into that day — even I was impressed!! You were great!

God bless — and reward you!

Love & Peace, J. Durin

We pleased the Post office
and sent out:
2,949 letters overseas
6,901 letters to U.K.

We received 209 application forms
59 applicants withdrew
58 applicants are 'pending'
38 applicants were rejected
94 applicants were accepted
for the VNM Course.

BITS & BOBS

A total of 30 parish groups,
schools or universities etc.
invited us to talk about VNM.

1,750 people wrote to us
enquiring about VNM.

FROM

We received 4,025 'general'
letters eg. from volunteers,
employers etc.

Returned VNMs went to 15
churches and preached at
70 Masses.

1978

About 100 VNMs including
Associate members, returned
VNMs and friends came for a
weekend of a one night stay.

74 VNMs working overseas
extended their contracts.

6 other organisations spent
short periods of time staying
at the Centre. These visitors
total 144.