

Malabar Mission Newsletter

Spring 2014

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Our Mission

The Malabar Mission Society is a group of Christians interested in assisting the Malabar Mission Circle in India as it shares the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ along the Malabar Coast by supporting, with prayers for God's blessings,

- the spread of the Gospel, and
- the Circle's witness



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Malabar Mission Newsletter

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A STAGGERING DEVELOPMENT

Rev. Dr. Roland E. Miller

Wow, what they did! Those words express my feeling over the achievement of Dr. Sophia Brillin and her colleagues at the Christian Welfare Centre in Malappuram.

On my visit to Malabar in January Dr. Brillin had asked me to inaugurate a new extension to the Centre. It took place on January 12th, a Sunday morning. I had delivered the sermon in the St. John's Church service, and was amazed at the number of dignitaries present. The Inauguration was to take place immediately after the service, and a lot of people wanted to participate in the grand event.

What made it so grand? Consider the history. From 1956 to 1975 we conducted the maternity and child welfare service in a renovated 1852 bungalow. In 1976, under the leadership of the esteemed Dr. Victoria and Tharyan Mathews, that old bungalow was renovated again, and a new two-story outpatient and pediatric clinic building was constructed. That addition cost \$65,726, most of the amount contributed by the L.W.M.L. Later, a third story was added, but other than that the workers had to be content with those facilities. Then in the late 1990s Dr. Sophia came to the Centre and the flood-gates opened. Hundreds of women thronged to her to receive her loving care. There was no place to put them. So she decided to do something about it.

What is so grand about the result? Three things:

- She decided to build a new extension entirely from the C.W.C.'s own income, not asking for a foreign grant. That seldom happens!
- She decided to go ahead with a full five-story extension that would be large enough to really meet the needs. It is an impressive structure.
- Through it all she continued her primary task of delivering babies safely -- 200 per month! That alone is a remarkable achievement.

As I cut the Inauguration tape I wondered about accomplishments like this that are carried on in the name and pattern of Christ the Healer, and I thanked God for His powerful and loving Spirit. The good effects of this self-giving ministry on our entire program would take many pages to fully report. The impact on Muslim women has been especially strong.



C.W.C. expansion,
Malappuram

Continued on page 2..

In Appreciation

The Malabar Mission Society sincerely thanks the following who have so generously given special gifts...



† **Irene Raedeke**

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Memorials and gifts honouring special occasions are welcomed by the Malabar Mission Society, and are used to support the Lutheran Church in India to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with those who do not yet know His love. All donations are receipted for income tax purposes. Special occasion gifts and memorials will be acknowledged in future issues of the Newsletter.

Send your gifts to:
The Malabar Mission Society
P.O. Box 32045
Regina, SK S4N 7L2



There is one thing, however, that even Dr. Sophia cannot manage on her own, and that is two or three pieces of major equipment for the new building. They include two items for the maternity work: specifically, a scanner and a ventilator. Most urgently needed is the Doppler scanner for pre-natal examinations, which costs \$9,000. If any individual or organization can help toward making that available, it would be greatly appreciated.

Also, please remember to pray for Dr. Sophia. She has multiple responsibilities that are overwhelming. She also has a health problem of her own and there are many new tasks ahead in her extended ministry. Wow, what they did!!



BUILDING PROJECT FOR OTTEN ENGLISH SCHOOL

Written by Joel Otten

As a long-time supporter of the Otten English School, I join with the school staff and students in thanking the Malabar Mission Society and all of you who have helped them with your prayers and generous financial gifts. For those not familiar with the school, Rev. Dr. Roland E. Miller, wrote this in the Winter 2012 MMS Newsletter:

“The Otten School is a fully-accredited English Medium school located at Wandoor, South Malabar. It is named after Missionary Henry Otten who died in service in 1985 and is buried in Wandoor. A group of sincere laymen, led by the visionary D. Appukuttan, developed the school out of the ground. It was hard work because they had to raise money for buildings, as well as develop the educational program which required approval of a national agency. But somehow they succeeded.

The school has become a major educational ministry. It has 1262 students ranging from the first to the twelfth standards. The students are almost entirely either Hindus or Muslims in faith. This reflects the fact that the institution has a high standing in the surrounding community, which is over 95 percent non-Christian. Thus its fine staff are well positioned for Christian witness, as well as patient service, and they are sincere in both.”

Mr. D. Appukuttan explains it this way, “God Almighty guides and leads Otten School as a model Christian Institution in this remote region of India. We thank God for providing opportunities to manifest the love of Christ through education.”

The school began in 1987 with a Kindergarten class of 19 students and 2 teachers, in a building on the adjacent Karunalaya Hospital Compound. When I visited the school with Rev. Miller in 2011 there were 186 kindergarten students and 8 teachers in this building. In 2013, due to a leaky roof and structural safety concerns, they had to abandon the building and squeeze all the kindergarten students into classrooms on the main campus. Now the school is embarking on a new building project to provide much needed classroom space and other long awaited facilities. In August of 2013 the school administrators met with MMS Project Officer, Rev. Carlton Riemer, and MMS India Agent, Rev. I. Titus. They presented a proposal to construct an annex block for six classrooms, a hall for Bible classes with audio visual equipment, a library, and facilities for Information Technology / E-learning, all with the estimated cost of \$85,000 US. This is a huge project and funding is not expected to come from any one source or group. However I believe that when completed it will be a major asset to the school. I'll conclude with this excerpt from a recent letter in which Mr. Appukuttan wrote:

“We know that you will be very happy to hear that the students, teachers and the management are doing their best to glorify the name of our Lord and are involved in all Christian programs with great zeal and enthusiasm.

We are very happy to inform you that we are intending to construct a multi-purpose hall adjacent to the main block so that we could make use of it as a chapel or prayer hall. Since we conduct regular morning devotions for the staff in the Physics lab and Bible classes for the students on Fridays in the library and computer labs, the proposed hall could be used for such purposes. Moreover, audio visual aids could be used to make the Bible classes more attractive and effective. The corner stone for the new structure was laid by Dr. Rev. Roland E. Miller on January 20, 2014 when he recently paid a visit to India.



We have already started the fund raising campaign for the sake of the construction of the hall. We earnestly invite your prayers and support for this noble venture.”



AN UPDATE ON OUR GOSPEL WORK

Rev. Carlton Riemer

The Rev. I. Titus continues to work with the changing situations in Malabar. He arranged training programs for Sunday School and Vacation Bible School teachers in February, 2014. April and May are Vacation Bible School months in India. Rev. and Mrs. Titus have visited all the stations in the Malabar Mission Circle, and, as needed, Rev. Titus conducts worship services and teaches about stewardship in the congregations. He has also been overseeing some Maintenance and Repair projects at *Vanitha*, Kannur; Naduvil; and Vadattupara. Due to rental increases in Kozhikode, Rev. & Mrs. Titus are now renting a house in Manjeri.

At the Gospel Workers of the Malabar Mission Circle meeting in January, 2014, the workers reported sixteen Baptisms and twenty seven Confirmations. At least two of the people baptized were adults.

Pastor C. Rejidas was transferred by the India Evangelical Lutheran Church from Kannur to be the pastor at St. John Lutheran Church, Malappuram, in February, 2014. Rev. Titus is contacting potential workers to serve in Malabar to continue the work of church planting in Kannur and serving in Naduvil and Chengalai.

We are pleased to have two new lady workers at the *Vanitha* Reading Room in Kannur. Their names are R. Deepa Kumari and M. Kalai Vani. Both women are single, born in 1991, and come from Christian homes. And both of them have Master of Science degrees in Microbiology. They began service in March, 2014. They had fruitful visits with the Principal and Warden of the Sri Krishna Menon Memorial Women’s College across the road from our reading room. They have also been visiting some of the homes in the neighborhood. They hail from Tamil Nadu, and they are learning the Malayalam language. They have computer skills and plan to learn typing in Malayalam. Rev. Titus has offered to conduct services there when they have gathered five people to attend.

The Bible Correspondence Course (BCC) program now has an Internet domain name: malabarbiblecourse.com. Through this website we hope to have Bible Correspondence Courses available for download, electronically, to potential students in both Malayalam and English, including the BCC Rev. Dr. Roland Miller wrote on Isaiah, which is in the final stages of being translated into Malayalam.



Vanitha Reading Room, Kannur

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"He ascended into heaven"



Many congregations no longer observe Ascension Day as an important Christian event with a Worship Service. The Easter celebration of Christ's victory over sin, death and the devil provides the basis of our Christian faith. During the next forty days after Easter Jesus appeared to the believers on numerous occasions. The certainty of the resurrection was clearly demonstrated. However, Jesus told his followers that he would leave them and that they should wait for the promised Holy Spirit who would fill them with power.

Jesus commanded his disciples: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 1:4-5) Although the disciples were waiting for Jesus to restore the kingdom to Israel, Jesus says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8) These were the last words of Jesus before his ascension.

Jesus came from heaven to earth and returned to his Father in heaven again. This task, this commission, would be the driving force and goal of the followers of Jesus. They would continue the mission of Jesus and proclaim the Gospel, the Good News of God's love in Jesus, to the whole world.

On Pentecost, 10 days later, God sent the Holy Spirit to the gathered believers in Jesus and filled them with power. In boldness they told the story of Jesus, his birth, his life and ministry, his death, his resurrection. They proclaimed that Jesus died for the sins of all people; they proclaimed that through his death and resurrection he has won the victory. Throughout the centuries the believers in Jesus have shared this message with people through word and deed. The mission of the Christian Church continues as God's people proclaim the Gospel.

In the Book of Acts we see the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of people as the Gospel, the good news of God's love in Jesus, changes their hearts and in faith the people believe in Jesus as their Saviour. As the Holy Spirit granted faith and courage to all who witnessed for Jesus, so he will continue to be with us as we witness for Jesus through word and deed. May the Holy Spirit continue to strengthen the Gospel Workers in Malabar and beyond. Your faithfulness in prayer and financial support to the Malabar Mission Society enables the continuation of this mission and ministry.



A LETTER FROM INDIA

15 Jan 2014

To: Dr. R. E. Miller,

Respected Sir,

Greetings from the workers of MGMS in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are praising God Almighty for the blessing given to you to reach safely in India and to meet all of us again, even you were having much difficulty in weather problems on your travel. God is great!

Thank you for the lovable greetings from your family. We are gratefully remembering you and your faithful service which you are rendering in Malabar area now and then. And thank you for make an opportunity for the workers' meeting and conducted a useful class regarding "How is the Growth of Christian Churches" which consisting of relationship with family, personal evangelism, worship and preaching, house visit, social work, etc. with Bible reference. We are praising God for your talents and praying for you to be a useful tool for the extension of the Kingdom of God.

Our heartfelt thanks to you, the Officers of MMS, Donors and well-wishers and everyone related to this program for the generous financial support, advice and encouragements rendering to us.

Kindly convey our lovable regards to Madam (Mrs. Miller), your family and all the Officers of MMS. Once again, we, the workers of MGMS, wishes and praying to you to get a safe return journey and a comfortable, peaceful and joyful life. May God bless us all!

Yours lovingly,

Rev. I. Titus,
MGMS India Agent

C. D. Solomon
MGMS Treasurer/Accountant