

Malabar Mission Newsletter

Christmas 2017

Vol. 24 No. 2

MALABAR MISSION CIRCLE EVENTS IN 2017 *Lorna Pederson*

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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P.O. Box 32045
Regina, SK, Canada S4N 7L2

Email: malabarmission@sasktel.net
Website: www.malabarmissionsociety.org

Editor: Christina Dimitroff
Advisor: Rev. Dr. Roland Miller
Layout & Design: Pam Burns

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Rev. I. Titus and the Workers of the Malabar Mission Circle organized several events in 2017. **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** is a major outreach event that takes place every year in April or May. In 2017 VBS was held at 20 centres with a total of 609 children attending. There were 38 Muslim children, 327 Hindu children and 244 Christian children. The two largest VBS centres were Meenangadi with 97 children and St. John, Malappuram, with 94 children. Rev. A. T. Baby conducted VBS at eight different locations: Moolenkavu, Pulpalli, Odampalam, Pothukatty, Vizhayappatta, Naikkatty, Vattuvadi and Chooralmala. Rev. Joseph conducted one VBS at Sharada Mandiram. Pastor Raju conducted VBS at Cheriankolly as well as Mundakutty. Each of the remaining mission stations (Naduvil, Chengalai, Wandoor, Sharathkunnu, Pergamanna, Kalpetta and Kannur) also held VBS.

Training for laymen took place on June 6, 2017 at Malappuram. Unfortunately, the Marxist party also planned some activity on that day, which interfered with bus transportation. As a result attendance was lower than expected. The 25 people who attended included 18 laymen, four pastors, two officers and one guest. The guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Rajendrababu, former principal of Concordia Seminary in Nagercoil, gave two presentations, while Rev. Titus gave one presentation. Rev. Rejidas conducted the opening service and Pastor Bennet led in closing prayer.

The **Ladies' Seminar** was held at House of Hope in Meenangadi with five pastors and 27 women in attendance. Rev. Titus and Mrs. Shana Sam (wife of Dr. Sam, both of Concordia Seminary in Nagercoil), each presented on "The Role of Women to Spread the Gospel Inside and Outside the Church." The Seminar closed with prayer by Rev. Rejidas and benediction by Rev. Titus.

The **Youth Camp** met Sept. 29-30 with 49 youth from MMC congregations in attendance. Guest presenters were Mr. Shan Soman and Mr. Praveen. First and second prizes were awarded to the winners of the Bible Quiz conducted by Rev. Rasalayyan. Pastor Bennet closed the seminar with prayer and benediction. The seminar was a great success and very well received.

The **Family Convention** was held Oct. 27-28 with 142 people registered. Fifty-six people came from Mundakutty. A couple from Vadattupara traveled ten hours by bus to attend the convention. Food for four meals was prepared by male cooks in an outdoor kitchen. The theme of the convention was the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, with II Corinthians 5 as the Scripture passage. Brother Prathap Johnson Joseph from Mission India Calicut gave three dynamic presentations. In addition, Rev. Titus conducted a Bible study, Rev. Rejidas gave a presentation on Martin Luther, and Rev. Joseph led the Bible Quiz. A band and singing group on stage provided music. A communion service took place at 8 a.m. on Saturday, with Rev. Oliver as liturgist and Pastor Suseelan as preacher. The closing noon meal was shared by 172 people.



Family Convention at Sulthan Bathery: singing the assembly hymn

In Appreciation

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

In Memory of:

† **Eric Kemle**

from Marj Kemle

† **Judy Keller**

from Karl Keller

† **Philip Dailey**

from Elaine Broughton

Lorna Pederson

† **Ernie Hiller**

from Lorna Pederson

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from Lorna Pederson

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† **Dennis Haatvedt**

from Edna Matthews

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.

Send your gifts to:

The Malabar Mission Society,

P.O. Box 32045

Regina, SK S4N 7L2

We encourage our donors to send their gifts directly to the mailbox (address above) in Regina. For Canadian donors, gifts may also be made through Canada Helps. However, Canada Helps receives a percentage for their services.

PENKUTTY, A SYMBOL OF FAITH AND HOPE

Mary Helen and Rev. Dr. Roland Miller

Penkuty, a young woman from Malappuram, was a member of a poor Hindu family of coconut-tree tappers. Although in her early thirties, she was still living at home. She had been married, but as was common in her community, had been deserted by her husband for failing to have children. Her mother had died and she was living with her father and two brothers. Her future seemed bleak. A friend recommended her to us as a good person to help us in our home as an *ayah*, i.e. nursemaid, for our two small children. We hired her in 1958 and she soon became a valuable member of our household, happy to escape the drudgery of her home life. We found her to be a loving and hardworking person. After we returned from our 1959 furlough we re-employed her to help out with number three, our newborn Betsy.

One morning in 1961 she appeared at our home weeping and in a sad state, badly bruised and barely walking. The previous day, without having mentioned her feelings to us, she had informed her family that she wanted to become a Christian. When asked why, she told them it was because she had found love in our home. Her two brothers became very angry and beat her. Mary Helen nursed her in our home for four days before she recovered enough to return to her family. Roland went to her place and had a talk with her father requesting that there be no more beating. Her father not only gave his word that would not happen again, but reluctantly agreed that she be allowed to study the Christian faith.

In the course of time we went to the hill station at Kodaikanal for our annual vacation. Penkuty went with us. There she met a Christian widower named Francis, who worked in the home of our fellow missionaries, Herbert and Dorothy Zorn. They lived in the neighbouring state of Tamil Nad. Francis was smitten with Penkuty and asked for permission to marry her. Penkuty was thrilled and wished to marry him, even though it meant she would be living far from home and in a different language area. She informed her family of her decision by mail. Once again her brothers became outraged and made all sorts of threats to her and serious charges against us, accusing us of kidnapping her. For Penkuty's protection we had to inform the police. In the end Roland went to Malappuram to discuss the matter with her father. His attitude was different, and he was the final authority. He came back to Kodaikanal with Roland to meet Francis and to discuss the proposal. Penkuty was able to convince him that this was indeed her decision and he gave his permission. All was well and her father even returned the next month to attend Penkuty's baptism on a Friday and her wedding the next day. There was much rejoicing.

Penkuty went with Francis to his home in Nagercoil, at the tip of India. She led a happy life there as a member of a loving Christian family and church community. When she died in the late 70s, her grieving husband wrote a beautiful letter saying how much they had cared for each other.

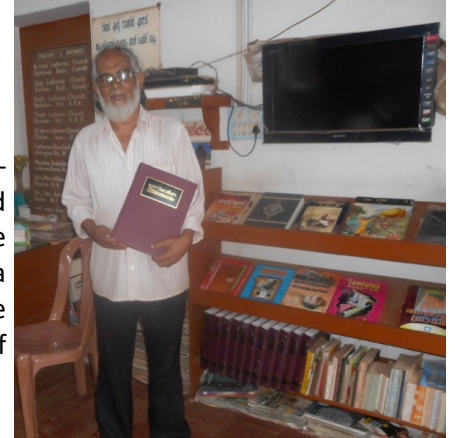
Penkuty was a symbol of faith. Christ's love broke in on her, and she glowed. She was a symbol of hope for us as the first fruit of our witness in Malappuram. She loved the Lord deeply and made her witness courageously. Later others followed, but the first person holds a special, memorable place.

Jesus stated two fundamental things about His light. He said, "I am the light of the world" and "You are the light of the world." The Malabar



Vanitha workers Seena and Saina

Two sisters from Trivandrum, Seena and Saina, have just finished their first year as workers at **Vanitha** in **Kannur**. This reading room is used by women from higher secondary schools, from Krishna Menon Memorial Women's College across the street, and from the surrounding neighbourhood. MMS is grateful to Rev. Titus' wife, Flory, who helps when needed and gives encouragement to those who attend Vanitha. A friend of Rev. Titus donated 25 new novels and storybooks, worth Rs 7000, to Vanitha. The **Open Door**, a reading room for men, continues to function with Mr. Jeyarajan as worker.



Mr. Tennyson with donated encyclopedia

The **Friendship Centre in Malappuram**, with Mr. John Tennyson in charge, continues to provide reading material for many people each month thanks to its good location and reputation. Subscriptions for six newspapers and 24 periodicals are sponsored from outside. In August 2017, 12 volumes of the Islamic Encyclopedia worth Rs 28,800, and 40 Malayalam novels and general knowledge books were donated to the library, thanks to Dr. Ashraf of Dubai and Muhammad Shai of West Kodur.

Remember In Prayer...

- Pray** that the Lord would bless the work of the pastors/workers in the Malabar Mission Circle and in Anantapur so that more people become believers in Jesus through the working of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray** that many children will attend the Vacation Bible Schools in April so that the seed of faith may be planted in their hearts and minds.
- Pray** that the Lord will provide a committed pastor to shepherd the newly planted church in Kannur.
- Pray** that the Bible Correspondence Course will be a tool to lead non-Christians in India to Jesus and that many will register for the Bible Correspondence Course.
- Pray** for the Lord's protection for all Christians, Christian churches and workers in India, especially in Kerala and Anantapur, that no harm will come to them.
- Pray** for Dr. Sophia and the Christian Welfare Centre in Malappuram, that there will be adequate business to pay the bills as false rumours have caused lower patient numbers. Also pray for reliable management that Dr. Sophia can count on, and rain so that the hospital does not have to buy water.
- Pray** for healing and strength to Mrs. Nancy Oliver, Mrs. Flory Titus, Dr. Sophia Brillin, Mrs. Jasmine Alavi.
- Pray** for adequate funds to continue the support of the Malabar Mission Society in Malabar and beyond. Also pray that funds will be found to finish the Mundakutty building project and other requests for maintenance and repair.

We Thank God ...

- For many years of blessing the faithful service by the Malabar Mission Society, its various leaders and workers.
- For many years of blessing the Gospel Workers, Pastors and Evangelists of the Malabar Mission Circle and Anantapur in India as they continue to share the Good News of God's love in Jesus.
- For Ms. Lorna Pederson, Project Officer, for her faithful service.
- For Rev. Dr. Roland Miller, Program Advisor, for guiding and leading the Malabar Mission Society.
- For the various congregations and individuals in Canada and the United States who provide financial support of this mission and ministry in India.

WILL YOU SUPPORT MALABAR?

Mark Raedeke, Board Member

MINISTRY DESCRIPTION

For over 25 years Malabar Mission Society (MMS) has been taking the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ to unreached people in India. Praise the Lord!

Dr. Roland Miller and his wife, Mary Helen, founded MMS in 1990 to follow the call of Jesus' Great Commission by establishing a mission centre in their home state of Malabar. What started with these two faithful servants has grown into a multifaceted mission. My parents had a passion for this ministry. In the early days of MMS my father, Rev. Ron Raedeke, worked closely with Dr. Miller undertaking initial Malabar Mission Society work and serving as president of the board of many years. My mother, Irene Raedeke, also faithfully supported and served the Society as a board member.

SERVANT SUPPORT FOR MALABAR MISSION SOCIETY TODAY

MMS continues the outreach effort to the people of Malabar, India in these trying times. The Society faces a number of challenges and the list of needs is great. Supporters have decreased in recent years. The ministry is dependent upon God's blessings and the prayers and resources of God's faithful people.

Following in my parents' footsteps, my wife Cindy and I are supporters of this Mission and hope that you will also consider helping spread the Gospel message to the millions of people in India who need to hear the hope that is ours through Christ's birth, death and resurrection.

Will you consider being a part of the MMS ministry? Your help can make a difference in the life of a child through VBS, a family who needs to hear about Christ at the Lutheran Church, or an evangelist who needs your prayers.

PLANNED GIVING

David Friesen, Lutheran Foundation Canada

You have probably heard this thought before. While we are on this earth, the work of the church is never done. Thankfully, our congregations are filled with faithful, loving, generous members who consistently share a portion of what God has blessed them with, for the benefit of their church and its mission. But what about when we are no longer on this earth? Is there a way to continue to support the ministries we are passionate about even after we die? The answer is a resounding "yes"!

Malabar Mission Society and Lutheran Foundation Canada encourage all Lutheran members to consider developing a charitable gift within their will or through their estate. These gifts are simple to create and have absolutely zero impact on current lifestyle or monetary needs. In fact, they are written to be given only when you or your spouse no longer have any need of your earthly resources.

Developing a charitable gift in your will, normally called planned giving, is a way for you to bless ministries like Malabar Mission Society for years to come. Charitable gifts can take on many forms: gifts of cash, gifts of publicly traded securities, gifts of RSP or RIF amounts, gifts of life insurance, and even gifts of real estate. Lutheran Foundation Canada is available to guide and assist you in developing your gift in a way that provides resources to this ministry, while at the same time still being a blessing for your family. A charitable gift is a wonderful way to say "thank you" to God for all He has done for you and provide financial support for the ministries you love.

To learn more about planned giving, please contact Malabar Mission Society or Lutheran Foundation Canada at 1-877-711-GIFT (4438).