

# Malabar Mission Newsletter

Fall 2009

Vol. 16, No 3

## 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

is published by

The Malabar Mission Society

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## Malabar Mission Society

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## GOSPEL WORKERS TRANSFERRED

- Rev. Carlton Riemer, MMS Project Officer



The India Evangelical Lutheran Church has adopted a policy that she may transfer her pastors to a new location every five years. Almost all of the Christian denominations in India follow this practice.

As a result the Board for Missions of the IELC has made the following transfers in the Malabar Mission Circle:

⇒ Pr. R. J. Richard and his family moved from Vadattupara to Mundakutty to serve Immanuel Lutheran Church, the largest

congregation in the MMC. Mundakutty was vacated because Mr. S. S. Shermar was sponsored by the Rev. Dr. J. Samuel, the president of the IELC, to study for a Bachelor of Divinity degree at Gurukul Lutheran Theological College in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

⇒ Pr. J. Devaraj transferred from Chooralmala to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Vadattupara. No one has yet been assigned to Chooralmala.

⇒ The Rev. A. T. Baby has been transferred from St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Sulthan Bathery, and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Moolankavu, to a congregation in the Trivandrum area.

Other changes in personnel have been made among the evangelists. Mr. Shine S. L. Raj became sick with hepatitis in April, 2009, and he is still recuperating. Please pray for his complete recovery. Mr. Jijo was assigned to take his place at the Open Door (Men's) Reading Room in Kannur. Miss Soosen George is orientating and supervising him.

Miss Smitha Babu has left *Vanitha* Women's Reading Room in Kannur because of a job offer in the Thiruvananthapuram area and arrangements for her marriage. In her place Miss Lizy is now working with Soosen George at *Vanitha*. Miss Lizy is 23 years old and has passed the SSLC Examination (10<sup>th</sup> Standard) and a two years course in Maintenance and Repair of Domestic Appliances in 2006. We welcome Lizy to the Gospel Workers' team in the MMC.

Mr. John Tennison is assigned as temporary evangelist at the Friendship Library and Reading Room in Malapuram. He reports that 60-75 people are visiting daily and that many people have become close friends with him. Three men are showing a real interest to study about Jesus and to attend classes on Jesus and the Bible. Mr. John was trained as an evangelist as a young man and recently retired from the staff at the Christian Welfare Centre in Malapuram.

The Rev. P. G. Henry has retired, but he continues to serve Christ Lutheran Church, Kalpetta, and in Meenangadi. He and his wife are living in the renovated and repaired parsonage in Kalpetta.

The transfers leave Chooralmala and Sulthan Bathery without workers. In the past Tiruvali, Peragamanna, and Kazhinjiriyil have been served by an evangelist, but the Rev. S. S. Oliver has been serving them from Wandoor with lay assistance.

May God richly bless these workers and their families in these Gospel ministries at these new sites and in these new situations. May the Holy Spirit give them strength to adjust and wisdom to meet the challenges and needs of the people in these communities in creative and sensitive ways. ❖

## VBS REACHES INTO COMMUNITIES

The congregations in the Malabar Mission Circle emphasize Vacation Bible School, because it is an effective way to reach into homes and communities with the Gospel of Jesus the Christ, Who loves children.

Summer in India is during April and May. In 2009 in the Malabar Mission Circle twenty six Vacation Bible Schools were held, and a total of 1,326 students attended. Of them 735 were Hindu, 228 were Muslim, and 362 were Christian. Thirty five teachers were involved.

The largest VBS attendance was 308 students in Chooralmala (Puthumala), where Pr. J. Devaraj is the evangelist. They conducted three sessions. The congregation is made up of tea pickers and their families, who are provided housing by the tea estate owners.

Thiruvalli and Wandoor, under the leadership of the Rev. S. S. Oliver and Mr. C. D. Solomon, held a total of eight VB Schools, and their total number of students reached 300, a close second to Chooralmala. Mr. Solomon is also the Accounting Business Manager of Karunalaya Hospital in Wandoor.

A new site for a VBS this year was in Mamivayal, where The



The Rev. Shaikh Ismail (front row, fourth from right), the founder and leader of the Gospel For Muslim society in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, led a training workshop for women and men in how to conduct a Vacation Bible School and how to teach the daily lessons. More than thirty people attended this session in May, 2009. The MMS has been supporting the Gospel For Muslim ministry for four years. We have been encouraging training programs such as this for their workers. Revs. Joy and Victor are planning to have a seminar on *Luther's Small Catechism* among these workers, in order to provide basic doctrinal instruction for these new believers in Jesus.

with 95 students).

It is impressive that these congregations conduct so many VBS sessions. Many of our congregations in Canada and the USA have difficulty conducting one VBS per year. May God bless the sowing of the seed of His Word that it may fall on good soil by the working of the Holy Spirit and bring a bountiful harvest. ❖

Rev. Dr. K. M. Victor worked with five teachers, and 51 students attended: 21 Hindu, 4 Muslim, and 26 Christian.

The third largest number of students was in the Naduvil field where Ms. Soosen George conducted four VB Schools with four teachers. Of the 245 attendees, 174 were Hindu, 42 Muslim, and 29 Christian.

The three VB Schools held in Sulthan Bathery by the Rev. A. T. Baby had a total enrollment of 220 (145 Hindu, 4 Muslim, 71 Christian).

Other VB Schools were held in Vadattupara by Pr. R. J. Richard (three sessions with 49 students); in Malapuram and Chelloor by the Rev. I. Titus with 31 and 27 students respectively; and in Kozhikode/Calicut by the Rev. T. Joseph (three sessions

## Youth Seminar Held in Manjeri

On September 11-12, 2009, fifty one young people gathered for a youth seminar in Manjeri on the compound where the Rev. K. K. Alavi centers his ministry. The Rev. T. Joy led discussions on Christian Stewardship, and the Rev. Dr. K. M. Victor presented biblical materials on how to make decisions.

It was good to connect this seminar with Rev. Alavi's ministry. The facilities, supported by funds from the New Hope Mission at Faith Lutheran Church, Hutchison, MN, are especially designed for these kinds of events. The next Christian Life Convention in the MMC is scheduled to be held at this site as well.

We pray God's special blessing upon the young people who attended this seminar that they grow in their faith and develop their skills as witnesses who make disciples of Jesus among their friends. ❖

## Gospel Workers Attend Meeting

Fourteen of the Gospel Workers of the Malabar Mission Circle met on 22 July, 2009, in Kozhikode. At the opening Service of Holy Communion the Rev. T. Joy preached on John 6:32-40, Jesus' words regarding testimonies about Him. The Rev. Dr. K. M. Victor presented a Bible study on "The Mission Methods of St. Paul."

The workers reported a total of nine non-Christian families and individuals who are attending church services and/or attending Baptism classes. Rev. Oliver reported that a lady was baptized in Wandoor. Pray that the Holy Spirit of Jesus will create and sustain saving faith in the hearts of these new believers.

The workers noted that the Malayalam hymnal recently printed as a project of the Malabar Mission Society is now out of stock. The workers expressed their thanks to the MMS for the financial support for printing the first revised edition. Since there is still a demand for the book, and there is enough money from the sale proceeds to print 1,000 copies, the workers requested the MMS to print a second edition. Since the sales proceeds of the hymnal were intended for additional printing as needed, the MMS is proceeding to print a second edition. Music is such an important factor in the worship life of the Lutheran Christians in India. The literacy rate in Kerala is high, so new Christians are usually able to read the Word of God in hymn form as well as in the Bible. Eventually, most of the Christians memorize their favorite hymns, and the children and grandchildren learn the songs from hearing them often during home devotions. May God continue to bless this project, so that worshipers in Malabar have resources to praise and glorify God.

The Rev. T. Joseph, the coordinator for the Bible Correspondence Course program in MMC, requested that the



Some of the Malabar Mission Circle workers (l-r): Rev. Victor, Mr. Rejidas, Mr. Solomon, Rev. Titus, Rev. Joseph, Rev. Henry, Pr. Richard, and Rev. Baby

Malayalam booklet "Who is This Man?" be printed again so that it could be included in the course mailings. It was originally printed and circulated by the late Rev. H. J. Otten, the missionary in Wandoor. Other workers supported this idea of printing the pamphlet because it is a very good tract for Gospel work, especially among Muslims. The Rev. Joy, Rev. Dr. Victor, and the Project Officer are working on funding for this project either from the current budget or from special funds. The cost to print 15,000 copies is estimated at Rs 26,000 or Canadian \$650.00. ❖



Rev. Joy (left) welcomes special guests to the Apr. 28/09 Gospel Workers meeting: The Rev. Y. Christopher, Board for Missions Convenor and First Vice President of the IELC; and the Rev. Simpson, president of the Trivandrum District Synod of IELC, as Rev. Victor looks on.

### MMS Monthly Giving Program

You can help the Malabar Mission Society through convenient monthly donations. Our monthly giving program is an easy, safe and secure way to support the ongoing mission outreach of the MMS. Your monthly donation will be withdrawn from your bank on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. And you may change or cancel your pledge at any time by contacting us.

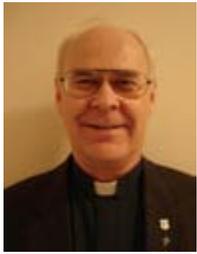
If you are interested in participating in this new program, please write the Malabar Mission Society (or email [malabarmission@sasktel.net](mailto:malabarmission@sasktel.net)) requesting a Pre-authorized Offering Program Application Form. Please include a void cheque for bank processing with the completed application form.

Your financial contributions greatly assist the Malabar Mission Society in continuing, and expanding, our programs of help and assistance in Malabar. Your tax-deductible donation, however large or small, makes a big difference. We are sincerely grateful, and continuously thankful, for your ongoing gifts – and prayers – in supporting our efforts to bring the Gospel message to the people of India.

**THANK YOU so much!**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: PROCLAIM HIS GREATNESS

- Rev. Howard Ulmer



**T**he Malabar Mission Circle, a small group of Pastors and Gospel Workers faithfully **Proclaim His Greatness** in the communities along the Malabar coast of Kerala, India. We see the dedication and commitment of these workers as they share the Gospel of God's love in Jesus. The reports of the recent Vacation Bible Schools are expressions of God at work through his people. Truly, God will bless the 1,326 children and their families. May God provide strength and courage to the workers as they continue to regularly care for these "little ones" of God's kingdom. May the Holy Spirit continue to nurture the seed of God's Word. He promised that His Word will produce fruit.

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*"I will **proclaim your greatness**, my God and king; I will thank you forever and ever. Every day I will thank you; I will praise you forever and ever. The Lord is great and is to be highly praised; his greatness is beyond understanding."*

- (Psalm 145:1-3)

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We see God's power and greatness in the earthquakes and tropical storms; wind and water. The force of nature is powerful and overwhelming. We also see **God's greatness** in the love and compassion he expresses towards his people. His greatest act was giving his only Son, Jesus, as the sacrificial gift of salvation. By God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ we receive forgiveness, life and salvation. This Good News of God's love in Jesus is the motivating force for the Pastors and Gospel Workers of Malabar. This Good News of God's love is also the motivating force in every Christian.

Malabar Mission Society is a faith ministry. As a Board we faithfully manage the programs of the Malabar Mission Society as it supports the work of the Malabar Mission Circle. The Project Officer, Rev. Carlton Riemer, receives requests of financial support for various ministries and projects from the Malabar Mission Circle in India. The requests are prayerfully considered. After the Board has approved the various ministries and projects, Rev. Riemer also administers the distribution of funds. We try to be good stewards of God's resources, as we faithfully seek God's guidance and direction.

**Giving thanks for God's greatness** we seek your support through prayer and financial resources for this faith ministry. Together we share in **Proclaiming His Greatness** as the love of God in Jesus is shared by the Pastors and Gospel Workers of the Malabar Mission Circle in the many communities in India. All glory, praise and honour to our gracious and loving God! ❖

### *In Appreciation*

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

*In memory of:*

- **Richard Burkhard**  
Emerald Schoepp
- **Emelia Hennig**  
Emerald Schoepp
- **Paul Ockrassa**  
Emerald Schoepp
- **Donald Schmidt**  
Foothills LWML, Calgary AB

*In honour of the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of:*

- **Richard & Sylvia Roembke**  
Carlton & Arlene Riemer
- **George & Hilda Schoepp**  
Emerald Schoepp

*In honour of their birthdays:*

- **Louise Bradley (85<sup>th</sup>)**  
Gail Mitchell
- **Ruth Frantz (75<sup>th</sup>)**  
Emerald Schoepp
- **Elizabeth Zoller (78<sup>th</sup>)**  
Hans & Etta Zoller



*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  
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