

Malabar Mission Newsletter

Fall 2013

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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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1,200 STUDENTS ATTEND VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS IN MALABAR

- Rev. Carlton Riemer

March is the beginning of the hot, dry season in Kerala. March is also one of the busiest months for the workers in the Malabar Mission Circle (MMC). It's time for Vacation Bible School!

This year, again, there was 100% participation of MMC workers and congregations conducting VBS. VBS was held in 23 centres. Two stations conducted only one VBS, which is the norm for congregations in Canada and USA. One of those was in Kannur under the leadership of Probationer Rejidas. Of the 63 who enrolled, 2 were Christian, 8 were Hindu, and 53 were Muslim. Similarly in Mundakutty, led by Probationer Jayan, the VBS attracted 30 Christians, 30 Hindus, and 40 Muslims for a total of 100 children.

Evangelist Richard in Chooralmala and Evangelist Devaraj in Vadattupara undertook three VBS programs. Six workers conducted two camps. Rev. Titus' congregation in Malappuram sponsored a VBS for 16 students at St. John's church (9 Christians, 3 Hindus, and 4 Muslims) and for 21 students at the Chelur station (8 Christians, 9 Hindus, and 4 Muslims).

The VBS's in Sulthan Bathery had the largest number of students—around 400: 180 of which were Hindus, 70 were Muslims, and 150 were Christians. Rev. A. T. Baby led that effort. Probationer Satheesh had a total of 161 in attendance at Kalpetta and Meenangadi with 131 Christians, 20 Hindus, and 10 Muslims attending.

In addition to the Sulthan Bathery VBS, Meenangadi, Vadattupara, and Mundakutty had more than 100 students enrolled.

One VBS, led by Rev. Oliver in Wandoor, had Christians only (30), but the VBS he conducted in Thiruvalli had 20 Hindu and 20 Muslim participants and no Christians. In nearby Sharathkunnu, Evangelist C. D. Solomon had a total attendance of 46 (all of them were Hindus). In Pergamanna he had one Christian and 26 Hindus attend.

At least four workers arranged for VBS in new stations where no evangelism work was previously reported. They are Rev. T. Joseph in Sarada Mandiram, Rev. D. Wilson in Rajeevan colony, Evangelist Richard in Attamala and Elavayal, and Evangelist Devaraj in Chakkimedu and Marthoma City.

A total of 1,200 students were reached with the Gospel through the stories of Jesus that were told with words, pictures, and songs. Of those, 467 came from Hindu families, 271 from Muslim homes, and 462 from Christian residences/origins.

Vacation Bible School continues to be an effective tool for evangelism. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will use the Word taught and proclaimed to bring individuals and families in Malabar to faith in Jesus as Lord.



In Appreciation

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

In Memory of...

- † ***Rev. Richard Zimmerman***
Mark and Monique Dickinson
- † ***Edward Wudrick***
Florence Wudrick

In Honour of...

- Eric Kemle's Birthday***
Marjorie Kemle
- Louise Bradley's 89th Birthday***
Gail Mitchell



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*

PROJECTS RECENTLY COMPLETED BY MMS

- Rev. Carlton Riemer

Computers for Otten English School



In May, 2013, the MMS provided \$6,000, plus a donation of \$800 US, to the Henry Otten Memorial English Medium School in Wandur to help establish a computer lab for the students at the school. We received the following letter of thanks, dated 14 June, 2013:

"Affectionate greetings to you all in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We are extremely happy to inform you that we have received the cheque from Mr. C. D. Solomon for an amount of Rs 3,38,716...toward the purchase of computers ... We hope we'll be able to install them within a few days ...

Very glad to inform you that God has blessed us to commence the new academic year on June 3, 2013, with a thanksgiving service conducted by Rev. S. S. Oliver. (We started higher classes in May.) Daily devotions and Bible classes for the students on Fridays are being held regularly and systematically. Two volunteers who are trained in child evangelism and the local Pastor also help us to conduct this useful program. Let's hope that the Holy Spirit who turned Saul to Paul will touch the hearts of many a soul by spiritual stories and inspiring songs.

Please pray for the students, parents, and teachers of Otten English School.

Once again we do express our wholehearted thanks for your generous contribution. May God bless you and your sincere efforts in bringing Christ to the nations.

*Yours in Lord Jesus,
D. Appukuttan"*

The D. Solomon Family

Soon after Mr. D. Solomon, the Evangelist in Sri Krishnapuram, suffered a debilitating stroke, the MMS began to help this family by providing monthly support for the education of the two sons in the family: Satheesh and Nitheesh. At first the support was to get them through high school, but it subsequently was extended to their completing two years of technical college. This support came from donors who specified this need. In March, 2013, the support for this family was completed with one final, additional gift of almost \$700.00. On 20 May, 2013, Mr. C. D. Solomon, the MMS Accountant, and Rev. Dr. Siromony, went to Sri Krishnapuram and visited with all the members of the family. Mr. Solomon was a student of Dr. Siromony at Concordia Seminary when Mr. Solomon attended the one year Bible course. They were very happy to hear the news of the extra gift and decided to receive the money on a monthly basis rather than in a lump sum. Mr. C. D. Solomon reported, "They are thankful to you, Dr. Miller, and the donor of this gift. They asked us to inform you of their thankfulness." He added the news that Satheesh successfully completed his course and is trying to find a job. Nitheesh is pursuing further studies.

We thank all the donors who have made it possible for the Malabar Mission Society to undertake and complete these projects. To God alone be the glory!!!

PROJECT OFFICER REPORTS ON HAPPENINGS IN THE MALABAR MISSION CIRCLE

Rev. I. Titus, the MMS Agent, retired as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Malappuram, at the end of May, 2013. He and his wife, Flory, "shifted" their residence to a rented home in Kozhikode on 13 June ... in monsoon rain! Mr. C. D. Solomon conducted prayer (with Bible reading) and a song at both houses in Malappuram and Kozhikode. Please continue to remember Rev. Titus and his family, and Mr. Solomon and his family, in your prayers as they continue their mission outreach in Malabar.



Rev. Dr. Joshua Siromony has been serving on a half time basis in Malabar from February to May, 2013. During that time he stayed in Meenangadi at the House of Hope, which was repaired and made habitable with support from the Malabar Mission Society. His ministry was appreciated by the Gospel Workers in MMC. The IELC appointed him to be the interim pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church, Malappuram, until a new pastor is appointed to serve that congregation. Rev. Titus reviewed Rev. Dr. Siromony's four-month ministry in Malabar and requested Rev. Dr. Siromony to provide some ideas and expectations about work in Malabar if his service were to continue, and to advise when he is available (again) after his interim ministry in Malappuram. The MMS Board of Directors will consider those ideas at their November, 2013, meeting.

Rev. D. Wilson was transferred out of Naduvil at the end of May, 2013, to Venganur Church in Thiruvananthapuram. Probationer Jayan was then transferred out of Mundakutty to Naduvil, and a retired pastor, Rev. Raju, from Trivandrum was assigned to Mundakutty. For family reasons, Miss Anila resigned from her ministry at Vanitha, the women's reading room in Kannur. Rev. Titus asked the workers in MMC to suggest names of potential workers; he is now advertising to recruit a replacement worker. To that end he is also preparing a job description.

Probationer Rejidas has received the motorcycle provided by MMS for the Kannur station. He is also working on a two-year plan and program for planting a church in Kannur.

On 26 and 27 April, 2013, the MMC sponsored a Youth Seminar in Meenangadi with support from the MMS. The theme of the gathering was "Revival of the Church in the Biblical Way." Mr. Sony Lawrence, a Professor at the Government Engineering College in Thiruvananthapuram and a member of Mannanthala Lutheran Church, gave the key note address. Rev. I. Titus spoke on Isaiah 6:8 and challenged the young people to consider where God is calling and sending them to serve. Rev. Dr. J. Siromony spoke on the Reformation of Dr. Martin Luther and related it to the present need for reform in the Church in Malabar. He raised the question of how to improve the evangelistic work of the congregations for the growth of the Church. Around 25 youth attended. The report on this seminar concluded as follows: "We are thankful to you and all the Officers of MMS for providing funds for conducting the seminars. We are praising God for providing the talented resource persons for this seminar. May God bless MMS and all its ministries!"

A total of 18 people participated in the Laymen's Seminar held on 1 May, 2013, in Sulthan Bathery. After an opening devotion by Rev. Dr. Siromony on Psalms 117 and 138, Probationer Rejidas and Rev. Titus led discussions on the role of the pastor and the laymen in the Church. The laymen and the pastors held separate discussions on the development of the Lutheran Churches in Malabar and then shared their ideas with each other. One idea aired was variety in worship services.

Sixty people attended the Muslim Converts' Meeting on 30 May, 2013, arranged by the Gospel for Muslim Salvation & Welfare Association in Uravakonda, Anantapur, with support from the MMS. Rev. Shaikh Ismail led the Bible studies and training sessions. Rev. Titus and Mr. C. D. Solomon led some parts of the program, including songs in Malayalam. The Gospel for Muslims group reported that they have 150 churches/worshiping groups and 1,500 believers with 7 Sunday Schools. They held several three-day Vacation Bible Schools. On 14 June, 2013, 8 people were baptized, 4 from Muslim and 4 from Hindu backgrounds.



President's Message

"You Are Invited"

On March 2, 2013 St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Saskatoon held a "Warming Hearts" Banquet. The evening included a silent and live auction, as well as costumed photography opportunities. FaithLife Financial provided a \$500.00 Matching Grant in support of youth attending the National Youth Gathering and Malabar Mission Society. President Howard Ulmer was invited to share highlights on the mission work in Malabar and beyond.

On May 30, 2013 Redeemer Lutheran Church, Didsbury, AB held a supper and evening of learning about the outreach support of the Malabar Mission Society. President Howard Ulmer was invited to share highlights of the mission work in Malabar and beyond. In 1999 Rev. K. M. Victor, former India Agent, also visited the congregation and shared personal experiences of the work in India



In Luke 14:1-14 Jesus told a parable "to those who were invited." God's love comes to us through Jesus, who died on the cross and rose from the grave. Jesus invites all to come and receive his grace and mercy.

We are thankful for your faithful prayer support and financial assistance. May God continue to bless this mission outreach to Malabar and beyond.

REV. K. K. ALAVI – A MISSION UPDATE

"He looked into my eyes with tears flowing down his face." With these words, Rev. K.K. Alavi shared the call of Jesus to be a witness to his sister and brother Muslims. From mid-April through early May, Rev. Alavi's witness inspired, encouraged and challenged members of some 50 congregations in Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, to step out in faith and offer Muslim people not hate, but love. Rev. Alavi calls us to offer Muslims friendship and the love of a heavenly Father who sent his only Son to be our hope, our Savior. Our Lord Jesus is looking into our eyes now in this hate-filled, violent world and calling us to renewed zeal to bear witness to him to Muslims in India and beyond. [reprinted with permission from the NHMS Spring 2013 Newsletter]

K.K. Alavi and his son, Dr. Abdul Messiah, visited Faith Hutchinson Lutheran Church, along with several other U.S. churches, in April/May to talk about their ministry to Muslims in India. Rev. Alavi is a long-time friend of the Malabar Mission Society, who came to the Christian faith through the ministry of Rev. Dr. Roland Miller and others during the Miller's missionary posting in Malabar. K.K. converted to Christianity some 40 years ago, attended seminary, and became ordained. He has been proclaiming the Gospel among, and to, Muslims ever since, often in hostile circumstances.

Rev. Alavi's visit was organized through the New Hope Mission Society in the United States. It was an opportunity for K.K. to share – firsthand – his work and ministry to Muslims living in Malabar and beyond. As part of his busy U.S. travel schedule, K.K. was also a key note speaker to the "Spread the Word" convention of the Augustana [Lutheran] District held on Saturday, April 27th. Over 120 people from 7 states converged on Christ the King Lutheran Church in Hutchinson, MN, for the convention which emphasized World Missions. Speaking to those in attendance, Rev. Alavi said that no one comes to knowledge of Christ on his own. Someone must bring the word to him. "A burning heart is essential for evangelism ... Our life in Jesus is eternal, all else is temporal."



Dr. Miriam McCreary, Dr. Abdul Messiah, Rev. K. K. Alavi

Our prayerful support continues to follow Rev. Alavi and the New Hope Mission Society as they further their ministry among Muslims.