

Malabar Mission Newsletter

Christmas 2018

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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



A TRIBUTE TO ELFRIEDA FISHER AND THE MALABAR MISSION SOCIETY

Jaida Avery

The following article was prepared for a speech competition at Westboro Elementary School, Sherwood Park, Alberta, by Jaida Avery, granddaughter of Elfrieda Fisher and a Grade 6 student. Jaida won Gold in the competition. Congratulations!

Did you know that there are more people living in poverty in India than there are people in Canada? Poverty is one of the biggest problems the world is facing. Imagine going to bed and not having a mattress to sleep on, a blanket to cover with, a pillow to put your head on, or food in your stomach. If you can imagine that, then you can start to understand what too many people have to live like.

I think that together we can do something to make a difference for people living in poverty. My grandmother worked as a missionary in India and after meeting, caring for, and loving many people, she worked very hard to tell people about how they could help. One of the best ways my grandma helped was to support the Malabar Mission Society.

The Malabar Mission Society was started nearly 25 years ago by a pastor named Dr. Roland Miller and his wife, Mary Helen. They lived in India and they started to invite people who were less fortunate, often strangers, into their home so that they could have a meal. Soon they established a mission centre in the state of Malabar.

Today the Malabar Mission Society provides food for hungry people. It also provides training for men and women. This training includes learning how to read, sew, cook, and build things as well as many other life skills. The skills that are learned help people to provide needed things for their families and their community.

Many pastors and other volunteers give of their time and financial resources to shape the Malabar Mission Society. After my grandma was a missionary in India she moved back to Canada to have a family and she always had a special place in her heart for the people of India. She returned to India several times and she was a passionate supporter of the work that is being done. At her funeral some people gave money in her name to support people who really need help.

One of the coolest things about the Malabar Mission Society is that it reaches people by building relationships with them. Many of the relationships last for years and years. I know that God is doing good things in India and that my grandma's work and love has made a difference in this world, and I am inspired to do the same.

Together we can make a difference and fight poverty by helping to support organizations like the Malabar Mission Society and the good work they do.

Inside this issue...

In Appreciation.....	Page 2
Visiting Malabar in August	Page 2
Mission Updates from All Over	Page 2
Seminars and Family Convention ..	Page 3
Reading Rooms	Page 4
Note of Appreciation.....	Page 4
Remember in Prayer	Page 4

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In Appreciation

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

In Memory of:

✠ *Oscar Sommerfeld*

from Martha Sommerfeld

✠ *Judy Keller*

from Karl Keller

✠ *Walter Schoepp*

from Emerald Schoepp

✠ *Curtis Steiman*

from Sue Morrison

✠ *Elfrieda Fisher*

from Kelly & Delayne Weist

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 accepted for income tax purposes.

Send your gifts to:

The Malabar Mission Society,

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We encourage our donors to send their gifts directly to the mail box in Regina. For Gifts may also be made through Canada Helps for Canadian donors. However, Canada Helps receives a percentage for their services.

VISITING MALABAR IN AUGUST: TORRENTIAL RAINS AND MISSION GAINS

Lorna Pederson

This year I made my annual trip to India in August. I was encouraged to travel earlier in the year than usual as we had had little news from Malabar in 2018. In addition, I could use my 2017 India visa before it expired at the end of August.

When I arrived in Kozhikode on August 11, I immediately heard about the torrential rains that had started on August 8, 2018. The state of Kerala had already received abundant moisture in the monsoon rains that started at the end of May, and this heavy rain was not anticipated.

The rains continued off and on during my stay in Kerala. Many people experienced difficulties and suffered huge losses because of the rain, but I was pleased to see how people came together to help in different ways.

St. John's Lutheran Church in Malappuram sent Rs. 30,000 to help the hard-hit areas of Wyanad. A group of volunteers from Bisharah in Manjeri helped with clean-up following the heavy rains. Even the Christians in Anantapur sent 1800 kilos of rice and Rs. 4500 worth of medicine to Kerala to help in the aftermath of flooding.

Due to the heavy rains travel was restricted. I only traveled to Malappuram, Wandoor, Kozhikode (to attend the Workers' Meeting) and Kannur, where I stayed for six days. A highlight of my trip was meeting with Mr. Christudas, son of the late Rev. Dr. Victor. Although he is very busy with his work in an organization that helps the poor, runs a hospital and works with Christian university students, he offered to assist in MMS projects as time allows.

MISSION UPDATES FROM ALL OVER

New Pastor for Christ Lutheran Church, Wandoor

During the past year Rev. Oliver's wife had been receiving treatment for cancer in Trivandrum, where she has other family, and Rev. Oliver made plans to transfer to the Trivandrum Synod. MMS is grateful to Rev. Oliver for many years of service in Malabar, having begun his ministry as an evangelist in the newly established Naduvil congregation of Bethel in 1993. He later attended seminary and became a pastor, serving in both Naduvil and Wandoor.

The new pastor at Wandoor is a young man, Probationer Pastor Akhil, who is a recent Bachelor of Divinity graduate of Concordia Seminary in Nagercoil. Pastor Akhil's supervisor is Rev. Crispin Pares, who conducts a communion service in Wandoor once a month.

New Pastor at Naduvil/Chengalai

Early in 2018 it was reported that some complaints were coming from the Naduvil congregation, making it difficult for Rev. Resalayyan to serve as pastor. A retired pastor, Rev. Palayyan, was serving in Rev. Resalayyan's home congregation in another centre. The two pastors traded congregations and both appear to be happy with the move. Rev. Palayyan had previously served churches in the Malabar area and was familiar with MMS. At one time his wife worked at the Christian Welfare Centre in Malappuram. Rev. Palayyan preached the sermon at the communion service held in connection with the Workers' Meeting I attended.



Mr. Solomon, Sobhi, Edriel and Pastor Akhil

Pastor for Kannur

For the past two years Rev. Titus has been trying to find a pastor or evangelist for Kannur, but it seemed no pastor was interested in coming. In the meantime Rev. Titus worked part-time in this capacity, in addition to his position as India Agent. Evangelist Pradeep had served as pastor in Vadattupara from 2015 to 2017. Rev. Titus thought about him while I was in India and eventually contacted him. He has agreed to come to Kannur but has not arrived yet.

Meenangadi Well

The Meenangadi well project was approved but was still on the “to do” list. The India Agent thought that a functioning well on the property of the Meenangadi church was only necessary if Pastor Bennet was planning to move there from living in the House of Hope. The project was started when Pastor Bennet confirmed his decision to move to the parsonage on the church property. MMS then sent the estimated Rs. 80,000 for the well. However, an additional Rs. 57,000 is needed to complete the work, due to rising costs. MMS has agreed to send the extra funds.

Workers’ Meeting, August 14, 2018

In spite of difficulties in travel, all workers were present at this meeting. Each of the workers reported on activities in their ministries. At the Workers’ Meeting in March 2018, Rev. Bennet reported that there had been seven baptisms at Meenangadi. At this meeting he reported that two baptisms had taken place at Kalpetta where he is also pastor. Many of the workers requested funding from MMS for maintenance and repair as well as other projects. This includes a bathroom for Naduvil.

Vacation Bible School

Workers reported on the Vacation Bible Schools held in their communities at the Workers’ Meeting, and Mr. Solomon sent the complete 2018 Vacation Bible School report. VBS took place in 21 centres with a grand total of 720 children in attendance. Of this number, 298 were Christian, 346 were of Hindu background and 76 came from Muslim families.

Rev. Baby conducted eight camps with 239 children in attendance while Pastor Bennet conducted two camps with 113 children attending. Pastor Raju conducted two camps with 75 children taking part. Mr. Solomon had two camps with 80 children attending, and Rev. Rejidas had one camp with 80 children in attendance.

Lesser numbers attended in other centres: Kannur (12), Kozhikode (25), Naduvil/Chengalai (41), Vadattupara (33) and Wandoor (22).

Seminars and Family Convention

The Ladies’ Seminar was held on June 6, 2018 with 48 women in attendance, plus 19 others (which included three pastors plus at least 12 laymen, according to the report). Seven ladies from Mr. Solomon’s Sharathkundu congregation attended, providing special music in song. The guest speaker was Shana Sam (MSW, BD) whose husband teaches at Concordia Seminary. She led a Bible study on Proverbs 31. Rev. Baby led in closing prayer and benediction.

The Youth Seminar was held on September 20-21, 2018 under the theme, “Watch Yourself,” based on 1 Timothy 4:6. Forty-eight youth from eight churches registered for this event. Guest speakers were Mr. Unmesh and Mr. Mathew, who are under the auspices of Christian Evangelical Fellowship.

MMC pastors also took part: Rev. Baby (opening service), Rev. Rejidas (opening devotion), Rev. Titus (opening class based on James 4:14), Rev. Palayyan (night devotion), Pastor Akhil (Bible quiz on Book of Acts) and Pastor Bennet (closing service).

The 2018 Family Convention took place on November 9 and 10. All workers attended the convention and 112 participants registered for the event, paying Rs. 30 each. Workers each paid Rs 500. The guest preacher was Brother Zachariah Johnson, worker with Mission of India. The theme of the convention was “Christian Witness—In Individual Life and Family Life.” MMS budgets Rs. 40,000 annually to cover major expenses of the Family Convention.

Reading Rooms

Friendship Centre, Malappuram: Mr. John Tennyson continues to be enthusiastic about his work at the Friendship Centre. He undertook a major renovation of the premises without any help from MMS. He received donations from many sources in Malabar. There was a surplus of Rs. 5000, which Mr. Tennyson will keep on hand. The public is pleased with the renovation. Monthly visitor figures continue to be high for first seven months of 2018, ranging from 1561 to 1993.

Open Door, Kannur: Mr. Jayarajan Paul continues as librarian. He usually receives 10 visitors per day as before.

Vanitha, Kannur: The number of visitors per day ranges from one to six, and occasionally no one comes. Rev. Titus has not been satisfied with the work ethic of the two women who have worked here from January 2017, and he discharged them at the end of September 2018. He is now looking to hire a social worker so that Vanitha can reach out to the needs of Kannur women according to its original design. Flory, Rev. Titus' wife, is filling in at Vanitha Library until a younger librarian is found.

Anantapur

This mission continues to flourish. Approximately 20 baptisms took place in the spring. VBS was held in May during the summer break. Rev. Ismail has written a book about Christ in Islam. Prayer for protection of property and congregation members is requested due to recent threats of persecution.



Anantapur Church Workers

Bible Correspondence Course (BCC)

Eighty-two new students have registered for Bible Correspondence Courses since the beginning of 2018. Advertising is done intermittently on Google. Rev. Titus has been filling in as part-time director but there is the possibility of hiring a new director and putting a new advisory committee in place to oversee management of BCC.

NOTE OF APPRECIATION FROM A RETIRED PASTOR

Rev. Ken Keller, Bruno, SK

Greetings to the Malabar Mission Society! I very much appreciate your work for the Lord in places where I cannot go. Food for the body and soul are the necessities of life we have been privileged to share with any and all. I had the privilege of being a missionary at large, a worker priest, and pastor of a parish including a nursing home. What a joy then, and a joy now to offer prayers and some financial support to the work of our Lord and Saviour. God bless and keep up the good work.

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 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 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 adequate funds to continue the support of the Malabar Mission Society in Malabar and beyond. Also pray that funds will be available for various maintenance and repair projects.