

Malabar Mission Newsletter

Spring 2012

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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

Inside this issue...

In Appreciation.....	Page 2
MMS Searches for a New Agent.....	Page 2
MMS Evaluation Results in a Plan.....	Page 2
MMS Support an ESL in Kannur.....	Page 3
Rev. T. Joseph Expresses Thanks.....	Page 3
MMS Budget Items.....	Page 4

Malabar Mission Newsletter

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MR. C. REJIDAS GRADUATES WITH A BACHELOR OF DIVINITY

- Rev. Carlton Riemer, MMS Project Officer

The MMS has been supporting Mr. C. Rejidas for four years as a theological student at Gurukul Lutheran Theological College in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. Reji's commencement exercises are set for March 18, 2012, when he will be awarded the degree of Bachelor of Divinity.

Having completed his academic preparations for the ministry, Reji will serve as a Probationer in the India Evangelical Lutheran Church for three years. During that time he will put into practice what he has been studying, as he preaches, teaches, evangelizes non-Christians, leads worship, encourages and trains congregation members, visits the sick and shut-ins, and develops leadership skills under the supervision of an experienced pastor. After this period of "in-service training," he will be eligible to be ordained.

The MMC and MMS anticipate that Reji will be assigned to Kannur to plant a church in that city and to give guidance and encouragement to the workers serving at the *Vanitha* Women's Reading Room / Library and the Open Door Men's Reading Room / Library.

Reji is immensely thankful for the support MMS has given him to achieve this accomplishment and to be trained for service in the Church in this way. Please keep this new church worker in your prayers to the Lord of the Church, so that Reji will find joy and fulfillment in his church vocation.



Reji leading a Bible Study

Malabar Mission Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held

11:00 a.m., April 28, 2012

at

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
935 McCarthy Blvd North, Regina, Saskatchewan

All regular and honorary MMS members are invited to attend.

In Appreciation

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

In Honour of...

Rev. Howard and Gloria Ulmer

Rev. Richard Zimmerman



In Memory of...

† **Rev. Dennis Paap**

Walter and Audrey Biberdorf

† **Eric A. Kemle**

Marj Kemle

† **Rev. Oscar Sommerfeld**

Martha Sommerfeld

† **Ramona Ophelm Cherland**

Carl and Meredith Cherland

† **Rev. Walter Schoepp**

Emerald Schoepp



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



MMS SEARCHES FOR A NEW AGENT

- Rev. Carlton Riemer, MMS Project Officer

The Rev. T. Joy has served as Program Director/Agent for the Malabar Mission Society since 2007. During the Project Officer's visit in India in October, 2011, Rev. Joy asked that someone else be found to fill the position.

Since the MMS Board of Director's meeting in December, 2011, a draft of a Job Description for the MMS Agent has been sent to Revs. Joy and Victor for their review. The MMS Board will consider the Job Description and appoint a new Agent at their April 2012 meeting.

Rev. Joy is willing to serve as the Past Program Director and train the new Agent as well as teach some of the leadership training seminars that MMS regularly offers. God has blessed the work in MMC through the faithful service of Rev. T. Joy. We thank God for equipping Rev. Joy with the spiritual gifts that Rev. Joy used to spread the Gospel in Malabar and beyond. Your prayers are requested as MMS searches for an Agent.



Rev. Joy at the registration desk getting ready for the Youth Seminar held in October 2011.

THE MMS EVALUATION RESULTS IN A PLAN

- Rev. Carlton Riemer, MMS Project Officer

In 2010 and 2011, the MMS undertook an evaluation process which involved having the Gospel Workers in the Malabar Mission Circle in India respond to questions about fifteen of the projects that MMS is supporting. Those answers were reviewed by the MMS Board of Directors, and the Project Officer wrote an analysis of the data that was gathered. The workers in MMC formulated some goals, and the MMS Board gave input and suggestions as the process progressed.

In November, 2011, the Project Officer, Rev. T. Joy, and Rev. Dr. K. M. Victor met together to devise a plan for the work to be done from 2012 to 2014. The MMS Board reviewed that plan in December, 2011, and added suggestions.

At the time of this writing, the Plan document is being reviewed by Revs. Joy and Victor one more time before it will be printed and distributed to the MMC workers and the MMS Board. The final analysis and the plans will be translated into Malayalam for sharing with the MMC workers.

These plans will give important direction and focus for our work together as MMC and MMS. We pray God's blessings upon these plans, as we remember and celebrate the plan for the salvation of the world which God undertook in His grace when He sent Jesus to be our Savior, "the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world."



Gospel Workers, October 2010

MSS SUPPORTS AN ESL IN KANNUR IN AUGUST, 2012

- Rev. Carlton Riemer, MMS Project Officer

English as a Spoken Language (ESL) can be an effective way to reach people with the Gospel while meeting a felt need. MMS is planning a third ESL with an emphasis on Accent Reduction at the *Vanitha* Library and Reading Room for women in Kannur, Kerala, India, for August 25 to September 8, 2012.

The goal is to reach women in the community by establishing friendships and positive relationships with them. The educational goal is to prepare college-age women for jobs that require English in the work place in general and in call centres in particular. The attendance goal is 30 women.

Vanitha is located across the road from the Krishna Menon Memorial Women's College. The students will be recruited from that school and also from the congregations in Naduvil and Chengalai. Mr. C. Rejidas and the Gospel workers at *Vanitha*, Miss Bency Baby and Miss Anila, will handle the local arrangements and interview applicants. This will be Reji's first major activity in his ministry as a Probationer (similar to a vicar or theological intern) in Kannur.

Three teachers are already committed to form the team. They bring special gifts to this endeavor.

Sharyn Hagle has a Master's degree in ESL from the University of New Hampshire, and she will be the Academic Director of the team. She has some international experience (two years in Japan and plans to travel to France in March). She is a widow for one year. She has worked as a computer administrator in the Canadian government.

Analís Groh has a Bachelor's degree, and in April, 2012, she will also have a diploma in ESL from the University of Ottawa. She is the daughter of a pastor who formerly was the Latin America Regional Director for the Board for Mission Services of LCMS.

Arlene Riemer has a Bachelor's degree in Education and is presently holding ESL classes with two Iraqi women in Stillwater, OK. She participated in the 2009 ESL in Kannur. She will be the Team Coordinator.

One other woman from Ottawa is very interested in being part of the team. Her commitment depends on making arrangements to take time off from her job as a teacher and school librarian.

The teachers are raising funds to cover the cost of their travel to and from India. The MMS has budgeted funds for the expenses in India. Donations are welcomed to support this effort. Please pray for this evangelistic endeavor and for the good health and safe journey of the team.



Reji, Miss Anila, Miss Bency Baby and Mr. C. D. Solomon at Vanitha - the site of the ESL to be held in August 2012

REV. T. JOSEPH EXPRESSES THANKS FOR HEALING AND PRAYERS

- Rev. Carlton Riemer, MMS Project Officer



Left to Right: Jeja, Rev. Joseph, and Nancy

We are pleased to report that God is answering our prayers for healing and strength for Rev. T. Joseph, the pastor in Kozhikode (Calicut), as he continues to recover from heart valve surgery. As of March 4, 2012, Rev. Joseph reports that he is speedily recovering, so that he is able to resume making house visits, doing family prayers with congregation members and their non-Christian neighbors and friends, and visiting Gospel centers. He writes: "Thank you especially MMS for wishes and prayers."

He adds that God is blessing his congregation work in that five new families (20 people) are worshipping regularly, and three converts are ready for Baptism. He also assures us that he is keeping the MMS in his daily prayers.

President's Message

God Loved...God Gave...God Sent

The season of Lent provides an opportunity for us to focus on the suffering, death of Jesus and his coming resurrection on Easter morning. Through our daily Bible reading and devotions, weekly Sunday and midweek worship opportunities, we regularly see the nature of Jesus, our loving Saviour. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:16-17) This Gospel message continues to be the focus of the Malabar Mission Society, as well as the Pastors, Catechists and Gospel Workers in India. As the Good News of God's love in Jesus is shared with Hindus and Muslims in India, the Holy Spirit touches the hearts and lives of God's people. Our faith in Jesus Christ enables us to see with our heart how "**God Loved...God Gave...God Sent.**" We give thanks for the faithful financial and prayer support of many people that enables us to assist the faithful workers in Malabar and Anantapur. **EASTER JOY!**



MMS BUDGET ITEMS – LOOKING FOR SUPPORT

At the December meeting of the Malabar Mission Society, the Board reviewed, and approved, an operating budget for 2012. Included in the budget are the following projects (... a partial listing):

Station Evangelism Support \$3650

The project enables Gospel Workers to carry on evangelism within 7 traditional Malabar work stations: eg. Kozhikode, Malappuram, Mundakutty, Sultan Batory...

Bible Correspondence Course(s) \$840

Bible Literature (booklets & tracts) \$1550

Kannur Vanitha Ministry..... \$4650

The project supports the operation and ministry of the Vanita (Women's) Friendship Centre in Kannur.

Family Convention..... \$825

Congregation members join in 2 days of spiritual fellowship and growth in Manjeri. Congregations will cover ½ of the cost.

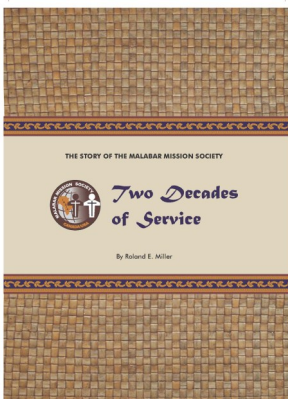
Vacation Bible School \$750

ESL Project (Kannur) \$2,900

Friendship Centre \$2,475

The project provides for the Gospel outreach of Evangelist John Tennyson in Malappuram

Please consider supporting one or several of these projects, either as an individual, or as a family or group of individuals, or as a congregation. Through your faithful prayer and financial support the message of God's love continues to be shared in Malabar and beyond. As we give thanks – continuously – for the many faithful supporters of the Malabar Mission Society, please continue to pray for the mission, the ministry, and the dedicated commitment of the Gospel Workers in Malabar.



MMS History Book Available

The Story of the Malabar Mission Society: Two Decades of Service by the Rev. Dr. Roland Miller tells the story of Malabar from its development, including its struggles, challenges and opportunities, to the present growth and expansion. God has blessed the work of the Pastors, Catechists and Gospel Workers as they share the Good News of God's love in Jesus with Hindus and Muslims in Malabar, Anantapur and beyond. In the face of persecution and hardships the Gospel continues to change the hearts and lives of the people in India. We give thanks and praise to God for the many blessings as His kingdom grows. We are also thankful for your continuing prayers and support of the Malabar Mission Society. You may order a copy of the book by email or by mail. A donation of \$10 will assist with the cost of printing the history book.