

Malabar Mission Newsletter

Easter 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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GOSPEL WORKERS OF MALABAR MISSION CIRCLE PLAN 2013

- by Rev. Carlton Riemer, MMS Project Officer

The Gospel Workers of the Malabar Mission Circle met in Kalpetta, Kerala, India, on January 30, 2013. After a devotion and prayer, the workers reported on the Gospel work being done in their stations and the opportunities and challenges they experience.

Two new workers were welcomed into the circle: Mr. Jayan at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mundakutty; and Mr. Satheesh at Christ Lutheran Church, Kalpetta, and at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Meenangadi. Both of them are probationers assigned by the India Evangelical Lutheran Church. They have finished their ministerial training at Concordia Theological Seminary, Nagercoil, and will serve as theological interns (vicars) for two or three years under a supervising pastor and will then be eligible for ordination.

The IELC transferred Evangelist Richard from Mundakutty to serve at St. John's Lutheran Church, Chooralmala, in the tea estates area. He will be renting a room in Chooralmala until the parsonage behind the church building is equipped with electricity and water.

Toward the end of February, 2013, the Rev. Dr. Joshua Siromony will come to Malabar to help with the Gospel work. He is a retired professor and former principal at Concordia Theological Seminary, Nagercoil. He will serve on a half-time basis for at least four months with the possibility of renewal and extension of his service. While in Malabar, he will use Sulthan Bathery as his headquarters and stay in a lodge there. His family will continue living in their home in Nagercoil. His skills and experience lie in the areas of teaching and leadership development of church workers and lay people, as well as stimulating new and intensive evangelism efforts in Malabar and beyond. Rev. I. Titus, the MMS Agent, will coordinate his activities.

Repairs are being undertaken on the parsonages in Malappuram and Mundakutty. In both cases the congregations are collecting funds to pay for a portion of the expenses.

The Kozhikode station received a new motorcycle in 2012 to help Rev. T. Joseph in his pastoral work and with the Nursery School at the Good News Centre.

(continued next page)



Malabar Mission Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held

April 17, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. at

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

935 McCarthy Blvd North, Regina, Saskatchewan

All regular and honorary MMS members are invited to attend.

GOSPEL WORKERS OF MALABAR MISSION (continued from page 1)

The workers prepared the following plan for seminars and training programs to be held in the Malabar Mission Circle in 2013:

- February – Vacation Bible School training with a presenter from the Trivandrum District Synod.
- March 9 – Sunday School training in Meenangadi and Wandoor with a resource person from the Trivandrum District Synod.
- April (after Easter) – Youth Camp at Mundakutty.
- May 1 – Laymen’s training in Sulthan Bathery.
- July 13 – Ladies seminar in Malappuram.
- September 10-11 – Intensive Evangelism training in Kannur.
- October – Family Convention in Sulthan Bathery.



The Gospel workers in the Malabar Mission Society rely upon our prayers for God’s blessings upon the preaching, teaching, and sharing of the Gospel. Please continue to pray for the workers, pastors and leaders of the Malabar Mission Circle.

In Appreciation

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

In Memory of...

✠ **Rev. Oscar Sommerfeld**

Martha Sommerfeld



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. 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



Wedding Congratulations!



On January, 3 2013, the bells of Zoar Hill Lutheran Church in Marayamuttom, Kerala, India, rang for the traditional Indian-Christian marriage ceremony of C. Rejidas and B. M. Soumya.

Both Reji and Soumya are originally from the Trivandrum capital of Southern Kerala. Reji graduated with a Bachelor Divinity degree from Gurukul Lutheran Theological College, Chennai, in 2012.

The couple is residing in Kannur, where Pastor Rejidas is serving as a probationer and church planter and working with the Open Door Men’s Reading Room and the *Vanitha* Women’s Reading Room. From a special donation the MMS has provided a motorcycle to help with the work.

The couple is residing in Kannur, where Pastor Rejidas is serving as a probationer and church planter and working with the Open Door Men’s Reading Room and the *Vanitha* Women’s Reading Room. From a special donation the MMS has provided a motorcycle to help with the work.

As spoken so eloquently in Psalm 128:5, “May the Lord continually bless you with heaven’s blessings as well as with human joys.”



MALABAR MISSION CIRCLE WELCOMES PROBATIONER R. SATHEESH

- by Rev. Carlton Riemer, MMS Project Officer



In December, 2012, the India Evangelical Lutheran Church assigned Mr. R. Satheesh to be a probationer at Christ Lutheran Church, Kalpetta, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Meenangadi. The Malabar Mission Circle welcomed him, and we are pleased to introduce him to the members and supporters of the Malabar Mission Society.

As a probationer (theological intern), he has finished his seminary academic training and is honored with the title "Pastor," abbreviated as "Pr." He will be eligible for ordination and the title "Rev." when he completes his two or three year probationer program supervised by an ordained pastor.

Pr. R. Satheesh was born on May 20, 1983, in Chullimanoor to Mr. Robinson and Mrs. Lilly. He has an elder brother, Dileep, and an elder sister, Simy. Both are married and living in the Thiruvananthapuram area. His parents divorced when he was four years old, and he has lived with his mother since.

From grades 1-4 he studied at the Chullimanoor Lutheran School; for grades 5-7 he attended the Roman Catholic school in Chullimanoor; and for grades 8-12, he studied at the S. N. D. P. Management School in Aanad. Then he earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree at a private college in Nadumangad. He took the one year Bible course at Concordia Theological Seminary, Nagercoil, from 2004-2005. He served as an evangelist/catechist in Meenkulam in the Nilamel Circle of the Trivandrum District Synod of the IELC from 2005-2008. From 2008-2012, he returned to CTS, Nagercoil, and earned a Bachelor of Theology degree and passed in the second class under Serampore University. He then served as an assistant to Rev. Ruben Pares at Zoar Hill Lutheran Church in Marayamuttom, the same church in which Pastor C. Rejidas and Soumya were married.

His special interests are drawing, painting, and reading as well as conducting child evangelism - especially with puppets.

Since the age of four, Pr. Satheesh has suffered from Bronchial Cysts, which cause swelling on the neck and chest with fever. He was so seriously ill with this disease at age four that the doctors gave up hope. His mother prayed and made a pledge to God that if her son would survive, she would give this child to serve the Lord. He gives this as the reason he has come to this mission field. His condition has required 15 surgeries, the last being on August 15, 2010. His grandfather and neighbors have helped with the related medical expenses.

His future plan is to be a faithful worker in ministry and to pursue puppet ministry for Child Evangelism.

He is convinced that the congregations he is serving need evangelism, and he is starting by visiting his members and families regularly. At present in Kalpetta 25-30 people are worshipping regularly from nine families, and at Meenangadi 32-40 people are attending the Sunday service from thirteen families.

We pray God's richest blessings upon Pastor Satheesh that he may be a blessing to the congregations he is serving and the communities in which he is living and working. May God use him to bring many people to know Jesus as their Friend and Savior and to grow in their faith as they hear God's Word and experience the Means of Grace of Baptism and the Holy Communion.

In the next issue we shall introduce Probationer Jayan assigned to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mundakutty. Pastor Jayan was unavailable for an interview, at this time, as his father was recently hospitalized. Please remember Pr. Jayan and his family in your prayers.



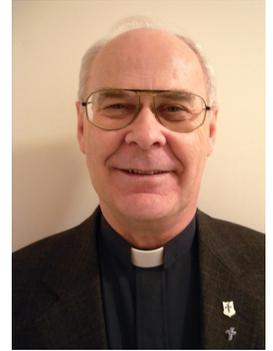
North American Visit..

"Rev. Dr. Roland E. Miller has advised the MMS that Rev. K. K. Alavi and his son, Dr. Abdul Mesiah K. K., plan to visit Faith Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, MN, in April 2013. We look forward to sharing more news about Rev. Alavi's visit in our next issue..."

President's Message

"Jesus Is Lord"

"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that **Jesus is Lord** and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ...For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:8b-10, 13) This Epistle reading for the First Sunday in Lent includes the important confession **Jesus is Lord**. This emphasizes the name that God told Joseph to give for the son of Mary. This name expresses God's purpose for His Son, "that he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21) "Lord" is English for the Greek kurios. It is the word used to translate the Hebrew word for God. This word describes Him as "King of kings" and "Lord of lords." All the descriptions about God as Lord are emphasized when St. Paul tells his readers that they are to proclaim their faith in Jesus as their Lord.



Jesus is Lord is also our personal profession of faith. It is spoken from our mouth, and it comes from our heart. Daily God provides opportunities for us to express our faith that **Jesus is Lord**. There are many examples of the early Christians boldly sharing their faith and enduring punishment and also death for the sake of the Gospel. Throughout the centuries there were many who continued to share their faith in **Jesus is Lord**.

Who is this **Jesus**? He is God's Son, who came to suffer and die for the sins of all. Our Lenten journey takes us to the cross in Jerusalem where he gave his life for us so that we might have forgiveness, life, and salvation. Jesus declares his victory over death through his resurrection on Easter morning. We rejoice in God's gift of grace and mercy through his Son. Indeed, **JESUS IS LORD!** We give thanks for the faithful witness of God's love in Jesus where we live, as well as in Malabar, Anantapur, and beyond.



"Life insurance – About whose life are we talking?"

- by Brian Wonnick, Development Officer



Someone once remarked, "I don't know why they call it life insurance, because someone has to die first for it to benefit anyone." It's a similar mystery or paradox when Christ says in Luke 9:24: "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it." It only makes sense when understood through the eyes of Christian faith. In both cases, someone gives up life, for someone else, usually a loved one, to benefit; it's a selfless act. Insurance provides a lifeline of vital financial resources to support a young family, for example. In many cases, the life insured lives to a ripe old age, and the need to provide financial resources to the family no longer exists. What might be a use for this permanent life insurance?

Providing a gift of life insurance which supports the work of the Malabar Mission Society is a great option to explore. And what is truly great about this gift is that your gift ensures that the Gospel of Christ will continue to be spread, thereby providing a new "life" in Christ through faith in Him. Here's how it works:

- ◆ Donate a "paid up" life insurance policy to the Malabar Mission Society, and in so doing, you receive a tax receipt for the market value of the policy. The Society may retain the policy until your death, and receive the death benefit. Or, they may seek to obtain the cash value at anytime in order to continue its vital work. This action by you is irrevocable.
- ◆ You may donate a life policy on which you are making premium payments. The only difference is that the charitable tax receipt is based on the annual premiums you continue to pay. Note: in this instance, and the first instance, you receive a tax benefit while living. This option is also irrevocable.
- ◆ You may decide to make the Malabar Mission Society the beneficiary of your life insurance, so that at your death, the death benefit goes to the Society. In this case, the tax receipt is made out to your estate in the amount of the death benefit. With this option, you may change the beneficiary of your life insurance.

We have provided a brief overview of how some life insurance options work, and we suggest you contact your financial advisor to review your particular circumstances. Thank you for your prayers, and ongoing support!