



## **Miss Ruth Taylor - 1935-1977 (Edition 2)**

Miss Ruth Taylor was commended by Howe Street assembly, Auckland, and went out to India in October 1935. She joined Mr and Mrs Revell at Kadayanallu and learned the Tamil language. Her activities included meetings for women and girls with Sunday School classes in the villages and visiting in the homes of the people.

In 1943, after being in New Zealand for some time because of the war with Japan, she returned to India to supervise a school at Vadamalapuram. There were 82 students and she had good opportunities for teaching the Scriptures. Other activities included medical treatments in the dispensary and village visitation to sell the Scriptures and to hold open-air meetings.

Sankaranainarkoil became her new home in 1948 with fresh opportunities while she maintained her interest at Vadamalapuram and Elavankulum. Ruth had adopted several Indian girls for whom she cared, giving them a Christian upbringing, and one of those girls was baptised at that time. In 1952 they moved to Madurai where the largest Hindu temple in South India was situated. The temple of Meenakshi with its four towers, 160 feet high, dominated the whole city. With her Indian woman helper Ruth commenced meetings for women, a Sunday School in English and another in Tamil and a weekly meeting amongst the nurses at the government hospital. The small assembly of some 39 believers had several outreaches both in homes and in the open air with which they were able to identify.

The Indian brethren commenced a small Bible School at Madurai in 1955 and Ruth at that time added women's meetings in the local prison to her already busy programme. They were promoting a very effective Emmaus Correspondence School as well. In 1956 the assembly built a new hall and on most occasions the unsaved outnumbered the believers. Ruth also had a real interest in literature, encouraging local believers to engage in that outreach. In 1963 the Meenalshi temple was re-dedicated after some renovations and they estimated that 400,000 visitors were added to the 500,000 people already in the city. They distributed 40,000 tracts and remarked they would never forget so many outstretched hands.

During the 1960's they had more opportunities than they could possibly cope with in the way of cottage meetings, as well as those at different institutions. Following a crusade in 1966 they spent a lot of time looking for people who had made professions at the meetings but the Lord blessed their efforts even if it did take three hours to find one home. Everywhere they went they distributed further literature. In those years too Ruth took other girls into her family, some earlier girls having been married and now having families of their own.

The early 1970's were rather disturbed times with riots in many parts. However, the unrest often helped the spread of the Gospel as Ruth found sometimes 150 women prisoners in the goal to listen to her message instead of the usual 30. In 1971 she underwent successful surgery for cataract [sic]. She and Ruth Warner, who had been at Madurai since 1962, were able to get adjoining flats and continue their work in the city. In

1973 there was a major crusade there with up to 8,000 people at some of the meetings, with the necessary visitation to follow.

Meetings with the nurses at the hospital has been a very profitable and a fruitful work over many years. Ruth's last years in India were marked by her devotion to the tasks she undertook in ministering to women and by her interest and involvement with all the assembly activities in Madurai. Not only did she visit women in prison but she also undertook rehabilitation help to those who were discharged. One woman stayed with her for a year, although evil seemed to surround her life – she disappeared one night, never to return. The activities of the young men's Bible school were always Ruth's interest. Also, on one occasion, with a cycle-rickshaw modified as a mobile bookshop, up to 1,000 books were sold and many tracts distributed. One acquaintance dubbed Ruth "the donkey's friend because of her kindness to all God's creatures. In 1976 she saw another of her adopted girls satisfactorily married, a further reward in a ministry that spanned many years. In 1977 when she returned to New Zealand she was not at all well, and spent her last months at Edenvale Home, Auckland. She went to be with her Lord on the 15th July 1978.

[Source entry includes the identical uncaptioned photo of Miss Taylor to' used in the 1st ed.]