

In His Name

A RECORD of ASSEMBLY
MISSIONARY OUTREACH
from New Zealand

Edition 1

Les A. Marsh

1974

Edition 2

Leslie A. Marsh,
Henry D. Erlam

1987

Miss Phyllis Wilson – 1938-1980 (Edition 2)

Miss Phyllis Wilson was born in Malaya and spent her early life in New Zealand. Going back to Ipoh with her mother in 1930 she helped in responsibilities in the orphanage. Because of ill health she came again to New Zealand in 1936 and spent some time at the Feltham Children's Home.

In 1938 she was welcomed back to Malaya by the missionary team and joined in a full-time capacity in the work of the Elim Home showing a real aptitude for the care of the children. Together with her parents and other missionaries she was evacuated to Singapore in December 1941 and after the death of her father accompanied her mother to England where they spent the war years.

In 1945 she came to New Zealand prior to reopening the children's home at Ipoh in 1946. They were warmly welcomed by the Christians who had continued with their testimony during the Japanese occupation. Many of them had been spied on, laughed at, and disturbed but they carried on regardless. She found the hall undamaged and all hymn-books, Bibles and seats safe. Some 70 believers had been baptised during the Japanese occupation. The Home was officially reopened in May 1947 and the school restarted, their old Chinese matron returned to take up responsibilities. During the ensuing years they continued to prove the Lord's goodness in their work. The needs of the children were all provided for and many of them were saved and baptised. Some of the encouragements Phyllis experienced over the years were in meeting the families of children brought up in the home or attending a baptism and finding that some of the grown up men obeying the Lord had once been children in the Home.

They lived through changing times. They saw the era of terrorism when North Malaya was dotted with military camps with the people lived in resettlement areas behind barbed wire. They saw the change of government in 1957 when British Malaya became Malaysia, an independent state. The number of children in the home decreased until in 1955 they had only 23, but caring for them was infinitely worthwhile. Phyllis herself had changes with new interests in visiting hospitals and prisons. After furlough in New Zealand in 1968 she set up her own home in Ipoh and had two girls staying with her. She also took an active part in women's meetings, rallies and Sunday Schools and in 1969 moved south to Johore Bahru just across the causeway from Singapore. There she engaged in women's meetings, commenced a Sunday School for children of servicemen, worked amongst the nurses and visited the prison. In 1970 she undertook the responsibility for the distribution of Emmaus lessons in the State of Johore. Many Christians invited her to their homes to speak to unsaved relatives in the Cantonese language and in her travels she visited former Elim children.

The work at Johore Bahru has developed in succeeding years and the assembly grew with the help of newcomers from other areas. A young doctor from Australia who took a practice there was a big help. Blessing was also seen in the prison services - two prisoners sentenced to death for murder were converted, and a woman went to the gallows with a song on her lips. In many areas the dynamics of the gospel have been felt.

In 1974 the new hall at Johore Bahru was completed and the following year Phyllis commented on the many opportunities to witness in the teacher's colleges and secondary schools throughout the country. In 1976 a visit from John Komene with evangelistic crusades was blessed and many people were saved. Over the years the Lord touched the lives of some notable people who witnessed fearlessly for Him including one of the prominent members of parliament. After some time in New Zealand in the late 1970's Phyllis returned to find the local believers and the activities in the assemblies all functioning well. They had recently held a special retreat over Easter to seek the Lord's blessing.

In 1980 she was advised for health reasons to live in a milder climate so she relinquished her work among women, the prisoners and young people, and retired to Christchurch, New Zealand.

[Source entry includes an uncaptioned photo of Miss Wilson.]