



Mr W.T. Revell – 1905 (Edition 1)

Commended from Maharahara near Dannevirke, Mr William T. Revell went out to India in October 1905. He settled in the Tirunelveli district of Tamilnadu at Mt Zion. In 1897 Mr and Mrs T. Maynard had commenced a testimony including a boarding school near the scene of the previous labours of Aroolappen the friend of Anthony Norris Groves. In his early years in India Mr Revell learned the Tamil language and then engaged in visiting, preaching at Solapuram where the Christian suburb had been named Christianpeta. There were over 20 day schools in the area and local Indian brethren engaged in the teaching and other outreach. He had a great love for the poor people and presenting the claims of Christ to them often defended them against oppression.

In 1911 he moved his base to Vadamalapuram where he had helped start the work in 1906, and continued his active role of teaching, preaching and distributing literature. In December 1912 he married Miss Russell from England but within two months she had died of a malignant growth. There were a number of Indian workers [sic] conferences in those early years to co-ordinate the work being done. After a furlough Mr Revell relieved Mr and Mrs Gander at Naraikkinar in the same district and in 1916 married Miss Dora Annear and they made Kadayanallur their home base. There they built a hospital and a hall and Mrs Revell engaged in a very fruitful medical ministry. For many years Mr Revell used a motor cycle to reach out to villages all around their home helping those who could not read, ministering the Word of God to small groups, distributing the Scriptures and training local brethren to maintain the assembly testimony. Often he would be visiting further afield and the local brethren would carry on all aspects of the work at home. He was the means in God's hands of commencing four assemblies in the area all of which went on well.

In 1920 they were at Vadamalapuram to supervise the school work in the absence of other workers and for some time at Christianpeta. In 1922 they relieved the Youngs at Mt Zion and were there two years while still maintaining an interest in the people so dear to them at Kadayanallur. When they returned there in 1924 they also had to supervise the work at Naraikkinar. In those years the hospital was very encouraging and the motor cycle a tremendous boon for visiting the local assemblies established in the villages. In 1930 Mrs Revell gave as her assessment of the hospital ministry "Making friends, keeping friends and giving the gospel to all who come." A new departure in 1935 was the building of a gospel coach which was used far and wide as Mr Revell took Indian brethren with him to markets and festivals. The Scriptures they distributed went into hundreds of villages. They made a five-month visit to Pondicherry in 1938 because of the tremendous need there. Back at Kadayanallur in 1939 they had a training camp for young men. The Government commandeered the van for the use of an A.R.P. Officer in 1942 so they were back to walking and the push cycle.

In 1942 they moved their home to Pondicherry. They had some difficult times there during the 1940's with political unrest and differences between French and Indian authorities. Many times they felt the call to go back to their much loved work around Tirunelveli. In 1947 they were able to get a jeep to replace the gospel van. It was not so good but it was a means of transport. Later they had amplifiers fitted to the roof to use in village preaching. Mr Ron Appleby also helped in that work in 1949.

From 1950 onwards Mr and Mrs Revell found they had to restrict their activities for some time. Mrs Revell was ill and Mr Revell later developed a throat infection that persisted. This did not stop his work however. He drove the jeep and operated the loud speaker while Indian brethren preached in the markets and festivals. In 1955 Mr Revell celebrated 50 years in India and the next year they moved to Bangalore where Mrs Revell's health improved. In 1957 they returned to Ilanji in the Tirunelveli district both very much improved in health. On 23rd February 1961 Mrs Revell died at Vadamalapuram aged 78 years, having spent the closing years of her life helping in medical work amongst the Tamil people she loved. In 1964 Mr Revell went to live with Mr Tom Brown at Virudhunagar. Up till then he had been helping by supervising different jobs even though his voice had failed and his sight was almost gone.

He died on April 6th 1966 at 84 years of age, after being 61 years in India.

[Source p. 164 has photo with caption: 'Standing: Mr Rimmer and Miss Gordon. Seated: Mr Revell and Miss Dunn. Front: Miss Sundgren'. The entry for Mr W.T. Revell has an uncaptioned photo of Mr and Mrs Revell, and another titled: 'Mr W.T. Revell and his Bible Coach used from 1936 to 1942'. Page 171 has photo captioned: 'Missionary group in 1924. Back: Mr Irvine, Miss Mai, Mr Brewerton. Centre: Miss Sundgren, Mrs Noel, Mrs Black, Mr Noel, Miss Mosley, Mr Revell, Miss Treweek, Miss Townley, Miss Starck, Mr Buchanan. Seated: Mr and Mrs Thomson, Mr Black, Mrs Irvine, Mrs Revell, Miss Dyason, Mrs A. Redwood. Note: Mr Brewerton was visiting India from Malaya.']]