



## **Miss A.B. Mai – 1913 (Edition 1)**

Miss Alice B. Mai was commended by the Pohangina assembly and left for India in July 1913 to join Mr and Mrs Noel at Kumbanadu. She learned the Malayalam language spending some of her study time in 1914-15 [going] to Trichur with Miss Sundgren. She was a great visitor and walked many miles to visit scattered believers in their homes. Many of them were not able to read and required a lot of help. In 1918 she helped out at the boys' home at Irinjalakuda while Mr and Mrs Kocher were in Germany and later she assisted in the girls' home at Trichur. While Miss Sundgren was on furlough in 1921-22, Miss Mai was in charge of the school and orphanage work at Trichur where she was encouraged to see girls make their stand for the Lord. There too, she had some thrilling experiences with cobras.

The next ten years were spent in constant visitation. Many were saved as a result of her faithful counsel, many were encouraged by her words of comfort and her practical sympathy and many were led on to a better understanding of the Bible through her teaching in their homes. Going out early in the morning with a "Bible woman" Indian fellow-worker, she would encounter some pitiful sights as their eyes got used to the dark interiors of the homes they visited; a sick woman lying on a heap of rags on the dirt floor or a group of children wracked with disease, for whom no-one has time to care. Often the afternoons were spent visiting the Syrian women and giving teaching and help. Many Christians suffered terrible persecution for their faith, some stood firm, others failed. Everywhere there was the need for the gospel of God's grace.

In 1931 Miss Mai went again to Trichur to relieve Miss Sundgren. Back at Kumbanadu in 1932 she was encouraged to see that some who had attended her Sunday School in earlier years were now the teachers. In September 1934 she returned to New Zealand to care for her ageing [sic] parents. As well as the testimony of the changed lives of so many whom she visited, Miss Mai also left the memorial in Kumbanadu of land that she had purchased to have an English High School built. The existing school still stands there today.

After the death of her parents some years later, Miss Mai continued in the ministry of caring for old folk in their own homes going to her eternal reward on December 10th 1966 at the age of 76.

[Source entry includes uncaptioned photo of Miss Mai. 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.']