



Mr D.B. Burt – 1934 (Edition 1)

Mr David B. Burt, B.A. Went out to India from Auckland in September 1934 to help in the Clarence High School at Bangalore. He relieved the Principal Mr W. Wilcox while he was on furlough and was impressed with the size and excellence of the school. In June 1936, in full fellowship with his home assembly at Mt. Eden,

Auckland, and the believers in Bangalore, he transferred his activities to the Godavari where he assisted Mr A. Naismith in village evangelism and the administration of the extensive school work in the district around Narsapur. He learnt the Telugu language and ministered in the assemblies. That year they had almost 200 attending a five-day Bible School and 2,000 at the New Year convention in 1937. In the absence of the Naismiths he had a very busy administrative programme but enjoyed being out with the local Indian brethren in village preaching and at the festivals. There were 100,000 people at the Antravedi Festival.

With the return of Mr and Mrs Naismith he was able to give more time to visiting in villages and teaching in the many assemblies in the district. He found a bicycle useful to reach places and also a houseboat in which on one occasion with Mr Crawford Tilsley they visited 40 villages in five weeks. He hired a houseboat himself for twelve months in 1943 and worked in the East Godavari and Narsapur canals giving consecutive teaching in the assemblies. He married Miss Catherine M. Garrett from Hobart at Belgaum on 15th December 1943 and they made their home in Narsapur.

During the immediate post-war years with so many missionaries on furlough they faced an exceptionally busy period supervising a wide area. There were about 30 assemblies who needed some guidance and the school administration that involved 30 elementary village schools, 1 large secondary school and a boarding hostel. At that time a new head was appointed at the secondary school. That freed Mr Burt for the time necessary to be able to counsel assembly elders, evangelists, teachers etc. who were constantly seeking help. In 1949 they spent some time at Koyyalagudem prior to assuming full responsibility from Mr Naismith in 1950 for the secondary school with Mrs Burt caring for the hostel with 50 boys. By the time they were relieved from the school in 1953 the roll had increased to 700 with 70 living in the hostel. In 1953 Mrs Burt gave some assistance to Dr and Mrs Edward Short who had taken charge of the leprosy hospital the previous year. A series of four-day Bible Schools in five different areas with 40 elders and teachers in residence and a further 40 attending each day gave impetus to the work in 1954. In succeeding years that pattern of annual Bible schools was continued with Mr Burt being responsible for some of the teaching and also ministering at conferences in various places. They also took charge of the administration and care of the leprosy hospital in 1957 while the Shorts were away. Figures for the year indicated 3,500 patients passing through the hospital and 16,000 outpatients. All of these people heard the gospel presented twice a day. In 1959 the Indian brethren held an all-Godavari Crusade at which attendances averaged 8-9,000 with 12,000 at the largest meeting. 1,870 people were counselled. By 1960 the High School had reached 1,000 students and in that year the government assumed responsibility for the elementary village schools, freeing Mr Burt from the supervision.

During the 1960's the Emmaus Correspondence Course made encouraging progress. They had been in operation for some years. A permanent Bible School was commenced in 1964 with consecutive teaching from August to November given by Indian and missionary brethren with Mr David Drown taking a responsible part. The Emmaus Correspondence School also continued to increase with 2,000 new students enrolled in 1964 and 4,000 new enrolments [sic] in 1965 requiring extra full-time staff. Mr and Mrs Burt were encouraged as the new decade commenced to see the continuing interest in the Bible Schools with Indian brethren instructing. Both students and teachers were being helped in the process. Working on the concept of shorter-term schools held in villages for 2-3 weeks at a time, was one of their final activities. They also aimed at placing a 16-page gospel booklet in as many homes as possible before leaving India to retire in Tasmania in 1973.

[Source entry contains photo captioned 'Mr and Mrs D.B. Burt'. Photo on p. 224 is captioned 'Montauban Group 1935. Back row: A. AIKEN, D. BURT, G. JUNCK, T. BROWN, Second row: Misses TREWEEK, F. Patient, Bates, MRS A. NOBLE, Miss Patient, Dr Vine, Messrs G. FOUNTAIN, W.T. NOBLE. Third row: MISS WALLACE, MR LYNN, Misses Peebles, SUNDGREN, Conway, Whaxton, Mrs Patient, Misses NICOLL, Adams, Mr Hill, Miss DYASON, Mr and Mrs Smele. Seated: Mr and Mrs IRVINE, Misses Morgan, Thompson, Messrs Thomson, Patient, Misses Clarke, Lynn, Mrs WALTER REDWOOD, Mrs Hill, Miss MOSLEY, A[...] and N[...] Redwood. (N.Z. Missionaries names in capitals.)']