



Mr A.E. McKenzie - 1934 (Edition 1)

Commended by the assemblies at Rutland Street, Armagh Street and Waltham, Christchurch, Mr Alan E. McKenzie went to India in June 1934. Together with Mr Gordon Junck he attended an eight-week medical course in Sydney en-route. With his heart set on North India, Mr McKenzie joined Mr G.H. Watson at Subathu in the Simla District. He learned the Urdu language and commenced visiting in markets and bazaars.

He married Miss Myrtle Bailey from Auckland at Subathu on April 22nd 1936 and was engaged in an active colportage of the Scriptures. The following year they moved to Solan a larger centre where they held regular open air meetings in the summer months and moved to Delhi during the winter. They had the joy of seeing some saved in the following years, amongst them some Moslems. However, they learned something of the terrible opposition and persecution that was experienced by those who stood for Christ in North India and so also had their disappointments.

Throughout the 1940's they continued the work in Delhi seeing a small assembly established with some British people, mostly soldiers and some Indians. It was hard slogging work and a number of times they witnessed the assembly dwindle in numbers as people were transferred to other areas.

There was room for an assembly in every suburb of Delhi because of the size of the city and so open air witnessing with an amplifier and the selling of the Scriptures and distribution of literature was undertaken in every sector. A monthly gospel paper "Bible Talks" was commenced and also a S.S. Monthly for children in Urdu. However, those were rather unsettled days in North India and Delhi was often the vortex of the trouble. Open airs were banned in 1947 and activities restricted. Mrs McKenzie went to Srinagar to help out as matron of a school and the riots continued. At one stage it was described as a "blood bath" in Delhi. That unrest also passed and the work continued with an increase in correspondence Bible courses. By 1953 there were almost 3,000 students doing Bible study in that way and most of them were unsaved. Students were visited where possible and helped to a better understanding. Visits were also made to Agra and Cawnpore where people had asked for help. Nevertheless, despite the testings and disappointments that were still there, the few assemblies continued to be a testimony to the power of the Gospel.

Mr and Mrs McKenzie returned to New Zealand in 1954, where they have continued in full time Christian service.

In 1972 they made a visit to North India and spent almost six months ministering in assemblies in New Delhi, Meerut and other North Indian centres as well as preaching the Gospel. They soon became familiar in the language and returned to New Zealand with many happy memories.

[Source entry includes an uncaptioned photo of Mr and Mrs McKenzie]