

# 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 E. Dron – Mrs G. Wilson – 1898 (Edition 1)

As a result of the visit of Mr Wm McDonald, a missionary from Penang, Miss Elizabeth Dron, who was commended by the assembly at Nelson, left for the Malay States in October 1898. She engaged in language study at Penang and worked with children at Bukit Mertajam a short distance away. In 1902 she was married to Mr George Wilson, a missionary from Britain, and they settled in Taiping. By visitation and preaching the testimony was established there and at Kampar. They lived at Kampar, for several years where later a small hall was built, then moved to Ipoh, a more central town, in 1913. It took several years, from 1915 when the Home was started, to get the "Elim Home" for children really established and the building programme too was quite a strain until completed in December 1917. The Home provided for orphans and children of Christians who could not be educated by their parents and the accommodation of 50 was soon being utilised. Mrs Wilson assisted by Miss Sarah Shirliff had the responsibility of the Home and the school which employed two teachers as well as themselves. A group of Chinese girl boarders were also catered for. Mr Wilson engaged mostly in itinerant teaching, preaching and distributing literature. He used a motorcycle from 1919 to visit in many towns, travelling hundreds of miles in the course of that ministry. In 1920 the new hall was completed in Ipoh. It was noted that none of the original members of the assembly commenced four years previously in the "Elim Home" were remaining. All had moved to other parts or returned to China.

Throughout the 1920's the work continued to expand. In 1926 the Boys' Home had to be enlarged to house the 30 boys under their care. An isolation ward was built to cater for the many epidemics that occurred with so many children. Ipoh proved a good centre from which Mr Wilson could reach out to the towns surrounding them in the valley and in the mining districts. There was constant need to teach believers so that they in turn could teach others.

In the 1930's with Miss Phyllis Wilson helping her mother in the "Home" and the school, and with Mr Leonard Cornwall assisting in the outreach to surrounding towns the whole programme of the work grew. Miss Clare Shirliff was another who helped with the women's work in those years of spiritual growth.

Economic pressures were felt in Malaya at that time of world depression and often Christians had to work long hours to support their families and that hindered the progress of Bible study amongst believers. Many Christian women were taught and helped in reaching their own people for the Lord. The orphanage and school continued to bear fruit in the lives of young people.

In 1937 Miss Wilson, who had been assisting since 1931, took responsibility of "Elim Home" while Mrs Wilson concentrated on teaching in the school. A new roof and new electric wiring had to be installed in 1939. The toll of years of service began to take effect in their lives and in 1939-40 they all experienced bouts of ill health. War clouds threatened in 1941 while both Mrs and Mrs Wilson experienced further sickness. The invading Japanese army arrived in Ipoh in December 1941 as the missionaries moved out to Singapore. There on January 6th 1942, Mr Wilson died. The 'Elim Home' was taken over by the Japanese during the war years, all children having been dispersed previously to relatives and friends.

Mrs Wilson and Phyllis were evacuated to U.K. where they arrived in March 1942. After the war they returned to Ipoh in October 1945 to begin the work of repairing and reorganising the "Elim Home". The next five years were disturbed times in Malaysia with bandits and terrorists' activities increasing so that it was not safe to go off the main road. They had a narrow escape in 1951 when they ran into an ambush between Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur. They escaped into Kampar with bullet holes in the radiator.

Mrs Wilson continued at Ipoh with her daughter Phyllis during her old age and maintained an active interest in the work though, following a fall in 1961 when she was 85 years old, she experienced increasing weakness. She died on January 14th 1967, aged 91, having been in Malaysia for almost 70 years.

[Source entry includes photos captioned "Mr and Mrs G. Wilson" and another captioned "Elim Girls' Home, Ipoh, Malaya, in 1935." On p. 230 is a photo captioned "The group of five missionaries who left for Malaya in 1898. At back: Miss E. Drom (Mrs G. Wilson), Miss [M.] E. Davies. Front: Miss S. Shirtliff, Miss Reeve and Mr W. Blick." Photo on reverse of p. 242 of source has caption "About 1935. Back row, from left: Miss Prouse, Miss Parkinson, Mr Hardwidge, Miss Gibson, Mr Donaldson. MR BLICK, MR LEN CORNWALL, MR GEO. WILSON, MISS WILLIAMS (died 1936), Mr Adams, Mr Tipson, Mr Tom Angus, MISS TREWICK. Seated: Mrs Donaldson, MISS SARAH SHIRTLIFF, MRS BLACK [sic], MRS LEN CORNWALL, MRS GEO. WILSON, Mrs Adams (with baby), Miss Gregg. Seated in Front: Miss Martin, Miss Faulkner, MISS PHILLYS [sic] WILSON. (N.Z. Missionaries names in capitals)"]