



Miss C. Shirliff – 1919 (Edition 1)

The Nelson assembly commended Miss Clare Shirliff who went out to the Malay States in March 1919. For some months she helped in the school at Kuala Lumpur and then moved to Ipoh to relieve Mrs George Wilson of school responsibilities. She discovered that she needed an iron constitution to cope with all the work that needed to be done. While teaching English she studied the Malay language. She soon found herself integrated into the whole work of school, home, visiting and ministering to the needs of the children under their care – all of which was her “life” for ten years.

From 1930 Miss Shirliff engaged in a wider ministry of visiting and distributing gospel literature and Scriptures in the district round about. In succeeding years she helped at Penang, Taiping and Kuala Lumpur but her main work centred around Ipoh. A nurses' Bible study class at the hospital, weekly classes for women and special meetings for young people were some of her activities as well as visiting people in their homes to sit and read the Scriptures with them. They were a very busy ten years before the Japanese occupation in December 1941 resulted in all the missionaries moving to Singapore. A second-hand Baby Austin car was a big help from 1933 onwards.

With her sister Sarah, Miss Shirliff was evacuated to India and helped at Coonoor with her other sister Kath for two years before going to help yet another sister Mrs Julia Noel at Kumbanadu.

Miss Shirliff made a visit to New Zealand in 1945 for 16 months because her heart was affected, but went back to the Malay States, arriving at Singapore in November 1946 and travelling north to Kuala Lumpur to link up again with her sister Sarah. She found it a tremendous inspiration to see the 700 girls in the mission school there hearing the Scriptures every day. Following her sister's death in 1947 she stayed on at Kuala Lumpur being a great help to young people in counselling them from the Scriptures. After a short illness and suffering somewhat from a heart weakness, she died on August 5th 1949.

[Source entry includes an uncaptioned photo of Miss Shirliff and another photo captioned “The Chinese Gospel Hall in Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, that seats more than 200.]