



## **Mr E.V. Brewerton – 1921 (Edition 1)**

Mr Ernest V. Brewerton was commended by the Martinborough assembly and went out to Malay with Mr and Mrs Blick in January 1921. After spending some time in the study of Hokkien Chinese in Singapore and helping in assembly work in that city, he went to China in September, 1922 to improve his knowledge of the language. At Shihma near Amoy, with practically no European companions, he gained valuable experience in the use of Hokkien. In 1924 he returned to Singapore and in May went on to India to be at the hills in time for the annual missionary conference.

At Vadamalapuram on October 1st, 1924 he married Miss Bertha Townley who had been serving the Lord in India since 1914. They returned to Singapore where Mrs Brewerton was able to use her knowledge of Tamil in working amongst the Indians. Later they moved to Klang to commence a new work. A small second hand car was a big help in visiting villages and an assembly of Chinese speaking believers was established and it continued well while they were away in New Zealand in 1926-27.

They returned to Klang in 1928 and worked with that town as their centre to visit the surrounding area. There were 80,000 Tamil speaking Indians within a radius of ten miles of their home so there was plenty of scope for Christian witness. They were occupied in constant visitation in the towns of the area, visiting tea and rubber plantations, selling many Scriptures and establishing the small assemblies. They were encouraged by many genuine conversions. Results were remarkable like the lady of 70 who gave up smoking opium after 40 years and the old man who for the first time set his household affairs in order. A young man in hospital immediately spoke of his conversion to his Buddhist relatives. Distribution of literature and open air meetings with local believers were also major avenues of service.

In 1935 they relieved Mr and Mrs Hardwidge at Penang and were encouraged at the baptism of 42 lepers. While in that centre they encouraged a group of young people to commence a tract band and as a result the whole city was visited house by house with literature. From 1937 they engaged in more of an itinerant ministry encouraging believers in local assemblies to engage in literature distribution. As a result several tract bands were commenced in different cities. In 1939 they spent three months in India prior to again engaging in house to house visitation up to the time of their evacuation in December 1941.

From May 1946 Mr and Mrs Brewerton spent a year in Ilanji India helping in the Tamil area with Scripture distribution and open air witnessing. When they returned to Malaya in 1947 they spent some time in Penang, Kuala Lumpur and Klang before settling in Ipoh as their centre. In the ensuing years they witnessed a changing Malaya. The activities of terrorists and bandits made it unsafe to travel on the open roads. The presence of large numbers of soldiers both British and national presented a new challenge. The grouping of people in "New villages" or resettlement areas for their own protection and security also afforded new areas of visitation. It also meant the need for new halls to be built as in Pasir Pingi in the Ipoh resettlement area, where the gospel was preached every night of the week.

The 1950's were interesting years. The Emmaus correspondence courses were developed; open air evangelism with amplifying equipment was promoted; youth camps, Bible study camps and Bible Schools were held. Special campaigns and ministry to believers to equip them more perfectly for responsibility took on new importance as they realised that retirement from the field of service must eventually take place. Several bouts of ill health such as the operation necessary in India in 1956, the heart attack in July 1957 and the rest necessary in New Zealand in 1960, only served to underline that fact.

Right up to their retirement to New Zealand in 1964 when final farewells were said, they were active in literature distribution, Bible study camps and combat-ting error that insidiously entered. Often in those last years they came upon those saved through words spoken and seed sown many years before.

They made their home in New Zealand at Tauranga.

[Source entry includes two photos captioned "Mr and Mrs Brewerton, 1960." and "Employees of the Bata Shoe Factory who attended a Bible Class with Mrs Brewerton in 1942." 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.']