



Miss Edith C. Wallace – 1932-1980 (Edition 2)

After helping at the Otaki Children's Home for two years, Miss Edith C. Wallace was commended by assemblies at Okato and Otaki and went to India in July 1932 with Miss Sundgren. She assisted at the Rehoboth girls' orphanage at Nellikunnu on the outskirts of Trichur and learned the Malayalam language. Over the years she spent a great deal of her time visiting the Indian women in company with a capable Christian woman. She helped in Sunday Schools and conducted women's meetings in many places.

In 1937 she was in charge of the boys' orphanage at Irinjalakuda and then returned in the following year to supervise at Rehoboth in Miss Sundgren's absence. There were several outbreaks of cholera and typhoid during the 1940's and this added to the burden of the work. A car, obtained in 1950 was a tremendous help in the visiting, though many of the villages were along tracks where no car could go.

In 1951 Edith took full responsibility for the orphanage upon the death of Miss Sundgren. Those succeeding years were testing times with food rationing and isolation. However there was a great deal to encourage them over the years as many girls were saved and baptised, with a great number married to Christian young men. The school was also an encouragement as day after day children learned the Word of God. Emmaus courses were also undertaken by the older girls in the orphanage.

After her furlough in 1957 Miss Phyllis Treasure returned with her and they made their base at Kakkad near Kunnamkulam. They spent the next six years in consistent work amongst women and girls, visiting in the villages and in their homes and seeing many won for the Lord and helped in the understanding of the Bible. During those years they had large quantities of literature printed and distributed, as well as selling Scriptures. In 1963 they again took up responsibility at the orphanage at Nellikunna but the following year Edith went to supervise the orphanage at Irinjalakuda and found it quite different from Rehoboth. In 1965 with Miss Treasure not well Miss Wallace again took responsibility for the work with the girls at Rehoboth and the following year helped out at Montauban, Ootacamund.

From 1967 onwards she was increasingly engaged with visiting the womenfolk in their homes and conducting women's meetings in the surrounding district. In the 1970's women's camps and conventions also gave increasing opportunities for teaching. Edith's years of experience in the Indian way of life enabled her to be particularly appreciative of the problems to be overcome.

In subsequent years Edith relieved at the girls' orphanage at Rehoboth when necessary and shared in helping the girls with spiritual and practical problems. In 1979 she commented on the effectiveness of the testimony of some of the ex-orphanage boys who had stood up to a lot of opposition in other localities where they had commenced a witness for the Lord.

In 1980, after serving the Lord for nearly 50 years in India, Edith returned to New Zealand and settled in Auckland, moving later to New Plymouth.

[Source entry includes one uncaptioned photo of Miss Wallace]