

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

Mr and Mrs J.H. De Carteret – 1899 (Edition 1)

Mr J. Herbert De Carteret went out to India from Auckland with the Poona and Indian Village Mission in 1899. He learned the Marathi language and several years later came into fellowship with assemblies in India helping in the work in the Belgaum district. He married Miss Maude Hunter who had gone out to help her parents Mr and Mrs V. Hunter, at the time of the famine in 1899-1900 some seven years previously. They continued in Belgaum in village visitation until 1910 until when they took up residence in the town of Daddi to carry on the witness in the absence of Mr Earnest Rimmer who had commenced the work there in 1908. There were 25 villages with an hour's bicycle ride of their home and to the East hundreds of villages where they spoke Kanarese and to the West hundreds more where they spoke Marathi.

For the following ten years they maintained a constant preaching ministry in those villages though often meeting opposition. The modest medical work they could do to alleviate their sufferings did soften the hearts of many who would otherwise have been indifferent to their message. During the 1920's they continued visiting festivals, camping out in villages, ministering to the needs of the people and maintaining their home in Daddi. These were hard years of toil. Day after day they would preach in the market and distribute literature, often all alone and keeping it up till tired out before returning home. Sometimes there was opposition. They did not find it easy to have people following then calling out 'Scavenger Sahib' and other offensive names. They found so few who wanted the Saviour that had they been on a commercial venture they were sure to have been recalled.

The dispensary continued to give good contacts as people came in from many villages and they would go out to the homes of people for cottage meetings. There were problems at the festivals when 150,000 people were gathered together and they had their tent pitched on the edge of the crowd only to find as the time passed that more thousands came and they were surrounded. There were no sanitary arrangements and it was pitifully hot and people would seek shelter under their tent from the sun and they alone were there to tell out the truth. Political parties opposed the message. In riots people were rude and opposed, children would mock them as they walked down the streets.

In 1933 they moved to Khanapur. How they welcomed the help of local Christians. In succeeding years they reached out to the villages away to the south where it appeared the people had never heard of the Lord Jesus. Those people had heard of all the filth imaginable but not of the pure Saviour who loved and died and who alone could help. Preaching and visiting, camping out and distributing literature, presenting Christ to high and low caste, was the order of the day until physically and mentally weary they went to the U.K. In 1939. They were in London during the bombings and the war prevented them returning to India. After some months illness, Mr de Carteret died on December 20th 1943, aged 67.

The following year his wife was able to go out to Daddi in the Belgaum district and to help in the orphanage there. In 1946 she helped at Chandgad but returned to work in the orphanage with Miss Robertson in 1947. The older workers were encouraged by the coming to the district of Mr and Mrs J. S. McNaught, in 1949 and

the help of Mr and Mrs Atkinson in visiting the villages. They were also encouraged to see the boys from the orphanage helping.

In 1951 Mrs de Carteret left India to stay with her son in Jamaica and briefly visited New Zealand on the way. In 1960 she returned here and settled in Auckland for five years before joining her son in Great Britain in 1965. On January 7th, 1969 at 88 years of age, she entered into the presence of her Lord.

[Source entry includes two photos with the captions: 'An early photo of Mr and Mrs de Carteret', and, 'Travelling in India by bullock-bandy']