



Miss C.C. Sundgren – 1905 (Edition 1)

Miss C.C. (Lottie) Sundgren was commended by the assembly at Petone and went to India in October, 1905, spending her first year and a half at Parur learning the Malayalam language in company with Misses Dunn and Gordon. In 1907 she joined Mr and Mrs Nagel who had gone to Trichur and bought a property for a girls' orphanage. Miss Sundgren [joined] in that work and engaged in visiting women and girls around the district with Miss Mitchell, a missionary from England. In 1910 she took over the responsibility of the orphanage and was encouraged in some girls being saved and baptised, They had their problems with sickness and disease and the need to provide food and clothing for the 40 girls.

Mr Nagel, who had gone to Germany for furlough in 1914, was detained there for the war and in 1915 all the German missionaries were repatriated, so Miss Mitchell and Miss Sundgren carried on. At that time there was a meeting in the town of Trichur and another at the orphanage. They had several outbreaks of cholera over those years and there were several believers who died amongst the many who perished. Others died of smallpox. It was an encouragement to have some of the Christian girls in the orphanage married to Christian young men. In 1920 Mr and Mrs J.M. Davies arrived from America and Mr Alex. Soutter from Scotland. These brethren helped in the district from Kunnamkulam in the north to Cochin in the south. In the next five years the school work at the orphanage went ahead and there was continual blessing amongst the girls, quite a number being baptised. They grew tapioca to supply their own needs.

In 1927 the school was extended by 21 feet. In that year too, three more Christian girls were married and Mr Soutter conducted the service in the meeting hall. It was followed by a rice and curry feast in the orphanage. Over the years the work in the district continued to grow so that by 1935 there were assemblies at Cochin, Ernakulam, Angamali, Irinjalakuda and Walagam. The day school also had grown to 350 children with eleven Christian women teachers and with Miss Wallace who had arrived in 1932, helping in the women's work. In 1937 a new school building was begun and finished the following year. At that time there were no men missionaries in the area and Misses Wallace and Sundgren were the only women missionaries for 100 miles.

Miss Sisley Putwain joined them at the orphanage in 1940. The last ten years of Miss Sundgren's life were given over to the care and spiritual well being of her girls. There were problems of food shortages and increasing prices of grain, and the usual sickness. But the work progressed well and many girls who came as unwanted children grew up to be Christian mothers with families of their own who loved the Lord. The Lord provided and often they were protected from the epidemics that raged about them.

In August 1951, Miss Sundgren went in to hospital at Vellore for a serious operation and afterwards to Ootacamund to recuperate but she passed away on November 13th, 1951, aged 69 years.

[Source p. 164 has photo with caption: 'Standing: Mr Rimmer and Miss Gordon. Seated: Mr Revell and Miss Dunn. Front: Miss Sundgren'. Entry for Miss C.C. Sundgren has uncaptioned photo of her, and another titled:

“Miss Sundgren's new School Building at Trichur, India, opened in 1938”. 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.” Photo on p. 224 is captioned “Montauban Group 1935. Back row: A. AIKEN, D. BURT, G. JUNCK, T. BROWN, Second row: Misses TREWEEK, F. Patient, Bates, MRS A. NOBLE, Miss Patient, Dr Vine, Messrs G. FOUNTAIN, W.T. NOBLE. Third row: MISS WALLACE, MR LYNN, Misses Peebles, SUNDGREN, Conway, Whaxton, Mrs Patient, Misses NICOLL, Adams, Mr Hill, Miss DYASON, Mr and Mrs Smele. Seated: Mr and Mrs IRVINE, Misses Morgan, Thompson, Messrs Thomson, Patient, Misses Clarke, Lynn, Mrs WALTER REDWOOD, Mrs Hill, Miss MOSLEY, A[...] and N[...] Redwood. (N.Z. Missionaries names in capitals.)]