



Mr G.A. Black – 1919 (Edition 1)

After having two years on the Manawatu Bible Coach, Mr George A. Black was commended by the assembly at Napier and went out to India in September 1919. He learnt the Malayalam language at Kumbanadu in Travancore (Kerala). In 1920 he shifted to Irinjalakuda to help in the boys' orphanage there seeking at the same time to build up the small assembly. At Bangalore on January 3rd 1922, he married Miss Agnes Morine who had gone out from Bunnythorpe, and they continued at Irinjalakuda until 1923 when they handed over the orphanage to Mr and Mrs Alex Soutter from U.K.

Their home for the following 14 years was at Puthupally in the Travancore district. There they found abundant opportunities for ministering to the assemblies, preaching in the market places with Indian evangelists and visiting festivals to preach and distribute literature. A small dispensary, which Mrs Black operated, attracted large crowds and her husband presented the gospel to the waiting patients before going out on his visiting. As they became established in the work they reached out to other centres and by 1930 many tea and rubber plantations had been visited. Believers had been baptised at Pambadi, Kottayam, Changanacherry and Pandalam. The annual conference at Puthupally had attendances of over 2,000 by 1934 and Mr Black was engaged in preaching as far afield as Calicut, a city of 99,000 about 170 miles away. Mrs Black devoted herself to the care of poor people and was loved by all in the district.

After their furlough in 1937 they made their base at Alleppey and Mr Black engaged in itinerant evangelism and teaching. He helped out at Adoor, Trivandrum and Kumbanadu speaking at conferences, preaching in the open air meetings in the villages and encouraging small assemblies. They came to New Zealand in 1946 for a very necessary rest and after a visit to Scotland in 1951 intended to go on to India but their health deteriorated and they returned to New Zealand in 1953. Mr Black visited in different parts of the country while Mrs Black was being cared for at Otane by Miss Knight. In 1962 Mr Black was in Dunedin and had spoken in the morning at the breaking of bread and later in the gospel meeting and had been giving out tracts. He came in and sat down and quietly went into the Lord's presence. It was May 28th, 1962 and he was 74 years old. Mrs Black died on June 22nd 1967 at Otane, having been a patient sufferer.

[Source entry has photo captioned 'Mr and Mrs G.A. Black, 1953'. 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.']