



Mr T.T. Brown – 1929 (Edition 1)

Mr Thomas T. Brown came out to New Zealand in 1924 and took up farming work in the Manawatu. He was commended by assemblies at Pohangina, Ashurst and Bunnythorpe to the Lord's work in India and went out to Mr W.T. Revell at Kadayanallur in January 1929. He learned the Tamil language and engaged in active visitation of the villages around about. Making use of literature for the spread of the gospel he gave away thousands of tracts even in his first year in India and sold Scriptures at the markets and festivals. Mr Brown had a gift for taking Indian workers along with him and he encouraged them in visiting and preaching. In 1933 he helped for some months at Pondicherry where a new hall was built and later assisted at Mt. Zion. while the Hills were away. He enjoyed the work amongst the boys at the school and orphanage and had good times with them out at camps many of them professing salvation. At Naraikkinar on December 27th, 1935, he married Miss Jessie L. Treweek who had gone out from Ngaere in 1914. The [sic] continued at Naraikkinar with the school work and visited around that district being responsible for the work while Mr and Mrs Gander were on furlough.

They moved to Virudhunagar a town of 40,000 people at the end of 1936 to commence a new work for the Lord. After furlough in 1938 they undertook to place the Scriptures into every house in the town and in the following year distributed no less than 46,000 tracts. They obtained a new hall in 1940 and the work grew, the literature distributed having a profound effect. There was a good response in their visit to a festival at

Sankaranainarkoil in that year. In 1941 Mrs Brown had six weeks in hospital when she was very ill indeed and in the twelve months following she was mostly in bed with a bad heart. However, she maintained her interest in the women's work directing operations from her bed. She died on May 19th 1942.

For some time after his wife's death Mr Brown himself suffered from a heart condition but later improved and in the following ten years he engaged in a very full programme. With his base at Virudhunagar he relieved for over twelve months at Mt. Zion in the absence of the Hills being responsible for the school and other activities. He made pastoral and teaching visits to Nadarajapuram, Kadayanallur, Ilanji and Mt. Zion. He helped his Indian brethren commence new assemblies at Rajapalayam and Arupukottai. He made continuous visits to assemblies around the district giving Bible studies and encouraging local believers in the distribution of thousands of tracts as well as teaching in Sunday Schools and in the assemblies.

In 1952 he was very weak indeed and the doctor ordered complete rest for three to six months. The ten years following were again times of blessing throughout the district as a new work was begun at Shencottah and Tirumangalam. Visiting teachers and preachers conducted special meetings in that area and were a blessing in those years, the ministry of brethren Junck, Chote and Gould being very effective. A temple priest was saved and baptised, a doctor and two teachers were saved and later the doctor's wife, a retired police officer and an excise officer were all saved. In 1956 Mr Brown visited Scotland and New Zealand on his first furlough in 17 years.

The 1960's were characterised by special teaching classes for elders and teachers, for children with believing parents, for varsity students and for village assemblies who he visited continually strengthening the believers and encouraging them in further outreaches. At one time 50 brethren went to "evangelise" Tenkasi, a town of 40,000 people. On another occasion assemblies from 41 villages attended an annual conference. Many homes were opened for women's meetings and young men were keen to bring their friends to Bible Class and meetings.

In 1973 the great grandson of Aroolappen, the associate of Anthony Norris Groves, who had pioneered the work in Tirunelveli over 100 years previously, performed the baptism of 25 believers while 500 people watched.

On May 10th, 1974 Mr Tom Brown went to his reward. He had been conducting "family" devotions for those who lived nearby and as was his custom spent some time during the morning resting, meditating and praying and thus engaged he silently slipped away

[Source entry includes four photos: uncaptioned photo of Mrs Brown, uncaptioned photo of Mr Brown, 'Typical Indian scene', and 'Mr T.T. Brown with some of the believers who loved him so much.' 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.)']