



Mr W.S. Blick – 1898

Commended by the assembly at Nelson, Mr Walter S. Blick went out to Malaya in October 1898 in response to the visit of Mr Wm [William] McDonald, a missionary from Penang. He settled at Penang for language study and helped in the work there but several years later spent a year in China at Amoy to perfect his knowledge of Chinese. He had a real acceptance with the people and visited in towns and villages and in the prisons. Over the years he saw good results amongst the prisoners and some notable conversions of murderers.

In 1908 he married Miss Fanny Lloyd who had been in the Malay States with the British and Foreign Bible Society for three years and had returned to England. She then went out as an independent missionary with no society or fellowship and by her labours was commended to the assemblies with whom she met. They served the Lord at Penang and Butterworth, cycling out to villages around the district. They were active in the distribution and sale of the Scriptures.

Mrs Blick was very ill when they came to New Zealand in 1912 and for some eight years she made a home for the family in Nelson while Mr Blick returned to their work in Malaysia. He made his base at Taipeng for some years and visited homes and shops distributing and teaching the Scriptures and conversing about the Saviour. He continued to conduct services in prisons and visited the leper camps. There were many cases of men saved in prison and later released to live in God's glory.

In 1921 when Mrs Blick returned with him, they engaged in work at Singapore, having many opportunities amongst the Chinese. Many were saved and baptised and the testimony of Christians who were persecuted resulted in other members of their families being saved. They continued in Singapore but visited Taipeng in 1925. It was interesting for them to meet active Christians who had been saved as a result of the school work and the home influence of Mr and Mrs McDonald and Misses Reeve and Davies years before. In 1926 two condemned murderers confessed faith in Christ in the prison and went to their execution quietly. Despite their changed attitudes they were reaping what they had sown at the hand of human law. Two other murderers at that time listened to the message but seemed too dazed to act.

During those years in Singapore the work grew till in 1930 there were four assemblies in the city. Many people were being banished for political crimes at that time and the prison was always full. One prisoner saved while in goal and given a New Testament said, "Teacher, this book is very wonderful. I read it in the day time and when I lay down to sleep at night I hear it speaking in my ear – it talks to me." A commentary on Prov. 6:22.

In 1932 they moved to Sungei Bakap and engaged in a vigorous programme of visitation. With the Scriptures they made many good contacts in shops and the streets and from home to home in Penang, Butterworth, Taiping, Sitiawan and Salama. At Butterworth at the end of 1939 the tension of the World War was beginning to be felt and as the situation deteriorated in 1941 they realised they would have to move. Amidst falling bombs

in December they fled to Singapore and were evacuated to New Zealand in 1942. They settled in Nelson, where Mr Blick died on September 9th 1943, aged 78.

Mrs Blick returned to Penang in 1946 and was given an upstairs part of the Mission Home. As opportunity afforded she visited on the island and the mainland over quite a wide area for many years spending five days a week thus engaged and helping in Sunday School on the weekends. In 1955 an assembly was commenced at Butterworth where Mrs Blick had so consistently visited and distributed literature. She retired to Brisbane in 1958 and to New Zealand in 1959, spending her last days at Maranatha Home, Mosgiel. She went to meet the Lord on August 31st, 1960.

[Source entry includes a photo captioned "The group of five missionaries who left for Malaya in 1898. At back: Miss E. Drom (Mrs G. Wilson), Miss [M.] E. Davies. Front: Miss S. Shirtliff, Miss Reeve and Mr W. Blick.', and an uncaptioned photo of Mrs and Mrs Blick." Photo on reverse of p. 242 of source has caption "About 1935. Back row, from left: Miss Prouse, Miss Parkinson, Mr Hardwidge, Miss Gibson, Mr Donaldson. MR BLICK, MR LEN CORNWALL, MR GEO. WILSON, MISS WILLIAMS (died 1936), Mr Adams, Mr Tipson, Mr Tom Angus, MISS TREWICK. Seated: Mrs Donaldson, MISS SARAH SHIRTLIFF, MRS BLACK [sic], MRS LEN CORNWALL, MRS GEO. WILSON, Mrs Adams (with baby), Miss Gregg. Seated in Front: Miss Martin, Miss Faulkner, MISS PHILLYS [sic] WILSON. (N.Z. Missionaries names in capitals)" photo includes unidentified children.