



## **Mr and Mrs A.F. Witty - 1899 (Edition 1)**

In 1899 Mr Arthur F. Witty went out to India from Auckland with the Poona and Indian Village Mission, while serving the Lord in Colombo, Ceylon in 1902 he came into fellowship with the assembly. He married Miss F. Frith, a missionary from India, while on furlough in New Zealand in 1907. Together they returned to Ceylon in fellowship with Eden Hall, Auckland.

In succeeding years they held meetings in the homes of local people in Colombo and distributed literature. Mrs Witty was able to engage in teaching in a school. A Tamil meeting was commenced and quite a number of people were saved. They also rendered valuable service by entertaining missionaries passing through. In 1908 they were in need of a larger hall and the following year moved to another part of the city beginning a work in the centre of a new district.

From 1910, with the assistance of Mr Charles Rolls, they expanded the work increasing the Sunday School and Bible Class and seeing some being added to the assembly. Though in a measure of ill health they continued after Mr Rolls had moved to India and engaged in extensive tract distribution and in a gospel postal ministry. Mrs Witty died in 1917 and Mr Witty carried on the outreach on his own. He saw a new gospel meeting started in Willawatti in 1918. Using a chart to present the gospel more clearly, he had a good attendance. The following year a Christian woman who had been blessed in the meetings conducted by Mr Rolls presented a section of ground and paid the construction price for a hall for the assembly.

Mr Witty returned to New Zealand in 1921 and continued in gospel preaching and the exposition of the Scriptures. He married Miss R. Cooksley in Palmerston North in 1922. Though at times through ill health and throat trouble in later years, he was not able to take part in oral ministry he maintained his missionary interest. Mrs Witty died in July 1944 and her husband in November 1958.