



Mr G.L. Fountain - 1933 (Edition 1)

Mr Gordon L. Fountain who was commended by assemblies at Napier and Tory Street, Wellington, and who went to India in July 1933, had been working in country areas of New Zealand prior to his overseas service. He spent a little time with Mr Bill Noble at Irinjalakuda before joining Mr and Mrs Noel at Kumbanadu in 1934. He helped with groups of Indian workers and young men out evangelising and enjoyed the large conferences. In 1935 he moved to Kurianoor, a new area where he spearheaded the outreach in the gospel.

On January 8th, 1936, he married Miss Christine Vine, a doctor from England, and they made their home in Alleppey a seaport and second largest city in the province. There Mrs Dr Fountain commenced a dispensary and they sought to build up the small assembly of eight believers finding the greatest response amongst the depressed classes. A new hall was obtained in a central place in 1937 and the assembly rapidly increased.

In 1939 they moved to Muttampalam a new area near Kottayam. With visitation, pastoral work and helping at the Bible School the work went ahead. That year they were given the Tiruvalla Hospital for mission use and Dr Churchward took charge in 1940.

With the Noels away in 1941 they moved back temporarily to supervise at Kumbanadu. The following year they took up residence alongside the Tiruvalla Hospital and while Dr Fountain helped there, her husband supervised the schools with 140 teachers and 5,000 children. During those years they had special meetings for elders and the assemblies progressed despite the political unrest. Over 100 believers were baptised in the area most years and the Bible Schools were training a small group of young men each year. Self government for India in 1947 did not hinder the work. But in 1948 they had the thorny problem of disposing of Mr Noel's property among the local brethren.

The greatest factors in the growth of the work in the 1950's were the regional Bible Schools at Kottayam, Ernakulam etc. Also the annual conferences held from November to January having been decentralised gave much greater opportunities to local brethren to minister. The responsibility for conducting each conference was on local assemblies. In 1952 they moved to Nanthancode near Trivandrum. There they strengthened the assemblies and encouraged open air preaching. Several ex-students from the Bible school had commenced assemblies in new areas and the work was growing healthily. In 1955 they held a three-month Bible School in Trivandrum a city of some 200,000 people. The 19 students were a big help in local assemblies. Later they held an advanced course for evangelists.

When Mrs Noel went to New Zealand in 1956 Mr and Mrs Dr Fountain went to Kumbanadu. In succeeding years Mr Fountain was able to travel more widely and visited many of the full time Indian workers in different parts of India. Quite a number of those visited were trained in the Bible Schools of Kerala. Needless to say there were problems in such an extensive work and divisions occurred that tried the spiritual calibre of those helping in the work.

In 1962 a new nurses' home was added to the Tiruvalla hospital where the nurses' training course had equipped many Christian nurses for different parts of India. Their last years of service in India were spent in helping at the Bible Schools and seeking to stabilise some of the business of assembly property in Kerala. Mrs Dr Fountain's eyesight was deteriorating at that time, and they finally settled in New Zealand in 1967.

In New Zealand after their return they helped in assemblies in Wellington, Titahi Bay-Porirua and Carterton.

[Source entry contains photo captioned 'Mr and Dr Fountain.' 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.)']