



Miss R. Taylor – 1935 (Edition 1)

Miss Ruth Taylor was commended by Howe Street assembly, Auckland, and went out to India in October 1935. She joined Mr and Mrs Revell at Kadayannallur and learnt the Tamil language. Her activities included meetings for women and girls with Sunday School classes in the villages and visiting in the homes of the people.

In 1943, after being several years in New Zealand because of the war with Japan, she returned to India to supervise a school at Vadamalapuram. There were 82 students and she had good opportunities for teaching the Scriptures. Other activities carried on were medical treatments in the dispensary and village visitation to sell the Scriptures and to hold open air meetings.

Sankaranainarkoil became her new home in 1948 with fresh opportunities while she maintained her interest at Vadamalapuram and Elavankulum. Miss Taylor had adopted several Indian girls for whom she cared, giving them a Christian upbringing and one of those girls was baptised at that time. In 1952 they moved to Madurai where the largest Hindu temple in South India was situated. The temple of Meenakshi with its four towers, 160 feet high, dominated the whole city. With her Indian woman helper Suppammal, Miss Taylor commenced meetings for women, a Sunday School in English and another in Tamil and a weekly meeting amongst the nurses at the government hospital. The small assembly of some 30 [sic] believers had several outreaches both in homes and in the open air with which they were able to identify.

The Indian brethren commenced a small Bible School at Madurai in 1955 and Miss Taylor at that time added women's meetings in the local prison to her already busy programme. They were promoting a very effective Emmaus Correspondence School as well. In 1956 the assembly built a new hall and on most occasions the unsaved outnumbered the believers. Miss Taylor also had a real interest in literature encouraging local believers to engage in that outreach. In 1963 the Meenakshi temple was rededicated after some renovations and they estimated 400,000 visitors were added to the 500,000 already in the town. They distributed 40,000 tracts and remarked they would never forget so many outstretched hands.

During the 1960's they had more opportunities than they could possibly cope with in the way of cottage meetings and those at different institutions. Following a crusade in 1966 they spent a lot of time looking for people who had made professions at the meetings but the Lord blessed their efforts even if it did take three hours to find one home. Everywhere they went they distributed further literature. In those years too Miss Taylor took other girls into her family some earlier girls having been married and now having families of their own. The early 1970's were rather disturbed times with riots in many parts. However the unrest often helped the spread of the Gospel as Miss Taylor found sometimes 150 women prisoners in the goal to listen to her message instead of the usual 30. In 1971 she had cataract operations that were successful. Together with Miss Warner who had been at Madurai since 1962 she was able to get adjoining flats and continue their work in the city. In 1973 there was a major crusade in the city with up to 8,000 people at some of the meetings, with the necessary visitation to follow.

Meetings with the nurses at the hospital has been a very profitable and fruitful work over many years.

[Source entry includes an uncaptioned photo of Miss Taylor and another titled 'Some of the girls Miss Taylor has helped']