

Children's Ship

John Williams was one of the missionaries sponsored by the LMS in the early 1800s. He reached the island of Tahiti in November 1817. His passion was to bring the gospel to the people of the islands of the south Pacific. A major difficulty he faced was transportation between the islands. Once, he discovered a partly built ship on a beach which he spent weeks building to a seaworthy vessel and named "The Messenger of Peace."

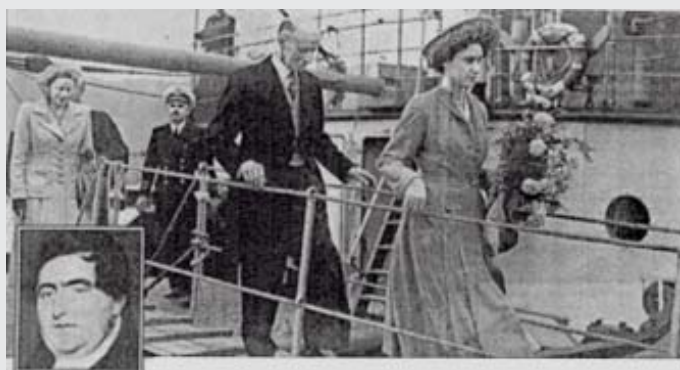
He returned to England only once in his remaining years, and that was to raise money for a new boat, 'The Camden'. Cutting short his zealous work in the spread of gospel, he was killed and was made a meal of by cannibals on the beach of the island of Erromonga on 20th November 1839. The last journey of 'The Camden' was to return to England.

The LMS decided to appeal to Churches for money to buy a new ship to continue the work. In one local church a group of children overheard the anxious discussions and decided to do what they could to help. They wages and by selling their possessions. Gradually, more and more children round the country joined in the challenge. It is written about the children "...selling their toys, their lunches, working extra shifts, a boy working down the mines..." they tried to raise the necessary fund.

A total of £ 6000 was raised, and the first 'John Williams' sailed on 15th July 1856. Over the years, the children continued to save money and a total of seven 'John Williams' ships were commissioned. Considering the extraordinary involvement of the children of the Churches with these ships, they were often referred to as 'The children's ship'. Our Church also had the privilege to contribute our mite to this great legacy in 1948, by contributing for the purchase of the John Williams VI. The last of the John Williams ships, the John Williams VII was decommissioned in the mid 1970s.



John Williams I, 1856



Princess Margaret names the John Williams VI in 1948, Inset: John Williams

1949



M. Rossbury

Mr. M. Rossbury was appointed as evangelist in place of Mr. J. Seilayam.

Mrs. T. Jepagnananam expired. The funeral service was conducted on 25th October 1949 by Rt. Rev. A. H. Legg.

1950

Dr. Michael Joseph, former deacon of our Church passed away on 12th September 1950.

Mr. Albert Joseph took over as organist from Mr. J. John.

1951

Mr. Bose Chandran served as organist from 1951 to 1952 as Mr. Albert Joseph had resigned.

Election of the members of the diaconate was held on 1st June 1951.

The members elected were Messrs. T. Y. Harris, V. Ponnambalam, S. I. Sumanam, William Peter, J. J. Thomas,



Bose Chandran



J. J. Thomas

A. N. Sathyanesan and Mrs. E. Devasikhamony. Messrs. V. Ponnambalam, William Peter and J. J. Thomas were elected as Secretary, Treasurer and Accountant respectively.

1952

In January 1952, the YMCES conducted a variety entertainment programme for raising funds towards the Papua Missionary Fund of the LMS.

Mr. Albert Joseph took charge as permanent organist from August 1952.

1953

It was proposed to raise the local middle school as a high school by the corporate manager of LMS schools.

Mr. M. Rossbury, Catechist was transferred to CSI Irumbil and Mr. S. Isaac from Kaliakkavila was posted with effect from 1st June 1953. A send-off was given to Mr. Rossbury on 31st May, after the morning service.

Rev. S. John, Principal of the KUT seminary, Kannammoola was given a send-off as he was leaving for USA.

The Church gave contribution to support the work of the mission to lepers as requested by Rev. G. W. Trowell, M.Sc. He was the treasurer of the diocese and he had a very active involvement in the Church.

Mr. K. John worked as peon in the church during this period.

A special united service was conducted on 1st November 1953, with all the city Sunday schools participating, on the occasion of All India Sunday School Day Celebrations.



E.L. Clement

Miss. Ponnammal Sanyasini conducted meetings in our church on 19th and 20th November 1953.

YMCES organised a carol service on Wednesday 16th December 1953 with Mr. E. L. Clement as convener.

Mrs. Achsah Lazarus wife of Rev. J. Lazarus passed away on 4th May 1953. Her demise was a great loss to the evangelistic works of the Church especially during Onam season (Onam week evangelistic campaign). She was the daughter of Mr. Joshua



Mrs. Achsah Lazarus

Sarasam an evangelist of Chani. She was the Matron of the Wills Boarding Home for girls and Women's Hostel from 1919 to 1950 till she retired.

1954

A memorial service was held along with the evening service on 21st February 1954 for J. Jesudas, who passed away at Vellore.

Mr. K. Dasan was appointed as acting church keeper as both the sexton Mr. Viswasom and peon Mr. K. John were sick and were inpatients in the hospital.



Paul Sudhakar

Special services were conducted every day from Sunday 11th April 1954 during the Passion Week. Speakers for the services were Mr. Paul Sudhakar and Sevak Mr. V.C. George of Varkala Asram. Mr. John Dharmatheerthar, B.A., LLB preached in the morning service on 29th May 1954.

Election of deacons was conducted on 30th May 1954. The elected deacons were

Messrs. S. I. Sumanam, William Peter, J. J. Thomas, V. Ponnambalam, A. N. Sathyanesan, P. M. Benjamin and Mrs. Kamala Bai K. Das. Mr. S. I. Sumanam was appointed as secretary, Mr. William Peter as Treasurer and Mr. J. J. Thomas as accountant at the first committee meeting held on 4th June 1954.



P. M. Benjamin

Members of the advisory board of the LMS English School were elected on 9th June 1954. The elected members were Messrs. William Peter, A.N. Sathyanesan, V. Ponnambalam and J. J. Thomas.

YMCES conducted a song service on 10th November 1954 with Mr. A. Johnson as convener.

Rev. Sam A. Sobhanam went on medical leave following severe illness. The district council appointed Rev. S. John to be the supervision pastor while Rev. Sam A. Sobhanam was on leave.

Mr. A. N. Sathyanesan died on 19th November 1954. The Church committee put on record its deep appreciation of his valuable and meritorious services and sent a condolence message to his eldest son, Dr. J. S. Sathyadas.

Mr. John Samuel became deacon and member of the advisory board of the English school on 8th December 1954 in place of Mr. A. N. Sathyanesan.

Mr. Ponnambalam became acting Secretary as Mr. S. I. Sumanam was ill from 8th December 1954.

YMCES conducted the carol service on 16th December 1954. A Christmas Eve and carol service was conducted by the Church choir.

1955

A send-off was given to Rev. G. W. Trowell on Sunday the 25th February 1955 after the morning service as he was going on furlough.

YMCES celebrated its anniversary for the year on 3rd March 1955.

On 25th March 1955, an ordination service was conducted for 6 men in the church.

A farewell meeting was arranged for Rev. J. A. Jacob, District Minister on 5th April 1955 in the church.



Mr. & Mrs. C. K. Das

As Bishop and Mrs. A. H. Legg were going on furlough, a send-off was given to them on 10th April 1955 after the morning service. Mr. C. K. Das and Mr. S. I. Sumanam spoke on that occasion. Mr. C. K. Das served as Chief Secretary to Government. His wife Mrs. Kamala K. Das was a member of the diaconate.

Mrs. A. H. Legg resigned from the post of Sunday school superintendent as she was going on furlough. Mr. A. Ponniah, B.A., B.T. was appointed as superintendent on 8th June 1955.



Opening of TJM Hall

The Triple Jubilee Memorial Church Hall (TJM Hall) was dedicated on April 11th 1955 by Bishop Rt. Rev. A.H. Legg. Mrs. A. H. Legg unveiled the foundation stone. All those who laboured for the hall were gratefully remembered. The names of Mr. S. I. Sumanam (Secretary) and Mr. Charles (Contractor) deserve special mention.

Rev. R. C. Das and Sadhu A. N. Sirkar of the NMS proposed to conduct special services and healing services in the church from 3rd to 6th May. The Church committee informed that the church would be made available for the special meetings

on 3rd and 6th May. However as 4th and 5th May were proposed for healing services, the church and the church hall would not be available for the same, suggesting at the same time the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall as the suitable place for such meetings.

The Young Women's Christian Endeavour Society and Girls Christian Endeavour Society conducted an entertainment program at the TJM Hall for raising funds for the TJM Hall on 11th June 1955.

In the absence of Bishop A.H. Legg, Rev. J. E. Kesari acted as the Bishop's Commissary.

Our pastor Rev. Sam A. Sobhanam passed away on 22nd June 1955. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. J. A. Jacob, the District Minister on 23rd June. A memorial service was conducted on Sunday the 3rd July after the evening service by the district minister Rev. J. A. Jacob and the Bishop's Commissary Rev. J. E. Kesari. Messrs. L. A. Nessiah, J. Ross Chandran (YMCES), John Samuel, P. Albert (BCL Union) and Rev S. John spoke on the occasion.

A team of delegates from the Christian Endeavour Society of Assam visited Trivandrum on Wednesday 6th July 1955. A special service was conducted at 6.30 p.m. in the church.

The BCES conducted variety entertainment program at the TJM Hall on 23rd July 1955 for collection towards the Hall Fund. Sunday school classes were held in the TJM hall from Sunday 17th July 1955.

As in the previous years the diocesan council for the year was held on the 1st and 2nd of September with a communion service on 1st September.



Communion set

Mrs. Chinnamma Antony of Barton Hill donated a private communion set consisting of a bread plate and four cups made of silver in a leather case. This is still

in use for administering communion to invalids and the aged members of the congregation who cannot attend the church.

As Rev. Sam A. Sobhanam expired, Rev. J. E. Kesari served as the acting pastor of M. M. Church.

Photography was prohibited inside the church. The first instance of photography inside the church was on 29th September when in violation of the existing norms, the district minister Rev. J. A. Jacob permitted photographs to be taken inside the church during wedding.

The complete rewiring and reinstallation of the electrical system was done in the church for a total cost of Rs. 2078/9/0. The work was done by contractor P. V. Johnson under the guidance of Mr. William Peter.

Rev. Frank Shoot spoke in the evening service on 6th November. The electrolier light (chandelier purchased in commemoration of the pastorate jubilee) was shifted from above the pulpit to the centre of the aisle.

Rev. G. R. Stelter of the Lutheran Mission was given permission to hold a public meeting of the South Travancore branch of the Bible Society to be held on 25th November.

On 14th December 1955, the golden jubilee celebrations of the NMS were held at the TJM hall.

Mr. David Koilpicha of Ambasamudram conducted kathakalakshepams in the TJM hall on 11th and 12th December.

Mr. S. I. Sumanam resigned as Secretary on 14th December 1955. The committee put on record their appreciation for his valuable services. Mr. Ponnambalam who was the acting secretary since 8th December 1954, was made Secretary after him.

Toc H

Toc H is an international movement that began as a service club of British soldiers at Poperinge, Belgium during World War I under the initiative of Rev. P. B. ("Tubby") Clayton, the army chaplain. The name Toc H is the military code for the initials of Talbot House, where they met. When they returned to civilian life, it became a movement and spread to many countries.



It was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1922 and its headquarters are in Buckinghamshire, UK. Each branch of Toc H would be issued with a lamp used for the traditional 'Ceremony of Light' at meetings.

There was a unit in Trivandrum as early as in 1927, but it went into hibernation when the British officers left following Independence. Early members included, Messrs. T. Sawyer, Bain and Dr. Jeevanayagom.



Toc H Trivandrum Branch - 1928



Toc H Trivandrum Branch - 1960s

In 1960, Lt. Col. W. S. Rasalam, Deputy India Commissioner of Toc H, restarted the unit which met every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Wills Hostel prayer room. The pastor of M. M. Church, served as Hon. Padre of Toc H also.

Many members were from M. M. Church including Messrs. J. E. Rasalam, S. J. Silas, J. Devadason, J. Japamony, P. Devadas, V. Somervell, H. Fletcher, G. V. Sundaram, Justin S. Jesudason, S. P. Christudas and V. Justin. Mr. J. Japamony served as hon. India Commissioner and Mr. V. Justin as South India Regional Secretary. The construction of the church at Gough Hill, Sreekariyam was a service project carried out by the branch.

During the 1970s, there were over twenty active units in South India. The activities have diminished in many places, but the Trivandrum unit is still doing silent service.

Indian Christian Association

The ICA was formed in 1958. Adv. P. James was the founder Secretary and he continued as such for more than 25 years. The activities of the Association included rendering financial help to the poor, recognizing and felicitating outstanding persons in our community, conducting Christian cultural programmes, etc. They conducted a series of *kadhakalakshepams* by Vedanayagam Sasthriar of Madras and music concerts by Nataraja Mudaliar. Founder members included Messrs. A. Gunamony, Dr. J. E. Rasalam, S. J. Silas, G. S. Oliver, P. Sundaram, Vidwan P. Albert, G. Devanayagom, T. Y. Harris and C. J. Titus.



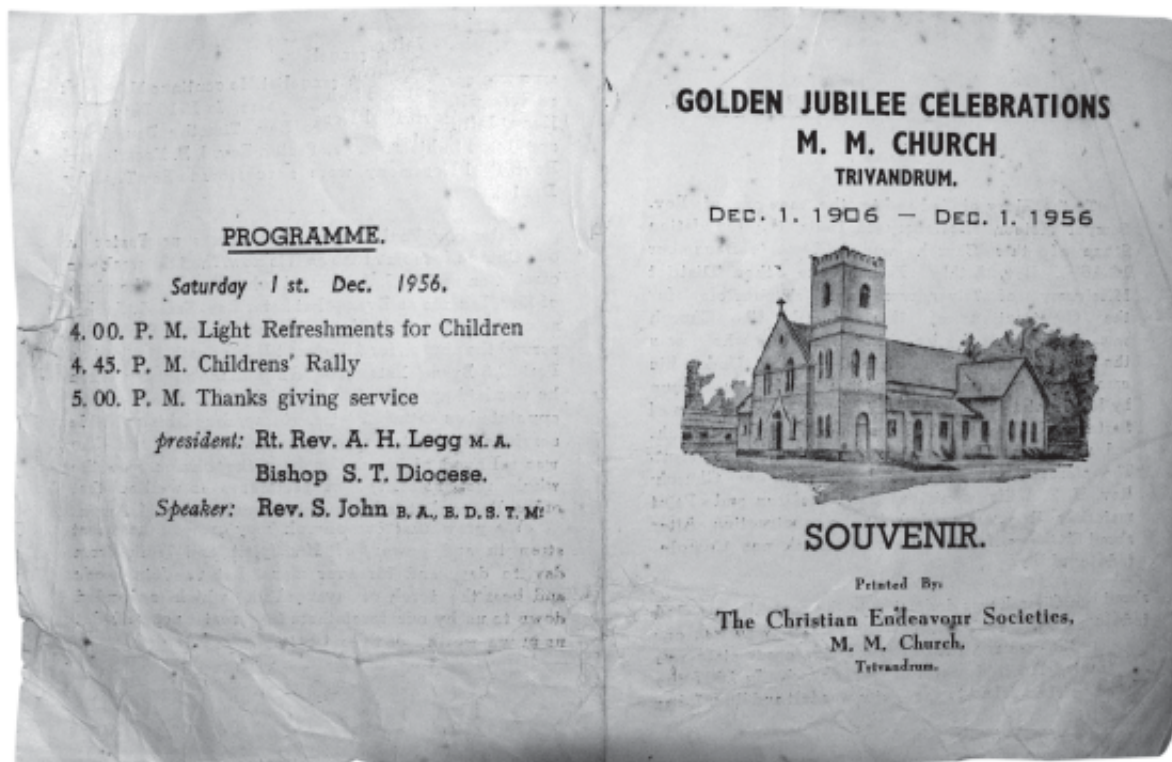
Felicitation to Mariarputham, PSC member by ICA

South Travancore Gospel Band

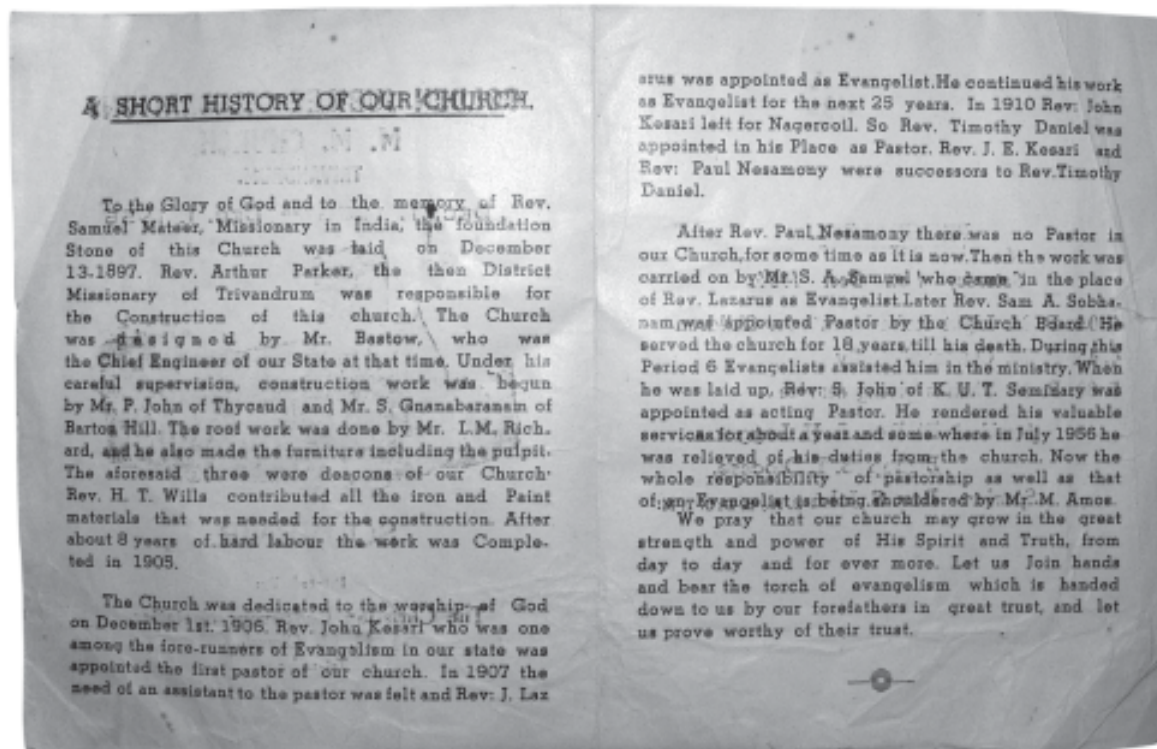
The South Travancore Gospel Band was founded in 1913 by a small group of men under the leadership of the late T. C. Varkey, native of Eraviperoor in Central Travancore. It was decided to launch a voluntary evangelistic campaign in South Travancore. Their method of work is described as follows: "Choosing a church as centre for the monthly work, the members assemble on the Friday of the full-moon week and tarry there the next two days working...until Sunday evening meeting...Morning and evening services are held in the church...In the night meetings magic lantern lectures on the life of Christ are also given. After the morning service the members go out in the villages in three or four batches visiting the houses...The afternoon hours are used for intercessory prayers, Bible study and holding special meetings for children...Open air preaching is also undertaken in the afternoons by 5 p.m..."

The founding president was Mr. J. Thapasimuthu, succeeded by Rev. R. H. Eastaff in 1932 and in 1950 by Rev. J. A. Jacob. From 1953, our bishops have served as President. Over eighty members, including Messrs. L. A. Nessiah, P. J. Bhanu, David Lazarus and J. Devadas participated in the work from time to time. Evangelistic work was done not only in the South Kerala and Kanyakumari dioceses of the CSI but also in the Salvation Army and Lutheran churches when invited. They undertook evangelistic tours to Tamilnad in 1961 and 1972. They periodically visited the open jail at Nettukaltheri near Neyyar Dam. Though establishing churches was not the aim of the Band, at the suggestion of Bishop William, they came forward to establish places of worship at Kottukalkonam, Choodal (built by our CEYF) and Iyathi (near Balaramapuram Spinning Mills).

The Silver Jubilee and Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Band were held at Abbs Memorial Church, Parassala in 1938 and 1963 respectively. The Diamond Jubilee celebrations were held at the M. M. Church in 1973.



Golden Jubilee Souvenir published by the CEYF



YMCES organised a labour week for cleaning the furniture and church premises and for washing the floor of the church during the Christmas Vacation.

1956

The 150th anniversary of the arrival of William Tobias Ringeltaube (Ringeltaube day) was celebrated on Wednesday 25th April 1956 as the LMS Triple Jubilee Day. A special meeting was held in the church hall. Special order of services were used for the celebrations. Thank offerings and collections taken on the occasion were credited to the Diocesan Central Families Fund.

Mr. S. Isaac evangelist was relieved from M. M. Church on 6th February following transfer to Muzhucode and Mr. M. Amos was appointed from 7th February 1956.



M. Amos

On February 19th and 20th special meetings were held by Mr. John Dharmatheerthar.

The pupils of the Sunday school conducted a Fancy Sale in July 1956 to meet the expense of prize distribution.

A missionary of the Evangelical Alliance Mission, Rev. Saunders conducted special meetings from 2nd to 4th April.

Mr. S. I. Sumanam and Mrs. C. K. Das resigned from the diaconate on 20th April 1956. Mr. S. Moses and Dr. J. E. Ralasam were elected in their vacancies on the same day.



T. Joseph

Mr. T. Joseph conducted Bible classes on Fridays from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the TJM hall during this period.

Bishop and Mrs. A. H. Legg returned from furlough. The pastor, deacons and Church members welcomed him at the railway station and escorted him to the LMS

compound. A meeting for welcoming him was held on 13th May 1956 at the TJM Hall.

A cordial farewell was given to Rev. S. John after the morning service on 27th May 1956 under the presidentship of the district minister at the church hall. Mr. John Samuel spoke on the occasion. He left the Church on 1st June 1956.



Rev. S. John

As per the committee's sanction, the organist purchased a kettle drum and tambourine for the use of children's unit of the Church during functions in the church hall.

The committee meeting of 13th June 1956 was chaired by Mr. M. Amos, church worker. This is the first instance of an evangelist chairing the committee meeting.

Mr. V. Ponnambalam resigned from the post of Church secretary on 11th July 1956. On 18th July 1956, Mr. William Peter was elected as secretary. On 8th August 1956, Mr. S. Moses was appointed as secretary in place of Mr. William Peter.

On 14th August 1956, at the initiative of the organist Mr. Albert Joseph, screening of "concert on film" was done in the TJM hall.

The golden jubilee of our church was celebrated by the Christian Endeavour Society by holding a thanksgiving service between 5 and 6 p.m. on 1st December 1956. A four page souvenir folder containing a short history of our church was published on the occasion.

1957

The regular communion service usually held on the 1st Sunday of the month was shifted to second Sunday in March 1957 to suit the convenience of the Bishop.

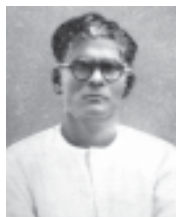
In January 1957 the charge of the Church secretary was given to the church worker (Mr. M. Amos) for one month in the absence of the secretary.

Election of deacons for the next triennium was held on 9th June 1957. The members of the diaconate elected were Messrs. P. Albert, T. Y. Harris, A. Ponniah,



P. Sundaram

P. S u n d a r a m . S. Moses, William Peter and Dr. J. E. Rasalam. Messrs. P. Albert,



P. Albert

T. Y. Harris and A. Ponniah were elected as secretary, treasurer and

accountant respectively on 12th June 1957. On 19th August 1957, Messrs. S. Moses, H. B. Isaac and



A. Ponniah

Dr. J. E. Rasalam were elected to the diocesan council as representatives.



S. Moses

The first Sunday in July (7th July) was observed as Theological Education Sunday and collections made were sent to the Synod treasurer.

After a year and a half of dedicated service, Mr. Amos left the service of our Church on 20th June 1957. The committee put on record their appreciation of his valuable service. Mr. M. G. Mathew was appointed in place of Mr. Amos on the same day.



M. G. Mathew

A send-off was given to Mr. Amos on Sunday 15th September 1957 after the evening service. He was presented with a Bible on the occasion. Tamil Evangelist Mr. G. Gnanasikhamony was appointed in the beginning of July 1957.



G. Gnanasikhamony

On 10th June 1957, the Church committee noted that the Valiyathura Church and Kannammoola Church had already left from the control of M. M. Church to that of the Trivandrum district and requested that as Katachakonam (Rekshapuri) Church was self

sufficient with collection from within and contribution from individuals of the M. M. Church congregation, it may also be put under the control of the district. Thus, as on 1st June 1957, M. M. Church was the only unit remaining in the erstwhile pastorate group. This was ratified in the district council in August 1957.

As per the request of Rev. V. William, Principal of the KUT Seminary, permission was given to the students of the KUT seminary to preach on Thursdays in our church.

The TJM hall was not being given for conducting marriage functions at this time. (Permission was not given for its use for the marriage of the grand daughter of Mr. J. Viswasom, sexton in September 1957.)

Orders of services in Malayalam and Tamil were made available to the congregation for use in the church services, during this period.

Rev. H. Hewett who served as a missionary for many years in our midst passed away. A memorial service was conducted on Sunday 13th October 1957 after the evening service, presided by the Bishop Rt. Rev. A. H. Legg.

In December 1957, Mr. Bonus Isaac requested permission to decorate the church and conduct a dinner in the church compound. The Church committee gave permission for "peaceful and suitable decoration on Christmas eve outside the church, in the church compound subject to the approval of the church worker, it also being provided that there is no financial commitment. As for the dinner the Church committee does not feel that the church compound can be used for the purpose."

In December 1957 water supply installation was done to the church houses.

1958

On 19th January Messrs. Paul Sudhakar and John Dharmatheerthar conducted special evangelistic meetings.



G. W. Trowell

Rev. and Mrs. G. W. Trowell were welcomed (presumably following return from furlough) by the Church in a special meeting held after the morning service on Sunday 9th February 1958.



Send-off given to Rev. Trowell on his departure for furlough in 1955

A United Vacation Bible School (VBS) was started for the first time in Trivandrum in 1958. The first VBS was conducted from April 22nd to May 4th 1958. Children from various churches participated.

Summer school of music was conducted for the first time (as per available records) in 1958 by the organist Mr. Albert Joseph. It was held for one whole month with the participation of students from different congregations.

A request was given to the Government, to give free of cost about one acre of land for use of the cemetery adjoining the present graveyard.

A send-off was given to Rev. J. E. Kesari, district minister on 25th May 1958 after the morning service, following his retirement. He had previously served as our pastor in the 1920s.

Mr. G. Gnanasikhamony was relieved from duty following his transfer on 14th June 1958. Mr. Malhia was appointed in his place on 15th June 1958.

26th August 1958 was celebrated as Choir Day.

Mr. James D. Isaac, secretary of the All India Christian Endeavour Union visited our church in August 1958.

Kadhakalakshepams by Mr. B. Vedanayagom Sasthriar of Madras were held on 1st, 2nd and 3rd September in the TJM hall under the auspices of the Indian Christian Association.

Following the appointment of Rev. S. Alfred as pastor, a meeting was held on 28th September 1958 after the morning service to express good wishes and to welcome him. Send-off for Mr. M.G. Mathew who was leaving was also given at the same meeting. Mr. William Peter chaired the meeting and Mr. T. Y. Harris spoke on the occasion. Rev. S. Alfred took charge of the pastorate on 1st October 1958.



Rev. S. Alfred

Miss Molly Fletcher, (Bible School, Attingal) was inducted into sisterhood, to the Women's Order of the CSI, at an induction service conducted in our church by Bishop A. H. Legg on 13th December.

A reading desk was fixed on the pulpit to raise the level of the books suitably. (Originally there was only a flat portion in the pulpit to keep the books which was 6" lower than the present height)

Installation of sewerage system for the parsonages was proposed in November 1958.

1959



K. Johnson

Mr. K. Johnson, Sunday school secretary was deputed to attend the Christian Conference at Madras from 4th to 10th January 1959.

In February 1959 Mr. Clarence Thomas requested to change the Sunday school timing to the morning, after the morning service. The proposal was put across to Mr. A. Ponniah, Sunday school superintendent for consideration and report. (This was put into practice in 1981 following another proposal.)

The General Body which met on 1st March 1959, approved a proposal to upgrade the LMS UP School,

Cantonment and a High School Committee was formed with Mr. S. J. Silas as convener. On 13th November 1960, the Church committee resolved to request the manager of the school to apply in time for the upgradation at the beginning of the school year 1961-62 and even to sponsor the application fee of Rs.30 at his request. In 1961 there was a proposal to take over the management of the LMS UPS but the Church committee recommended a three-member advisory body (Messrs. S. J. Silas, J. J. Rajaiah and Miss Siromony Isaac). In May 1961, it was decided to give Mr. S. J. Silas Rs.25 for further expense in connection with the upgradation. Also, Miss Fletcher, Attingal, was to be requested to give the old mission bungalow there at a nominal price to M. M. Church for the benefit of the LMS UPS. During the same period a sum of Rs. 1000 was advanced to the school towards maintenance. The Church committee even requested the Education Board to appoint the Church committee to manage the school. An estimate of expenditure for the conduct of a recognized High School was prepared. However, even in 1962 Govt. sanction for upgradation was still being awaited and applications were put up again in the succeeding years with M. M. Church sponsoring the application fee. In 1966, a grant of Rs. 250 and a loan of Rs. 750 was sanctioned to the school. The project was not realised.

The Vacation Bible School for the year 1959 was conducted from 2nd April to 14th April.

Summer School of music was conducted from 15th April at the TJM hall.

20 years after the initiation of the "fan fund", the installation of fans in the church got underway in the year 1959. The cost of installation of the fans was estimated at Rs. 5700. Call for quotations for the supply and installation of the fans was advertised in the dailies, Kerala Kaumudi and Malayala Manorama.

During the special meetings held in the Passion Week, Mr. Paul Sudhakar and Mr. Paul Aseer Lawrie spoke.



S. J. Ebenezer

A light was donated by Mr. S. J. Ebenezer of the Allied stores to commemorate the arrival of Ringeltaube.

As Mr. M. Malhia, Tamil Church worker was leaving the Church, a farewell meeting was held on Sunday 28th June 1959 after the evening service. Mr. G. Christudas joined as Tamil Church worker on 1st July 1959 in place of Mr. Malhia.



G. Christudas

District Minister Rev. J. A. Jacob passed away on 27th June 1959. A memorial service was held on Sunday the 12th July after the morning service in the church.

In July 1959, following the request of the Secretary, YMCES, a lending library with an almirah in the western vestry of the church, under the control of ex-officio president of the YMCES (Pastor) was permitted. It was also proposed to use one of the school rooms of the old primary school from 5 to 6.30 p.m. as reading room. On 21st January 1960, it was proposed that the library would be under the supervision of the pastor, 2 members of the Church committee and the vice-president, secretary and treasurer of the YMCES. Mr. T. A. Thomas donated Rs.151.10, Mr. Gladstone Moses a bookshelf and the pastor donated a collection of books to the library. Miss. Hepzibah donated another shelf with books in memory of Rev. J. Lazarus.



Miss Hepzibah

G. Devanayagom was appointed as the Executive Secretary of the Fancy Sale for the year 1959 by the general body held on 8th November 1959. A committee consisting of 39 members was also nominated.

1960



S. J. Silas

The election of deacons for the next triennium was held on 8th May 1960. Messrs. P. Albert, T. Y. Harris, A. Ponniah, P. Sundaram, G. Devanayagom, S. J. Silas and Dr. J. E. Rasalam were elected. On 15th May 1960, Messrs. P. Albert, T. Y. Harris and A. Ponniah were elected as Secretary, Treasurer and Accountant respectively. Mr. S. J. Silas, Mr. A. Ponniah and Dr. J. E. Rasalam were elected as diocesan council members.

A farewell was given to Mr. G. Christudas, outgoing church worker on Sunday, 29th May 1960 after the morning service. He was presented with books on the occasion. Mr. G. George was posted in his place on 1st June 1960.



G. George



Mrs Beatrice
Jesudasan

The marriage of Miss Beatrice and Rev. I. Jesudasan was conducted in our church. Miss Beatrice was the second daughter of Rev. S. Alfred and Mrs. Sara Benedicta Alfred.

Rev. George Parker, formerly Principal of Scott Christian College, Nagercoil and subsequently attorney of the LMS and Treasurer of the South Travancore Diocese passed away in England.

Rev. J. Lazarus, former evangelist and deacon, passed away on 11th October 1960. A memorial service was held on 30th October immediately after the morning service.

Rev. J. Eben Kesari former pastor and district minister expired on 27th October. A memorial service was held on 20th November 1960, presided by Rev. D. S. Sahayadas, District Minister. A sum of Rs. 25 was sent to the bishop of Kanyakumari for meeting the funeral expense of Rev. J. E. Kesari.

1961

Mr. T. A. Thomas donated Rs. 151.10 for purchase of books for the M. M. Church Library. Mr. Gladstone Moses donated an almirah worth Rs.110 for the library.



Gladstone Moses

Mr. Justin S. Jesudasan donated a small almirah worth Rs. 80 for the choir.

Mrs. R. H. Eastaff passed away in England. A letter of condolence was conveyed to Rev. R. H. Eastaff. A memorial service was held on 20th March 1960 with Bishop Legg presiding. Condolences were offered by Rev. S. Alfred, Mr. T. Y. Harris and Rev. D. S. Sahaya Das on the occasion.



D. S. Sahaya Das

Mr. Paul Sudhakar held gospel meetings at the church from 5th to 9th April 1961 and another meeting on 5th November 1961.

Rev. S. Alfred assumed charge as District Minister (The district comprised of M. M. Church and Valiathura, Kannammoola and Rekshapuri Churches).

As per the new constitution of the diocese, the pastor was also the treasurer of M. M. Church from 1st September 1961. The evangelist will help in the remittance of the monies every Monday and on the last working day of the month as at present. Consequently, the charge of Treasurer was shifted to the pastor from Mr. T. Y. Harris on 3rd September.

Messrs. P. Sundaram, G. Devanayagom and P. Albert were elected to the newly formed District Council.

Mr. J. Justus (Barton Hill) was appointed temporarily as additional sexton due to the illness of Mr. J. Viswasasam, sexton on 13th September 1961.



J. Justus



Rev. K. P. Philip became the Superintending Minister in Trivandrum. He was elected as the very first secretary of the diocesan council of the South Kerala Diocese. He was later conferred the title 'Very Reverend' by Bishop Samuel Amirtham in recognition of his meritorious services.

On 22nd October 1961, Mr. A. Ponniah resigned as Church accountant, and Mr. G. Devanayagom was appointed in his place.

Mr. P. M. Benjamin, former deacon, died on 25th October 1961 at the early age of 54 years. A memorial service under the initiative of the Christian Endeavour was held in the church. He was a Branch Manager of the LIC.

The Fancy Sale for the year was held on 16th December 1961. Messrs. V. Justin and Sam Justin Moses were nominated as secretaries along with 30 committee members.

1962

A farewell meeting was conducted on 11th February 1962 presided over by Bishop Legg as Mrs. and Rev. G. W. Trowell, Treasurer and Attorney of the Diocese left for England after their meritorious service in Trivandrum.

On 28th January a congratulatory meeting was held in honour of Bishop Rt. Rev. A. H. Legg on his election as Moderator of the CSI. The felicitation

address was given by Mr. T. Y. Harris. The Church also sent him a letter of congratulation signed by the pastor and secretary.

Mr. J. Justus was relieved of his duties as additional sexton on 28th February 1962.

Mr. P. A. Lawley of Charachira offered an almirah with good books costing Rs. 750 for the parish library. Later, Mrs. Lawly donated a shelf with books in memory of Mr. P. A. Lawly.



Mr. & Mrs. P. A. Lawley

Two offertory boxes were obtained and placed in suitable positions near the entrance of the church.

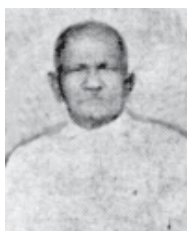


Miss Annamma Padmam

The election of deacons for the next triennium was held on 27th May 1962. Dr. J. E. Rasalam, Messrs A. Ponniah, S. Moses, T. Y. Harris, P. Sundaram, G. S. Oliver and Miss. Annamma Padmam were elected. In the Church committee held on 31st May 1962 Dr. J. E. Rasalam and Mr. A. Ponniah were elected as secretary and accountant respectively. Messrs. S. Moses, A. Ponniah and Dr. J. E. Rasalam were elected as delegates to the diocesan council. On 16th June 1962 Rt. Rev.



G. S. Oliver



Daniel Seth

A. H. Legg nominated Mr. Daniel Seth as additional deacon. This is the first instance of nomination of deacon into the diaconate from unrepresented categories. (The maximum number of nominees to the diaconate is two.)

A memorial service was held in memory of Rev. Thomas David on Sunday, 20th May after the morning service.

The peon, K. John was promoted as sexton and Mr. K. Dasan was appointed as peon from 26th August 1962.



K. Dasan

Mr. Viswasam, the sexton passed away on 6th September 1962. He served our Church faithfully for a long period. A memorial service was conducted on the following Sunday.

A proposal was made towards putting up of a combined shed and cycle stand at the north-west corner of the church compound.



L. A. Nessiah

Following request from Mr. L. A. Nessiah, Secretary of the diocesan council, a special thanksgiving service was held on Sunday, the 30th September 1962 on the anniversary of the CSI and collections remitted to the "Synod church building aid fund" through the diocesan treasurer.

Rules were framed for the church employees, with the pastor, evangelist or catechist to follow the diocesan rules regarding age and qualifications. For sexton and peon, qualification was fixed as literacy with sufficient physical fitness and age of retirement as 60 years and possibility of annual extension up to 5 years.

Fancy Sale for the year was conducted with Mr. P. Albert as convener and Messrs. V. Justin & Sam Justin Moses as Secretaries.

On December 1962, Mrs. Annlet Edward donated Rs. 1,000 towards the purchase of a mike set for the church. Subsequently a public address system was installed in our church during this period.

1963

Miss. D. Janet was appointed as acting Bible woman from 15th February 1963 as per decision of the general body of 14th October 1962

Three delegates were sent to the Women's Fellowship triennial



D. Janet

conference at Madras from 28th to 30th May 1963.

The Golden Jubilee celebrations of the South Travancore Gospel Band was held at the Abbs Memorial Church, Parassala from 28th April to 1st May. The Church donated an amount to Mr. L. A. Nessiah, convener of the celebrations for the same.

It was decided to start English service in the evening on the last Sunday of each month and one other Sunday, from June 1963.

The choir was shifted to the pulpit area for a time.

Discussions were held on possible extensions to the wings of the church building (eastwards and westwards) and for an opening on the northern side of the church tower for the bell to be audible to the northern area also. There was also a proposal for a balcony at the southern end. A fund called the M. M. Church Renovation Fund was to be created and Rs. 1000 transferred at the end of the year.

Swamy John Dharmatheerthar held a meeting at the church on Sunday, 17th November 1963.

Mrs. Elizabeth Devasikhamony, first deaconess of our Church passed away on 20th December 1963.

Fancy Sale for the year was conducted with the same office bearers of the previous year viz., P. Albert, convener, Sam Justin Moses and V. Justin secretaries.

1964

In January the choir was shifted from the pulpit area to the western wing of the church.

Messrs. Victor E. Joseph and Martin Packiaraj were sent as delegates from YMCEs to the Youth Conference at Punalur from 21st to 24th April.

Mr. G. George, Tamil evangelist, was relieved on 31st May 1964 to return to Kanyakumari diocese. Rev. B. Bhanuel was appointed for a year as Tamil Assistant from 15th June 1964. A special meeting



Rev. B. Bhanuel

to bid farewell to Mr. G. George and to welcome Rev. B. Bhanuel was held on Sunday, 26th July 1964 after the morning service.

The Indian Christian Association conducted 'spiritual Kathakalakshepam' by Vedanayagom Sastriar of Madras at the TJM Hall from 7th to 13th September 1964.

The name of the M. M. Church Women's Union was changed to M. M. Church Women's Fellowship.

1965



Justin S. Jesudasan

In 30th May 1965, a new Church committee was elected with Messrs. S. Moses, A. Ponniah, Justin S. Jesudasan, G. S. Oliver, N. Yohannan, P. Albert and Dr. J. E. Rasalam. On 6th June, Mr. S. Moses was elected as Secretary



N. Yohannan

and Mr. A. Ponniah as Accountant. The Bishop nominated Messrs. Daniel Seth and Harold Bhanu as members of the diaconate on 9th



Harold Bhanu

June. Messrs. G. S. Oliver, N. Yohannan and Dr. J. E. Rasalam were nominated to the Diocesan Council.

A farewell meeting for Rev. B. Bhanuel, Tamil Pastor who was transferred on 31st July was held on 15th August 1965. Mr. John Retnamony was appointed as Tamil Evangelist in his place on 1st August 1965 and was welcomed at the same function.



John Retnamony

The N. M. S. Trivandrum branch was permitted to hold a Thanksgiving Service on 10th October 1965 at the church and the collections at the service were given to them.

The Church sanctioned Rs. 3,000 to be paid to the Christian College Fund, Kattakkada.

1966

A send-off was given to Bishop and Mrs. Legg on the eve of their departure to England. An address prepared by Mr. T. Y. Harris, the pastor and the secretary was presented to the bishop. They were also presented with a cash present of Rs. 201. The Church committee gave an at-home to the



Rt. Rev. and Mrs. A. H. Legg

Bishop, and a group photo was taken. Rt. Rev. I. R. H. Gnanadasan, bishop of Kanyakumari was Moderator's Commissary till a new bishop was consecrated.



I. R. H. Gnanadasan

Rev. S. Alfred took the initiative to put up a name board in front of the church, noting the details of the church

services. It was sponsored by the BCL Union with the help of Messrs. N. Yohannan and Noble Albin.



Noble Albin



Name Board

The Church committee resolved that photography inside the church would not be allowed thereafter for marriages since it spoils the sanctity of the church.

This year's fancy sale was conducted on 17th December 1966. The proceeds of the fancy sale were utilized for the renovation of the church building and the cemetery chapel. Mr. D. Harris Fletcher was the convener.



D. Harris Fletcher

Mr. S. J. Silas, former deacon passed away on 22nd November 1966. Mr. V. Ponnambalam, former deacon and Church secretary also passed away on 13th December 1966.



Justus Lazarus

Mr. Justus Lazarus used to lead the Tamil services in the absence of Tamil pastors. He was a senior Sunday school teacher and a leader in YMCES.

Rt. Rev. Isaac Richard Harrison Gnanadasan, Bishop of Kanyakumari was in charge of our diocese as Moderator's commissary from February 1966, after Bishop A. H. Legg retired, to 2nd July 1967, when Rev. William Paul Vachalan was consecrated and installed as bishop.



William Paul Vachalan

1967

The services of K. John, sexton was extended for one more year from 1st January 1967 and again from 1st January 1968.

Morning Tamil service was introduced on Christmas days and Easter days from this year.

The youth organizations of the Church; - Christian Endeavour, Sunday school, BCL Union, etc. - were requested to collect a sizable amount towards the gift of a motor canoe to Papua, through the Committee on Missions.

It was decided that a fee of Rs. 100 be levied for reserving a place in the cemetery by either the husband or wife near the tomb of the deceased partner.

Seven delegates viz., Messrs. T. Jayakumar Alfred, Evancer Sahanam, Winfer Jose, Samson Nessiah, Sooja Jones, Ms. Jothy Jayavathy and Ms. Sujana Bai attended the Youth Conference at Quilon from May 3rd to 5th.

Mr. Vedanayagom Sasthriar conducted Kalakshepam from 4th to 11th June at the TJM Hall under the auspices of the Indian Christian Association.

Rev. R. H. Eastaff expired in 1967.

The Church was shocked by the sudden demise of Rev. S. Alfred on 26th September 1967. He was buried at the cemetery on 27th September 1967. Bishop William Paul Vachalan conducted the service and Mr. T. Y. Harris gave the eulogy.

In the absence of a pastor, Rev. I. Jesudason and Rev. G. Robinson conducted the worship services in the church till a full time pastor was appointed. The Tamil evangelist



Rev. I. Jesudason



Rev. G. Robinson

Mr. N. John Retnamony was put in charge of the Church. He was also the Treasurer of the Church.

Mr. M. J. Edward, Nanthencode was appointed as acting peon in the leave vacancy of Mr. K. Dasan from 12th October 1967.

It was decided to collect funds from the congregation for the purchase of an amplifier set for the church organ.

The Fancy Sale for the year was conducted on 9th December. The amount raised was set apart for the renovation of the church building.

| Ward | 14-12-66 | 11-01-67 | 08-02-67 | 08-03-67 | 12-04-67 | 10-05-67 | 14-06-67 | 12-07-67 | 09-08-67 |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Nanthencode | 124 | 147 | 154 | 164 | 166 | 171 | 173 | 175 | 181 |
| Palayam | 66 | 84 | 90 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 98 | 98 | 100 |
| Pattom | 63 | 82 | 97 | 102 | 106 | 109 | 120 | 125 | 128 |
| Thycaud | 13 | 32 | 40 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 48 | 48 | 51 |

Growth in the number of families

1968



Rev. I. S. David

Rev. I. S. David took charge as pastor on 1st April 1968.

In view of the theft of church records in December 1967, an iron safe was purchased to keep church monies, valuables, important records, and communion vessels.

Mr. John Retnamony was given a send-off on 28th April 1968 in which various organizations of the Church presented tokens to the outgoing evangelist. He was relieved from the Church on 30th April.

In 12th May 1968, the election of deacons was held. Messrs. S. Moses, A. Ponniah, H. Fletcher, P. Albert, N. Yohannan, G. S. Oliver and Iype Joseph were elected. Later,



Iype Joseph

Mr. C. Ponnen was nominated by the bishop on 13th July 1968. On 31st May 1968, the office bearers of the triennium were elected. Mr. S. Moses was elected as secretary and Mr. A Ponniah as accountant.



C. Ponnen

Messrs. N. Yohannan, G. S. Oliver and J. Wilson were elected to the diocesan council.



J. Wilson

Rev. D. Collins from Kanyakumari diocese took charge as part-time Tamil worker on 8th June 1968 and served till 31st August 1968. Mr. Y. Jebamony was appointed as Tamil evangelist from 1st September 1968.



Y. Jebamony

“Housing for the Poor Fund” was constituted in this year.

On 14th September, the secretary reported to the committee that the Church register which was stolen from the church was retrieved by the police and was returned by the efforts of Advocate Rajaretnam.

The sexton Mr. K. John retired on 31st December 1968. The peon, Mr. K. Dasan was promoted as sexton and Mr. M. J. Edward, acting peon was appointed as peon from 1st January 1969. (He served till 15th June 1969).

Fancy Sale was scheduled to be conducted on 14th December, the proceeds being utilised towards the maintenance of the church. The following persons were appointed towards the same: Convener - Mr. H. Fletcher, Joint Convener - Mr. Theophilus Joseph

1969

Mr. A. Ponniah resigned from the post of Sunday school superintendent. As per the provisions in the constitution, Rev. I. S. David took charge of the Sunday school on 1st January 1969.

Rev. I. S. David left on 30th March 1969 to the Christian Mission Service, Puthenkada. He was given a send-off on that day. Rev. J. D. Solomon was appointed in his place.



Rev. J. D. Solomon

Following the acceptance of the resignation of Mr. Iype Joseph on 11th May 1969, Dr. J. E. Rasalam, who was in the waiting list, was inducted in his place.

During this time the parish was divided into 8 areas, each under the supervision of a deacon of the Church so as to have better contact between the committee and the members of the Church.

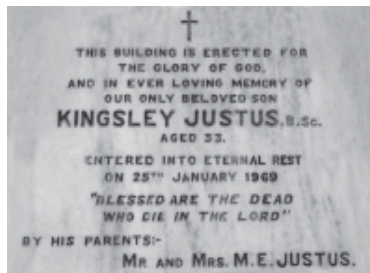
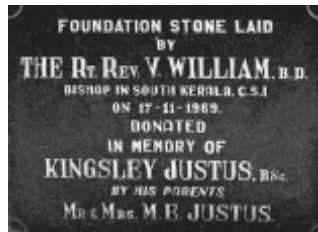
A quarterly bulletin was published, the first issue of which was in July 1969.



M. Johnson

Mr. K. John, retired sexton, was asked temporarily to do the duties of the peon from 15th June 1969 to 30th September 1969. Mr. M. Johnson, Ulloor was appointed as peon from 1st September 1969.

Mr. M. E. Justus donated Rs. 20,000 for the construction of a two storied building with an office room and cycle stand in the ground floor and a hall on top, in memory of his deceased only son Kingsley Justus. The foundation stone was laid on 17th November 1969 by the bishop Rt. Rev. William Paul Vachalan and the Kingsley Justus Memorial building was dedicated on 19th July 1970 by Rev. J. D. Solomon.



The construction was done by J. Nelson, contractor, Thekkummoodu. The entire expense of Rs. 33,112. 41 was borne by the family.

75 cents of land was sanctioned by the diocese for extension of the cemetery compound.

Mr. William Peter, former deacon and secretary, passed away on 23rd December 1969.

Fancy Sale for the year was held with Mr. H. Fletcher as the Convener and Mr. Theophilus Joseph the Joint Convener.

1970

The Rev. J. D. Solomon proceeded on leave to England for studies on 30th June. He was given a send-off on 28th June 1970. In the leave vacancy, Rev. M. Rossbury was posted from 1st July 1970.

Due to the ill health of Mr. Y. Jebamony, Tamil evangelist, Rev. D. Collins conducted the Sunday Tamil services during this period.

The Indian Christian Association held gospel meetings by Mr. Nataraja Mudaliar on the 21st, 22nd & 23rd August 1970 at the TJM Hall.

At the initiative of Dr. John Kirk Patrick, the diocese was requested to grant 50 cents of land in the headstation compound for constructing a health centre.

Mr. T. N. Rasalam presented 3 hymn-boards (display board for hymn numbers) similar to the one donated by his father, Rev. T. W. Rasalam, in 1918.



T. N. Rasalam

Fancy Sale for the year was held on Saturday the 12th December. Mr. H. Fletcher was the Convener, Theophilus Joseph and J. Wilson, Joint Conveners.

1971

The church organ was got tuned by a specialist under the supervision of Mr. J. Thompson, brother of Mr. Albert Joseph. Later, he was a band master at Palayamkottai.

The Church committee forwarded a petition signed by Mr. J. Wilson and 120 other members and well-wishers of the M. M. Church, to the bishop, protesting the proposed sale of some land from the LMS Compound by the diocese.

Since Rev. J. D. Solomon informed that he had accepted a post under the K. N. H., the leave vacancy became a permanent one and the Church committee suggested to the Pastoral Board a panel containing the names of Rev. I. Jesudasan and Rev. G. Robinson, one of whom may be posted as pastor of M. M. Church. Rev. A. Isaac was posted as pastor from 1st May 1971.

During the election of deacons held on 16th May 1971, Messrs. S. Moses, A. Ponniah, G. S. Oliver, H. Fletcher, N. Yohannan, Justin S. Jesudasan and Dr. J. E. Rasalam were elected as deacons. Messrs. Peter Jacob John and Daniel Seth were nominated by the bishop on 13th June 1971.



Peter Jacob John

Mr. S. Moses was elected as Secretary and Mr. A. Ponniah as Accountant of the Church committee during the subsequent committee held on 23rd May 1971. On 13th June

1971, Messrs. G. S. Oliver, S. Moses and N. Yohannan were elected as diocesan council members.

The church office was opened in the ground floor of the KJM Building this year.

A representation was sent to the bishop regarding the ownership, possession and management of the TJM Hall.

The Prayer Partners Fellowship arranged gospel meetings by the American evangelist Mr. Orion T. Rhodes at the LMS UPS premises with permission to use the church building in case of rain.

Rev. A. C. Kolle of the KNH from West Germany preached in the morning service on 26th September 1971.

The Gideon's International, Trivandrum Camp was permitted to conduct their monthly meetings (1st Monday) at the KJM Hall.

Cine artist of national repute M. Sathyan, one of our members, passed away on 15th June 1971 and was buried in our cemetery. Bishop William

Vachalan conducted the funeral service. He was married to Mrs. Jessie James, daughter of Mr. J. R. James, a former deacon of our Church.

Fancy Sale for the year was held in December with Mr. H. Fletcher as convener and Messrs.

J. Wilson, Theophilus Joseph, Clarence Thomas and M. Wills as joint conveners.

1972

Mr. Paul Sudhakar arranged a convention from 30th January 1972 to 6th February 1972 with Messrs. Augustin Salins and Sam Kamalesan as chief speakers.

Repairs to the roof of the church and proposal for an additional ventilator in the northern side of the tower, to make the bell audible to that side also, were done during the period 1972 -74.

At the recommendation of Rev. A. Isaac, the M. M. Church, Evangelistic Band was formed, with Mr. N. Yohannan as convener. This was, subsequently known as the Gospel Band from its dedication on 27th May 1973 by Rev. I. Jesudasan, Moderator's Commissary.

The 26th of September 1972 was celebrated as CSI Jubilee Day with decorations in front of the church and a procession before the morning service.



Rt. Rev. Lesslie Newbigin

Our bishop, the Rt. Rev. William Paul Vachalan was called to eternal rest on 5th November 1972. The funeral service was held the next day in our church, officiated by Rt. Rev. Lesslie Newbigin, Deputy Moderator of the CSI. A memorial service was



Funeral of Bishop William Paul Vachalan



M. Sathyan

also held in our church on the 12th November 1972.

A TAMI (Teens And Twenties are Most Important) meeting of the Youth for Christ was held at the KJM Hall on 22nd November 1972.

Fancy Sale was conducted with Mr. H. Fletcher as Convener and G. Sathiadas as Joint Convener.

1973



Festival week
Logo

A week long "Church Festival" was held from 21st to 27th January 1973 at the suggestion of Mr. Justin S. Jesudason. The original decision was to celebrate such a week each year, adopting a special theme. The theme for 1973 was "Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world." A souvenir edited by Prof. J. M. Stewart was also published on the occasion. The logo for the celebrations was designed by Mr. G. Moni.



Prof. J. M. Stewart

Ponnammal Sanyasini held a series of meetings for 3 days in the church.

On 18th February 1973, following the suggestion from Miss A. Padmam, the Church committee decided to request the congregation to remain standing when the bride enters and when the couple leaves during marriage services.

The Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the South Travancore Gospel Band was held at the church and the KJM Hall from 7th May to 12th May 1973.

Mr. Stephen L Jeevanayagom gifted an almirah for the domiciliary medical evangelism programme of the YMCES.

Rt. Rev. I. Jesudason was consecrated and installed as Bishop of the South Kerala Diocese on 5th August 1973 at our church. Rt. Rev. Lesslie Newbigin, Deputy Moderator, was the chief celebrant.

Most Rev. Dr. I. R. H. Gnanadasan, bishop of Kanyakumari Diocese and Moderator, died on 6th

July 1973. He had begun service as a pastor in Parasuvaikkal.

The Bible Woman, Miss. Janet Devadasan retired due to ill health on 16th July 1973.

It was decided to construct a more spacious and permanent chapel in place of the existing cemetery chapel, and to put up an iron gate at the entrance.

Mr. S. Moses resigned as Secretary on 21st October and Mr. Peter Jacob John was appointed in his place on the same day. On 28th October as Mr. Peter Jacob John expressed his inability to continue as secretary, Mr. Justin S. Jesudasan was appointed in his place.

Fancy Sale was conducted on the second Saturday of December with Dr. Sugunan K. Das as convener and Messrs. M. Wills, Winston I. Paul, Miss. Premila Janelet and Mrs. Mitchel as the joint conveners.

1974

Mrs. Jeevaratnam Paulayyan was appointed as Bible Woman from 11th February 1974.



Jeevaratnam

At the triennial election on 26th May 1974, Messrs. Justin S. Jesudasan, A. Ponniah, G. S. Oliver, H. Fletcher, P. Albert, S. Moses and N. Yohannan were elected to the Church committee.

Mr. Justin S. Jesudasan was elected as Secretary and Mr. A. Ponniah as Accountant on 9th June 1974. Messrs. C. Ponnen and Peter Jacob John were nominated by the Bishop on the same day. Messrs. N. Yohannan, A. Ponniah and H. Fletcher were nominated as delegates to the diocesan council.

Orion T. Rhodes Evangelistic Mission conducted a pre-campaign meeting and film show at the TJM Hall on 12th August 1974.

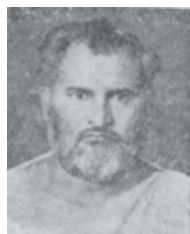
Mr. Vedanayagom Sasthriyar conducted Kathakalashepam under the auspices of the Indian Christian Association.

The Home Church, Nagercoil conducted a carol service in our church on 21st December 1974.

Fancy Sale was conducted with Dr. Sugunan K. Das as convener and Messrs. M. Wills, Winston I. Paul, Miss. Premila Janelet and Mrs. Mitchel as joint conveners as in 1973.

1975

A meeting was held on 26th January 1975 at which the bishop released a book on the late Rev. S. Alfred (*Ottam Thikachu*).



Sadhu Kishan Singh

The Passion Week messages were given by Sadhu Kishan Singh, a well known preacher, and his daughter Kumari Sheela. He again preached in our church from 6th to 8th February 1976.

The inaugural meeting of the Trivandrum Branch of the Bible Society was held on 1st September 1975 in the church under the chairmanship of the bishop.

After a long controversy, it was decided to permit memorial/thanksgiving services within the church by the Bishop or Pastor or some authorized person.



Dr. S. Jones

It was proposed by Rev. J. W. Gladstone and Dr. S. Jones to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the LMS congregation in Trivandrum.



Rev. J. W. Gladstone

Fancy Sale was conducted with Dr. Sugunan K. Das as convener and Messrs. M. Wills, Winston I. Paul, Miss. Premila Janelet and Mrs. Mitchel as joint conveners as in 1974.

1976

Mr. P. Albert, deacon, passed away on 10th February 1976. A memorial service was held on 28th March 1978 jointly with the BCL Union at their request.

Mr. T. Jayakumar Alfred, who was next in the waiting list of deacons was invited to serve in the Church committee in place of Mr. P. Albert on 15th February 1976.

Rev. A. Isaac was transferred and Rev. Varghese T. Lee was posted to the Church from 1st June 1976. A send-off was given to Rev. A. Isaac on Sunday the 30th of May 1976.



Rev. Varghese T. Lee

Based on the decision of the general body, Mrs. Sathyan was permitted to hold a memorial service in the church in 15th June 1976, a request which had been denied in previous years.

The old cemetery chapel was dismantled and the contract for building a new one at an estimated cost of Rs. 28,989 was awarded to Mr. J. Babu, Kesavadasapuram. The new chapel was dedicated on 2nd November 1976 at 8 a.m. The actual cost was Rs. 28,447.49.

There was a proposal that the Sunday school be conducted after the morning service also. (Till then, the Sunday school was conducted only in the afternoons.)

The proposal of the Gospel Band for a chapel at Nemom was accepted. (This was later fulfilled as the Platinum Jubilee Memorial Church).

Mr. S. Moses functioned as accountant during the illness of Mr. A. Ponniah.

Bricks, sand, slabs, etc. would be stocked at the cemetery to be sold for construction of graves on no-profit, no-loss basis.

Fancy Sale was conducted with Dr. Sugunan K. Das as convener and Messrs. M. Wills, Winston I. Paul, Miss. Premila Janelet and Mrs. Mitchel as joint conveners as in 1975.