India
Christian Mission

Report for the year 1916
India Christian Mission

Centres:
Mahagastotta, Nuwara Eliya, Ceylon: Ellore, East Coast, India

ARTHUR S. PAYNTER, Founder and Director.

U. S. A. Advisory Council—Office: 113 Fulton St., New York

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Mr. William Schulkins............................................Toronto
Mr. Allan Watt.......................................................Toronto
Saratapally Ankuliah, a new convert in South India, who has recently suffered persecution for Christ's sake. He was most severely beaten by High Caste Hindoos.
1916

One thousand nine hundred and sixteen has been to the India Christian Mission a year of stress and storm, but a year, too, of much blessing.

Mr. Paynter was away from the field for the first seven months of the year, having sailed from Seattle, U. S. A., in July. Journeying mercies were vouchsafed to him and, with his daughter and Miss Houston, he arrived in Ceylon on September 6th.

Mrs. Paynter and her fellow-workers—particularly Mr. and Mrs. Billington—bravely bore the burden and heat of the day during the Director’s absence.

Immediately on Mr. Paynter’s return two important Mission Council meetings were held, Mr. Billington coming to Nuwara Eliya to take part in them.

The accompanying statement of accounts will give friends information as to the finance of the mission during the year. The workers tender their thanks, in the Master’s Name, for every gift received for His work in their hands in dark India.

The prospects of the Mission were never brighter, and the prayers of God’s people for the work and workers never more urgently needed, than to-day.
SOUTH INDIA

In writing a brief report of the work in Ellore and district during the year 1916 we look back with thankfulness for the privilege of being the humble messengers of the Lord in heathen India.

Sunshine and shadow have mingled in the year that has passed. Sunshine and shadow will mingle in the year that we meet. But hand in hand with the Master, we fear not what it may bring. “He knows, He loves, He cares. Nothing this truth can dim.”

Christ has been our Guide, our Way, our Protector and our Provision. As a Mission He has richly blessed us and we praise Him for all. The work has grown in a remarkable manner. In many villages it has been a year of sowing and the day will dawn when “we shall come rejoicing bringing in the sheaves.”

The following villages were opened during the year:—Apparaopalem, Apparoopet, Monduru, Joginnapalem, Bogalie, Aguragudem and Remellie.

Seven new Village Day Schools were recognised by the Government, schools which will be regularly inspected by Government Inspectors. The reports of the Inspectors concerning these schools were, on the whole, exceedingly good.

Distress and Suffering.—The Kolair section of our field has suffered much from floods. In November, thousands of acres of rice were destroyed, and hundreds of houses were washed down, the country becoming one great sea of water. Many of our Christians were brought to the verge of starvation. The floods were followed by a very serious and prolonged outbreak of cholera which claimed hundreds of victims. Even as I write cholera exists in some of our villages.

Free-will Offerings.—$ 196 (£ 40-17-6) was the amount given by the churches during 1916, which, bearing in mind the floods and cholera epidemic, is very good.

Government Grant.—$ 296.66 (£ 61-15-9) was given us by Government as Grants-in-aid for our Village Day Schools.
The Sunday School children of Ellore Town and S. S. Teachers. Taken January 1, 1917.
The Outlook.—Perhaps the outlook was never brighter than now. There are many thousands of villagers still waiting for the Gospel. We believe it possible, if we have men and money, for the mission to reach thousands of souls during 1917. Such an outlook calls for a note of praise and encourages us to expect the greater things. But much, very much depends upon those who hold the ropes in the Homelands. If they let go the ropes it will surely affect the work out here, but, if by grace, we labour, love and pray together, great will be the blessing which God, even our God, will pour out upon poor dark India.

Yours in bonds,

C. H. BILLINGTON.
E. M. BILLINGTON.
Group of Church Members and Friends, Nuwara Eliya, Ceylon. Taken January 1, 1917.
CEYLON

The work in Nuwara Eliya, Ceylon, is of an entirely different nature to that of Ellore, and in some respects more difficult. The labourers however rejoice in the promise “My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

Two new Day Schools have been opened during the year, both of them among poor and greatly neglected children. The School at Mahagastotta, under the care of Miss C. Wijiyakoon, has twenty-one children on the rolls, whilst that for poor girls in Nuwara Eliya town has a roll-call of thirty-three, and is under the experienced superintendence of Miss N. Nathanielsz.

The High School, with its staff of five teachers, has fifty-three children on its roll and continues to do good and useful work. Miss M. L. Houch has had charge of the School for three years. The Government Agent (Chief European Officer of the district) with his wife, was present at the Christmas Treat of the School, and in various ways has manifested interest in the work.

A nice piece of land has been leased to us at a nominal rental by the Government Agent for the Poor Girls’ School, and it is hoped that a suitable building will soon be put up for the school. The sum of £133 ($666) is needed for this purpose, but Christians in the Homelands are not asked to contribute to it. It is felt that local friends should bear this responsibility. A good start has been made.

Last month the Governor of Ceylon, by proclamation in the Government Gazette, handed over to us a suitable plot of land for use as a cemetery.

Steady work has been maintained in the two Tamil Sunday Schools in Nuwara Eliya. A small—very small—beginning has been made with the Women’s Bible Training School, and three Singhalese young women are being trained by Mrs. Paynter who has had much experience in this branch of the work.
Mr. C. W. Edwards, of London, England (see page 9) on elephant kindly lent by our friend the Rajah of Bhadrachellum.
NORTH INDIA

The brethren in Berenag, North India, who are working in alliance with the India Christian Mission, report blessing and converts notwithstanding very severe times of financial faith-testing. Mr. G. F. Grundy states splendid Gospel work is being done by the leading lay Christians and adds “In all our unprecedented struggle to keep the work together it is really wonderful how the Lord supplies our daily manna from Heaven in unforeseen and wholly unexpected ways.”

Two heathen families living near Choupetta here recently been won to the Lord.

THE INDIA CHRISTIAN MISSION
A London (England) Merchant’s Testimony

“COME AND BUILD A HOUSE IN OUR VILLAGE!”

BY WILLIAM C. EDWARDS

“I had the pleasure of visiting the Station at Ellore, and staying in the Mission Bungalow with Mr. Billington and others, and visiting the villages of the surrounding district.

It was my privilege to speak to some of the gatherings at the various villages we visited.

I found no mission in all India where the work was carried on so economically, and nowhere more faithfully than at Ellore. I wish that many could go and see for themselves the work done and help in it.

I remember very vividly speaking in a village where the men came out of a temple to listen, and cried out, ‘Come and build a house in our village!’ I recall a deputation coming some miles to ask the same favour. My deliberate opinion is that what India needs is village work and schools where the Gospel shall be taught, together with a useful, sound education by earnest native Christian schoolmasters. When that day dawns the Gospel will go forward as we have never seen it, and may never see advance in the wicked cities of the East.

I heartily support and recommend the Mission. The hope of the Indian Christian Church is the village work.”

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Eighty heathen converts have confessed the Lord in baptism in the South Indian field during the last three months. They belong to the following villages:

| Village     |  
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bogallie    | ...| ...| 12|   |   |   |
| Thumbasage  | ...| ...| 14|   |   |   |
| Mondaru     | ...| ...| 10|   |   |   |
| Joginnapalam| ...| ...| 16|   |   |   |
| Pedda Sap   | ...| ...| 18|   |   |   |
| Company Sap | ...| ...|  4|   |   |   |
| Sreeramaram | ...| ...| 60|   |   |   |

We record with deep sorrow that the Romanists have entered our field in South India, and have built a church in a village only a mile from one of our stations. They have spent £133 ($666) on this building (a large sum in these villages), and we fear lest they may seriously endanger the work of the Mission. Earnest prayer is asked that Malachi 3: 11 may be fulfilled, “I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground”.

The India Christian community in the Ellore field numbers 3,335. “The care of all the churches” is no small burden. Remember the missionaries and pastors in constant prayer.

Mrs. Besant, an individual who is perhaps doing more harm to the kingdom of God in India than any one other person, has recently visited Ellore.

The Government of India (ever ready as it is to help the people of India in case of proved need) has rendered timely and invaluable aid to our poor people in the Kolair district, who suffered so greatly on account of floods—hundreds of acres of their crops having been destroyed.

The 1916 Annual Convention for the deepening of spiritual life held in Nuwara Eliya was a season of much blessing.
The 120 Christian Elders, Delegates from villages near Ellore, who attended the 1916 India Christian Mission Convention in Ellore.
There have been some encouraging sales of Scripture Portions in the Ellore District, a recent letter says “Just recently we have sold about 500 Gospels. Our object is to get 50,000 Gospels into the hands of the people.”

Cholera continues to rage in Ellore and the villages around, and, as we go to press, we learn that it is especially bad in Biarapatam, Mandavelli, Gannavaram and Managalur.

Consequent on the war, the price of food-stuffs has risen greatly in both Nuwara Eliya and Ellore. In the latter place the cost of some things has risen 75 per cent. and even 100 per cent.

A new untouched, unevangelised district near Ellore has been heavily laid on the hearts of the workers in that field. Prayer is asked that the way may be opened up for the Gospel to be sent to twenty thousand famishing souls there.

An I. C. M. Missionary writes, under date January 8th, “In October I went to preach in a village, and after preaching we sold a few Gospels of John. An intelligent looking man purchased one. He read it and not only read, but believed and found the Saviour. Two workers have just visited the village and found this man fully trusting in Jesus. He had begun family worship in his home, had preached Christ to his neighbours and now asks for baptism.” “The entrance of Thy words giveth light.”

The Government has just, in response to our petition, granted our Christians of the Kolair Lake District free fishing rights for the year. This is equivalent to a grant of £666.33 (£139-11-8) and will be a great help to our people who have suffered so much from the floods. We tender our warm thanks to the Government officers concerned.

There are thirteen students at present in the Village Pastors’ Training Home at Ellore.
WHAT A VISITING MISSIONARY THINKS OF THE WORK OF THE INDIA CHRISTIAN MISSION IN SOUTH INDIA

"Among India's Millions"

"Last month I was able to accept a long standing invitation from my friends, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Billington, who are working so successfully in the Kistna District, Madras Presidency. I was only able to visit part of this large Parish.' My first Sunday was spent at Thumba, here the church is eight years old, during that period 200 have been received into the church by baptism. I preached from St. John 3: 16 to an appreciative audience, the attention and quiet demeanor would compare favorably with many Western churches; and this is saying a good deal when you think of the natural loquaciousness of Eastern people. The service was followed by the Communion, when a number remained behind, to obey their Lord's dying request, 'This do in remembrance of Me.' In the afternoon a baptismal service was held in Ellore, ten men and two women, upon profession of faith, went down into the lake, a natural baptistry, and were baptised into the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. It was the first time that I had attended an Indian Baptismal service, the simplicity and beauty of the service greatly impressed me. Monday we visited Katapaludi and Julapudi. The school master here showed he had the military bump fairly well developed, for after I had addressed the scholars in the school, he marched them to the centre of the village, near the temple, when he put them through several European drills! The next day we were up at 3 a.m., to reach Tarepudi, a large village 15 miles from Ellore. Though the Mission has been working only one year in this village, the people have built their own church to accommodate 300 people, and 180 were present at the 6 a.m. service to hear the 'Glad News.' Other villages were visited during my stay, and Mr. Billington says there are many villages still untouched and for these needy places he longs to send teachers who will teach the villagers who are willing to listen and learn. 'The Fields are white unto harvest', and I would ask that friends would remember in prayer these devoted Missionaries and their band of workers. My report is all too short. I saw and heard much to gladden my heart."

GERALD R. COULTAS,
Panadura, Ceylon.

Fourteen young men, from one village, who recently confessed Christ in baptism.
MISSION PLANTATION AND BIBLE TRAINING SCHOOLS

Much time and labour has been expended in searching for land in which to make a beginning with the Mission Plantation. Twenty acres of land has now been secured and the work of clearing for cultivation has begun. The fact that Government is changing the tenure of crown lands in Ceylon accounts for the delay in obtaining land hitherto.

The leaders of the mission feel that the outstanding, pressing need of the work is the starting of Bible Training Schools. How vitally important is the establishing of these Training Schools is more and more impressed on the Missionaries of the India Christian Mission. Only last week tidings reached the Director of a bright young man who had entered a Theological College, and had been led away by soul-destroying, destructive criticism of the Word of God. Friends are entreated to join in prayer that the way may be opened, financially and otherwise, for the speedy establishment of the Plantation and Training Homes.

$3,000 (£625) is needed for each Training Home (Men and Women), and $1,500 (£312) per annum for upkeep of the Homes till the Plantation yields returns.

HOLD UP THEIR HANDS!

"The weary ones had rest, the sad had joy
That day; I wondered how.
A ploughman, singing at his work, had prayed
‘Lord, help them now.’

"Away in foreign lands they wondered how
Their simple word had power.
At home the Christians, two or three, had met
To pray an hour.

"Yes, we are always wondering, wondering ‘how’;
Because we do not see
Some one, unknown, perhaps, and far away,
On bended knee.”
INDIA CHRISTIAN MISSION

Abstract of Accounts for the year ending December 31, 1916

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<td>School Grants, etc.</td>
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One Rupee is equal to 33 Cents (1s. 4d.)

(Signed) MARY F. HOUSTON, Nuwara Eliya, Ceylon.

Audited and found correct, (Signed) H. M. HARRIS.
District Secretaries:—

Mr. J. B. Arthur, 2708 Alberta St., Vancouver, B. C.
Mr. L. Haynes, 107 Seventh Ave., West, Calgary, Alta.
Miss H. Homer-Dixon, Niagara Falls South, Ont.
Mrs. Judson McKillop, Pengarth, Sask.
Pastor I. H. Pritchard, Hamilton, Ont.

Representatives in Great Britain:—

Honorary Secretary: H. Bastow, Aalsand, Ashurst Rd., N. Finchley, London N.
Honorary Treasurer: Herbert Page, Chesham, Bucks.

Referees in Great Britain:—

James Boyd, Esq. ........................................... Manchester
Pastor D. J. Findlay ....................................... Glasgow
Rev. W. Hathaway (late Madras Civil Service) .... Bournemouth
Dr. P. S. Oram ........................................... Manchester
Commander P. Wolfe Murray, R. N........................ Shrewsbury
Cecil Polhill, Esq. (China Inland Mission) ....... Bedford
Colonel G. F. Poynder ................................... Bedford
Rev. George Savage, M.A. .............................. Brooke, Norwich
Rev. Joseph W. Kemp (Calvary Baptist Church, New York)...... Edinburgh
C. T. Studd, Esq., (late of China Inland Mission) .......... Africa

Mission Staff:—

| Missionaries                                      | 11 |
| Indian (Native) Missionaries                     | 9  |
| Indian (Native) Workers                          | 77 |
| **Total**                                        | 97 |
| South India                                      | 65 |
| Ceylon                                           | 14 |
| North India (in alliance with I. C. M.)          | 18 |
| **Total**                                        | 97 |
India Christian Mission
What We Stand For

THE BIBLE as being the Word of God, and God-inspired from the first of Genesis to the last of Revelation.—II. Tim. iii. 16; II. Peter i. 21.

A full and free salvation through the precious blood of Christ, upholding Jesus as the Saviour and Sanctifier of all who will hand themselves over to Him; baptizing them with the Holy Ghost and with fire.—Heb. vii. 25; I. Thes. v. 23; Jude 24; Luke iii. 16.

Simplicity of dress and living, and abstention from intoxicating drink and tobacco.—I. Tim. ii. 9; Matt. x. 9, 10; Rom. xiv. 21.

The equality of Indian workers with their European brethren ("God hath made of one blood all nations,") regarding a lack of oneness between Indian and European workers as perhaps the greatest hindrance to Mission work in India.—Acts xvii. 26; Rom. ii. 11; Gal. iii. 28.

The formation of self-controlling, self-supporting, self-propagating Indian Church.—Acts xvi. 4, 5.

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.—Matt. xxviii. 20.

Dependency on the Lord alone for support of work and workers.—Phil. iv. 19.

"Earnestly contending for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."—Jude 3.

"The heathen shall know that I am the Lord, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes."—Ezek. xxxvi. 23.