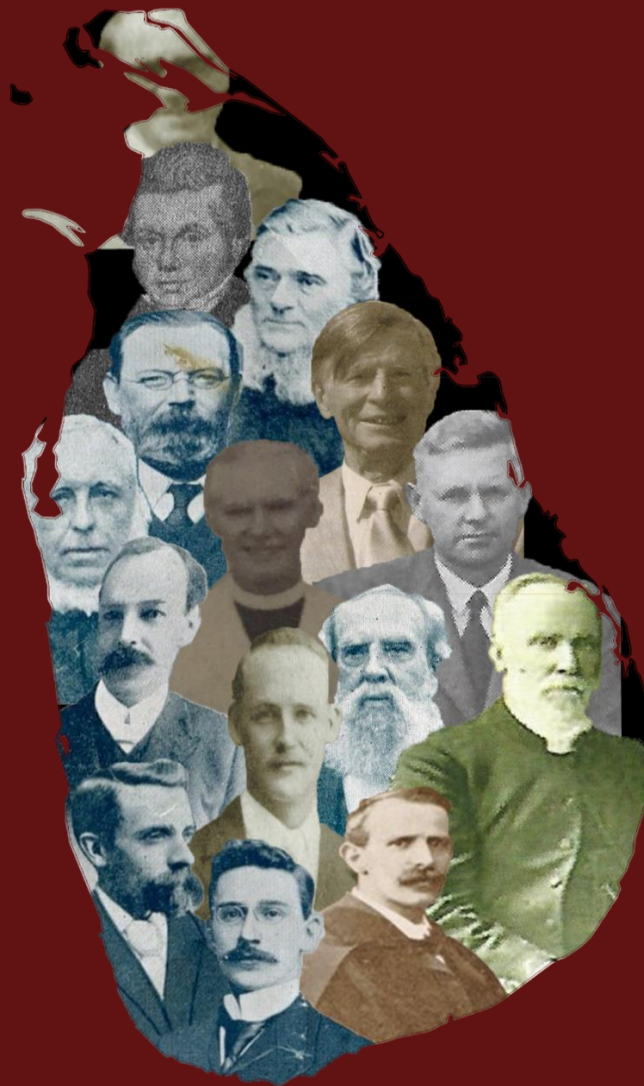


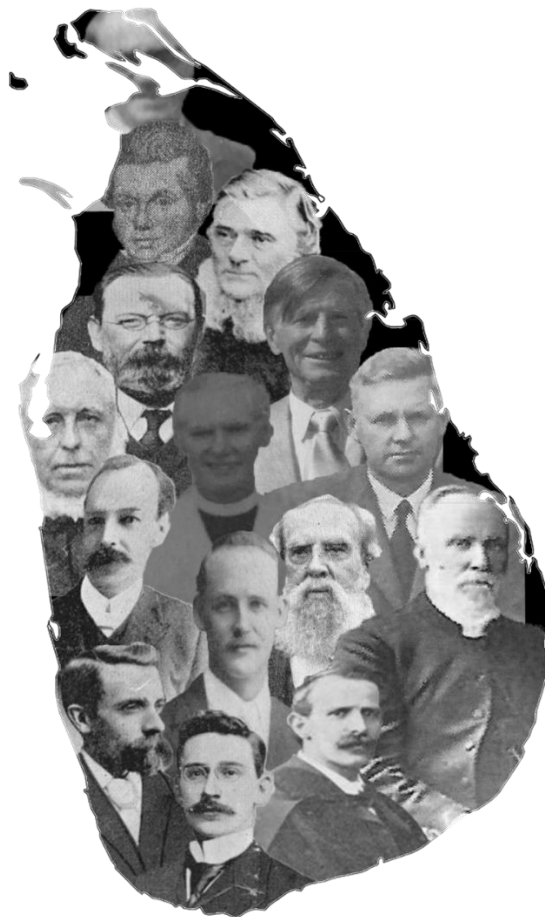
The Baptist Missionary Society (B.M.S)  
&  
**The Biographies of the Baptist  
Missionaries in Ceylon**



1812 -1997



**The Baptist Missionary Society (B.M.S)**  
**&**  
**The Biographies of the Baptist**  
**Missionaries in Ceylon**



**1812 -1997**

**Compiled by Mrs. Chitra Samarasinghe of the Hendala Baptist Church**

**2021**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE.....	7
REV. DR. WILLIAM CAREY .....	8
THE BMS MISSIONARIES IN CEYLON.....	26
REV. JAMES CHATER & MS. ANN CHATER .....	26
REV. EBENEZER DANIEL AND MS. MARIA DANIEL.....	30
REV. JOSEPH HARRIS AND MS. ANN HARRIS .....	34
REV. CHARLES CORNELIUS DAWSON AND MRS. SUSANNA (1841- 1850).....	35
REV. JACOB DAVIES AND MS. ELIZA DAVIES.....	36
REV. JAMES ALLAN AND MS. JANE ALLAN.....	37
REV. CHARLES HENRY AND HANNAH MORTON CARTER.....	39
REV. HENRY ROBERT PIGOTT AND MS. ELLEN PIGOTT.....	44
REV. FRED DAVID AND MS. MARIA C WALDOCK.....	46
REV. HENRY ALFRED LAPHAM AND MS. LAPHAM .....	50
REV. WALTER D. HANKINSON & MS. HANKINSON.....	51
REV. BRUCE ETHERINGTON AND MS. ANNIE ETHERINGTON .....	52
REV. JOHN ALEXANDER EWING AND MS. EWING .....	54
REV. H. J CHARTER ( B.A , B. D) & MS AGNES CHARTER .....	57
REV. S.F. PEARCE AND MS. EVLYN PEARCE .....	60
REV. JOHN BENJAMIN RADLEY & MS. FLORIE RADLEY .....	63
REV. TOM W. ALLAN & MS ALLAN.....	64
REV. R. C COWLING & MS. COWLING 1954- 1958 .....	66
MISS WINIFRED GRACE TURNEY .....	67
REV. ERIC SUTTON SMITH.....	71
REV. GEORGE ROBERTSON LEE & MS. BETSY LEE .....	73
B .M. S. MISSIONARIES WHO SERVED IN CEYLON / SRI LANKA.....	76
THE B.M.S COLOMBO MISSIONARIES .....	79
THE BMS MISSIONARIES WHO WERE THE PRESIDENTS OF THE CEYLON BAPTIST UNION .....	80
THE BMS MISSIONARIES WHO WERE THE PRESIDENTS OF THE CEYLON BAPTIST COUNCIL (C.B.C) .....	80
BMS GIRLS BOARDING SCHOOL COLOMBO .....	81
BMS ENGLISH SCHOOL MATALE – FOUNDED IN 1907 .....	85
CAREY COLLEGE COLOMBO.....	90
FERGUSON HIGH SCHOOL RATNAPURA – FOUNDED IN 1917.....	100
REV. WALTER STANLEY SENIOR 1906 – 1925 .....	105



## PREFACE

The Bible, in itself is a History book. The Pentatech ( the first five books) records the History of the Jews by Moses in God's words. Acts in the New Testament written by St. Luke presents the History of the Christian Church.

In keeping with Jesus' commandment " Go into the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" ( Mark 16: 15 and Matt: 28: 19) so, the early apostles took the word to many nations. Phillip to Samaria and Etheopia, Bartholemeus to Armenia, St. Paul to the cities along the Mediteranean sea and to Rome in Italy. The Roman Empire spread it to other nations in Europe including England.

The Baptists in England formed the Baptist Missionary Society (B. M. S. ) in 1792 and the first Missionary who came to Asia was Rev. William Carey of the B. M. S. He came to India in 1793.

In 1802 James Chater went as the Misionary to Burma and in 1812 he came to Ceylon. The main aim of the Missionaries was to educate the locals to be abled to read the word of God, to make their aim easy. They therefore started schools in the villages they visited. Eventually some schools were closed down. How ever thirty seven (37) schools including three (3) English Baptist Schools were handed over to the Government in 1960 according to the take ove Act.

This book consists of four parts

1. Founding of the Baptist Missionary Society in England and the first Protestant Missionary to the east.
2. Baptist Missionaries who served in Ceylon
3. The four B. M. S. English schools in Ceylon
4. The Anglican Missionary who wrote the Hymn for Ceylon

The intention in compiling this book was to give an insight to the Baptist History in Sri Lanka the then called Ceylon.

As the Persian proverb goes –

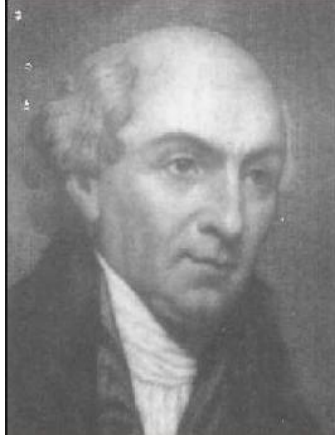
“ History is a mirror of the past and a lesson for the present”

You need to look to the past to form the present and move forward with the renewed hope to a glorious future.

May this book help the Sri Lanka Baptist community to progress triumphantly.

**REV. DR. WILLIAM CAREY**  
(1761 - 1834)

**FATHER OF MODERN MISSIONS**



*William Carey*

William Carey was born on 17th August 1761 in the village of Paulerspury in Northamptonshire in the midlands of England. This village boasts of a very old Anglican church and its cemetery. Careys had lived in Paulerspury for many generations. They were weavers by tradition and had their own looms in their cottages.

Weaving had been a cottage industry in this village. William Carey's Grandparents too were weavers. They had three sons. Peter had joined the British Army and had gone to America to fight the war over there. William had died prematurely and was buried next to his parents in the church cemetery. Edmund, William, Carey's father continued their traditional cottage industry of weaving on his own loom in his home.

Edmund was married and was blessed with four children. William Carey was the eldest and was born in 1761. Ann was the second born in 1763. Polly sometimes referred to as Mary was born in 1766. Tom the youngest was born in 1768. Carey's were comparatively poor. Their roof was thatched with wheat straw. Carey's mother was a good housewife who attended to all the household chores. The bread was baked at home, and the vegetables were grown in their own garden, the pigeons were reared in the back yard for roasting as other meats were too expensive to purchase for daily need.

In 1767 a new door was opened to Edmund Carey. The post of the church clerk at their village church fell vacant and Edmund Carey was offered the post as he himself was educated in the village school as a boy. He also had additional duties as school master of the parish church. So, the family shifted to the teacher's quarters in the church premises. The teacher's quarters too had a thatched roof but larger than their house. This paved the way for William and the siblings to be literate. William and his school mates had minor duties to attend to. They had to ring the church



bell at specific times, sing in the choir, sweep the church and the garden before the services. When they were free, they used to go for long walks in the countryside admiring the environment. William was a collector of nature, especially of rare plants, insects, fish, and birds. He planted his plants in the backyard and tendered it. He had the birds in cages, fish in small tanks and the rare insects and butterflies in bottles and boxes around and under his bed. He trained his siblings to look after them. At the age of 10 years he climbed the apple tree near their kitchen, from which he fell thrice fracturing his leg and was immobile for several weeks. Second time he fell and fractured his arm and the third time he fell he was unconscious even without remembering his own name for days with a head injury. But all these falls did not deter him from his ambitions in reaching the top of the tree. Next time he climbed to the top and shouted, 'I've done it.' As he grew up in wisdom and knowledge, he became a keen reader, reading books on heroes, nature, and explorations. His favourite books were Pilgrims Progress, Robinson Crusoe, Discoveries of Columbus and heroic characters in the Bible. From his childhood he was clever in Maths, History, and General Knowledge and was a brilliant student. As his father could not afford to send him to college for higher studies, he had to give up studies after grade 7, but his thirst for reading did not die. At the age of 12 he came across a Latin vocabulary book which he memorised and suddenly he realized that he could understand the pastor's ritualistic Latin during the church service which made William happy .

After leaving school in 1773 when he was 12 years old, he followed his uncle Peter who was a soldier but now a farmer. But young William missed his school friends. One day in 1774 he joined a friend to go and listen to Rev. John Wesley, a 70-year-old Methodist priest who had come to conduct an open-air service under the largest Elm tree in England at Towcester. He preached 1,000 sermons a year in different centres. William took a liking for his way of preaching. While William was still a gardener, he developed a rash on his whole body in 1775. He could not bear the summer heat of England though he bore the tropical heat of India for 40 years. His uncle Peter advised him to give up gardening because, if the rash got worse his brain too could be affected. So, he gave up gardening too. Now he was without a school nor a job. William's father added to his clerical job in the parish, went house visiting to give private tuition to get an added income. In 1776 when he went to Piddington, 8 miles away he got the news of a vacancy in a shoe shop as an apprentice. The owner Clark Nichols, was a good Christian who maintained a small library in the shop. As his son William was a lover of books the father thought that this was an ideal place for William. So, at the age of 15 William became an apprentice to a shoemaker. John Warr was his senior apprentice. They both resided in the attic of the shoe shop.

John was a Dissenter ( one who does not accept the doctrines of an established church but lives according to the Bible ). John's Grandfather had founded an independent church and his whole family were Dissenters. Though William was an Anglican he did not know much about the Bible as John. So, in the night both used to study the Bible, discuss, and debate on questionable matters and pray about them. As time passed, he became religious. In 1776 Christmas, William was sent on errands and he spotted a counterfeit shilling among his own change and he exchanged it with a

shilling in Clark Nichol's change. When Clark found out the theft, he confronted William who told the truth. So, he was pardoned. Because of John, William's way of life changed. William's habit of reading continued. One day he found a book amidst Nicol's books with an unknown dialect. So, when William went home to Paulerspury he took the book to show Tom Jones, who was an educated weaver. Jones at once said it was the Greek New Testament. Jones gave him a glossary and a grammar book in Greek language. So, with the help of the two books he learnt the Greek language on his own. William attended the meetings on Sundays with John. Not only William but Clarke Nichol's too changed and accepted Jesus Christ as their saviour in 1780. As time passed by Clark Nichol and John War got married. Now William was alone in the shop at night. Clark Nichol died of a sudden illness. After Nichol's death Thomas Old, a cousin of Clark's wife, who was in the shoe industry volunteered to supervise Clark's business too. He lived in Hackleton with his wife Elizabeth. Elizabeth had a sister called Dorothy or Dolly Placket. She was intelligent but illiterate. It is said that on the day of the wedding she was unable to sign her name on the marriage register. Elizabeth brought a marriage proposal to William regarding Dolly who was five years senior to him, and he was only an apprentice. In 1780 Williams sister Poly got a nervous disorder which developed later and became paralyzed at the age of 25 and was paralyzed for 50 years with only her right hand in working order. Therefore, she was able to write.

By 1781 William was 20 years old, and a fully-fledged shoemaker. William gave the consent to marry Dorothy. They got married on 10th June 1781 at St. John the Baptist church in Piddington. In 1782 summer, William and Dolly were blessed with a baby daughter Ann. During the winter, many people were down with a violent type of fever. William and baby both were down with the fever. William's mother came to nurse them. Unfortunately, the baby succumbed to the illness. William regained his health after a long time but lost all his hair.

Now William was searching for a church with true Biblical values. In the year 1783 William joined a Dissenter group called Baptists. He influenced his sisters Ann and Poly who were baptized in 1783 summer by Rev. Thomas Skinner a Baptist priest in the river Trove. On 5th October 1783 William himself was baptized by Rev. John Ryland a Baptist priest in the river Nen. On 31st December Thomas Old, Dolly's brother-in-law in Hackleton died after a brief illness. Now William was loaded with work and responsibilities. He had to support two families. They had to live a hand to mouth existence. William's own family and friends of Paulerspury helped him to survive. The entire responsibility of the shoe shop was on him. To enhance the income, he started to teach in his shoe shop. His friends jokingly referred to it as Carey College. By this time Dolly was expecting her second baby.

A new door opened to William unexpectedly. He was offered a teaching post in Moulton, eight miles away. He rented a house that had facilities to make shoes. On 25th March 1785 William and Dolly went to reside in Moulton and they were blessed with their son Felix. Added to his teaching responsibilities he thought of supplying shoes to a shop to get an added income. He went to meet Thomas Gotch a reputed businessman in Kettering the main town in the area to get an

order to supply shoes monthly. Gotch was himself a Baptist and had heard about William. So, he obliged to give the order to William.

William started to teach in his school. The subjects being Reading, Writing, Maths, Geography, History, Nature study, Science, Exploring and Christianity. During his free time, he did lay preaching here and there and continued his old profession of making shoes. Every month William used to go to Kettering from Moulton a 10 mile distance with a load of finished shoes and boots and came back with the leather he needed for the next month. William joined the Baptist church at Olney, pastored by John Sutcliffe. His habit of reading continued. He was reading the explorations of Captain James Cook's voyages. He continued his language studies too. He had already mastered Latin and Greek, later he learnt Hebrew from an Anglican Priest. He learnt French, Italian and Dutch from the locals. He made a large wall map of the world and hung it on the wall demarcating the countries where Jesus Christ is not yet known. He made a leather globe with the remnant pieces of leather and drew the world map. He was burned with passion to take the Gospel to the distant lands according to the Lord's great commission in Matthew 28: 19.

By 1786 William had taught his wife to read and write. In the same year he was offered the lay Pastorship of the Moulton Baptist Church which had been in existence from Sir Oliver Cromwell's period. William was not ordained but the Baptist congregations did not mind a Lay preacher being their Pastor. As William was a novice, he hesitated to take a decision. He consulted his mentor Rev. John Sutcliff. So, William became the Lay Pastor of the Moulton Baptist Church in 1786. In 1787 William's mother developed a throat infection and she died of it at the age of 50 years, one week before William's ordination. William Carey was ordained in the Moulton meeting house in August 1787 amidst twenty black clad priests including Rev. Ryland and Rev. Fuller. A collection had been gathered beforehand for William's black suite for his ordination. In 1788 William Carey baptized Dolly in a river while being pregnant. In 1788 they were blessed with another baby boy who was named William fondly called Willy.

In 1789 his sister Ann married William Hobson a farmer near Cottesbrooke. It was a happy family reunion. There he took the chance to tell them that he had been offered the Pastorate of the Harvey Lane Meeting House in Leicester. It had a large congregation. Ann encouraged him to take the offer. Rev. William Carey took the challenge where other pastors failed, and he went to Leicester. There they were blessed with the third baby boy who was named Peter. In three years' time there was a noticeable development in the church. Rev. William himself had developed mentally, spiritually, and intellectually. In Leicester he had many educated friends. Robert Phillip a radical journalist, Robert Brewing a botanist, Thomas Arnold a physician. The Guild Hall library lent him books. In the meantime, they experienced the birth and death of a baby girl named Lucy.

Rev. William Carey started to write a pamphlet urged by Thomas Potts, a young Deacon whom he had met in Birmingham forty miles west of Moulton. At the end, this pamphlet became an 87-page book with subtitles of five sections. The book was named 'Enquiry.' It was printed and advertised on 12th March 1792 in Leicester, Herald. The five sections being:

I. Is the great commission still binding? II. History of the missionaries from apostles up to present day III. The information he compiled on his world maps IV . The practicality of understanding missionary work in foreign countries V . Duty of the average Christian

On 30th May 1792, the Ministers of the Northampton Baptist Association which consisted of 24 churches, met for the first time at “ Angel's Inn in Nottingham”. Some of the priests who attended the meeting were Reverends Andrew Fuller of Kettering, John Ryland of Northampton, William Carey of Harvey Lane, John Sutcliff of Olney, Reynold Hogg of Thrapston and pastors of Guildborough Clipson, Arnsby, Nottingham, Foxton, Walgrave and Gretton. Rev. Carey was scheduled to preach on the following morning. His theme was based on Isaiah 54: 2-3 and ended his sermon with his Motto “ Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God.” and this was known as the cobbler’s sermon.

On 2nd October 1792 again the black garbed 12 clergies met at “Widow Wallis” house in Kettering where the Baptist Missionary Society ( B. M. S ) was founded. They collected 13 pounds, 3 shillings and 6 pence in Andrew Fullers empty Horn snuff box. William Carey had given one pound from the sale of his book “Enquiry ” towards the fund. Officers of the new society were Andrew Fuller, John Ryland, John Sutcliffe, Reynold Hogg, and William Carey. They agreed to meet once a month to plan the future. When one member inquired who was to go as the first Missionary to the east William Carey volunteered to offer his services. When his father heard about his son's decision he had screamed saying “your brother is a mad fool.”

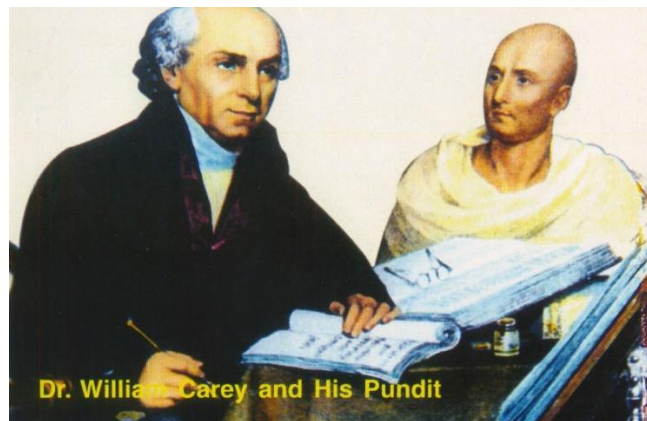


*Widow Wallis Cottage*

Dolly was expecting a baby again and she firmly refused to go with him, instead she opted to go to Hackleton her own village.

Dr. John Thomas a surgeon who was attached to the East India company and who had been a Medical practitioner in India, heard about the plan of the Baptist Missionary Society to send missionaries to India, he too offered his services. Rev. Andrew Fuller agreed to find out more about the Doctor and if he is a suitable person, he would invite him for the next meeting. On 9th January 1793 they held the next meeting at Kettering. William Carey preached on the last chapter of the book of Revelations. Dr Thomas too came for the meeting, but late. He knew Bengali the native language of the area fluently. His wife and daughter too were planning to go but none of them had obtained the necessary documents for the journey. On March 26th, 1793 William and Felix bade farewell to the family and came to London to board the ship “ Earl of Oxford” with doctor and family. They waited for days in “ Isle of Wright” till the convoy of warships came to escort them. Though the escort ships came Doctor was unable to join them as some persons had notified the shipping agents that Dr Thomas was in debt in England and in India. So, Dr William and Felix went back home. In the meantime, Dolly was blessed with their fourth son Jebez. They

were in their home for four months. During this period Dr Thomas was able to convince Dolly and her sister Kitty to join them. The society too had to find more money to finance them. Though still without the necessary documents they were able to set sail from Dover in a Danish ship named “Kron Princess Maria” on the 18th of June 1793. After going through a perilous journey for five months they reached India, but they were not allowed to set foot in Calcutta as Missionaries, but as planters. The ship entered the Hoogly River but before reaching the port they had to get off the ship with their bag and baggage and transported ashore in boats, as they were illegal immigrants. While on their voyage Dr Thomas was able to teach Rev. William the Bengali Language. After disembarking Dr Thomas introduced Ram Ram Basu a Pundit (teacher) to teach Bengali to Rev. William.



The Carey family was living an unsettled life in Bandel, awaiting to get free land for agriculture. At Bandel Dolly and Felix became very ill with diarrhoea. Thomas family had spent all the money they brought with them. Now Carey family was suffering without proper lodging or food. William could no longer bear the suffering of the children, so he decided to go to and meet the Chaplain of Fort William Rev. David Brown with the introductory letter from Rev. John Newton. But it was of no use. Rev. Brown did not offer them any help and William had to return empty handed. Finally, the free land materialized. The Carey family with Ram Ram Basu started on a boat journey to go to Debatta their destination along the river Jabuna. There they saw a house surrounded by a forest and a gentleman approached them. He was Charles Short a government official who was occupying the bungalow. He came out and offered the Missionary family to share the bungalow. Pandit Ram Ram Basu who was a convert of Dr Thomas, but had backslide, was still with them helping them in numerous ways. From the following day Basu took William and Felix to their plot of land to clear the forest. They were mindful to preserve edible large trees such as mangoes, tamarind, and coconuts for the future use. The house was on bamboo stilts, and the roof was thatched, and the walls were lined with mats. The area was infested with cobras, tigers, and leopards. William Carey's Bengali studies under Basu still continued. With the little knowledge he acquired he started to preach but no one was converted. In the meantime, Dolly's sister got engaged to Charles Short and married him later and went to live in Calcutta. Dr Thomas was trying his best to get a better deal for the Carey family. He contacted an old friend of his George Udny who is the

officer entrusted with promoting business enterprises in Malda. He was good enough to offer them two jobs as Managers of Indigo Plants at Mahipaldighi and Mudnabati, respectively. Indigo is a dye extracted from a plant which was in great demand. George Udny offered them handsome salaries with furnished bungalows with servants. They both were very happy about it.

On 23rd May 1794, the Carey family abandoned their Bamboo House in Debatta and headed North in a large canopied boat they had hired. They went through a maze of rivers along Jabuna, Isamut, Jellingli, Ganges and Mahanadi. After traveling 300 miles for 23 days they reached Malda on 15th June 1794. They were welcomed by George Udny and Dr Thomas. On Sunday Rev. Carey preached a sermon in English to this small congregation. Dolly and the children relaxed in Udny's home while Rev. Carey was taken round the area visiting indigo businesses by Udny for Carey to gain some knowledge about the business. In August, the Carey family went by boat up the Tangam River to Mudnabati their destination. Their house was a brand-new two-story brick house with spacious rooms and large windows. The processing plant, boilers, furnaces, and the warehouses were under construction. Carey had to supervise 200 workers. He had planned to plant his garden but by the middle of September he developed a fever. By the grace of God, George Udny happened to visit them and according to the symptoms Udny diagnosed the fever as Malaria or jungle fever, as he himself had got it and the only medicine was quinine. As Udny was ready for any relapse he carried with him a piece of bark of the Cinchona tree as the juice of the bark diluted with water is quinine. Udny showed Dolly how to prepare the medicine and he himself gave Carey the first dose. After the treatment Carey got better but their five-year-old son Peter got fever with vomiting and diarrhea. Dr Thomas came to treat him, but the child's resistance power was weak to fight the disease, and he died on 11th October 1794. Rev. Carey had a major problem to bury the child as Hindus and Muslims are prohibited to touch corpses or dig graves, make coffins, or carry a corpse. Carey finally coaxed four Muslims to dig the grave and two of his servants to carry the corpse. Dolly's mental condition which was not steady became worse after Peter's death. Udny rushed to console Carey after he was notified. He insisted Dolly and the kids to stay with his family for some time. Carey was sent north with Dr Thomas on the pretext of looking for suitable sites for indigo processing. But they went to Bhutan to hunt so that Carey might get relief from the strain he went through. While in Bhutan they saw the snow-capped Himalayan range at a distance. Carey was enjoying the green paradise the natural beauty of the area. He collected seeds, pods, roots to plant. Carey's spent Christmas with Udny's in Malda and returned to Mudnabati on 31st December.

Peter's death was still haunting William and Dolly. Dolly was a depressed nervous wreck. She was jealous and suspicious of her husband. Dr. and Mrs. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Udny all came to Carey's to counsel Dolly and they concluded the problem was with Dolly when they witnessed the boisterous way she behaved with Carey. Carey had not informed anybody in England about Dolly's condition. They decided to inform them by Carey writing to his sisters and Dr Thomas informed Rev. Fuller as Carey received letters from London accusing Carey of making money in India and not evangelising. With all these problems Rev. Carey conducted two services on

Sundays. One in English for the Europeans and one in Bengali for the Indians. On 1st November 1795 he officially chartered the Baptist Church in Mudnabati.

Dolly was expecting a baby again and all thought that her condition will improve once she sees the baby. In January 1796 Dolly gave birth to another son Jonathan. Yet Dolly's condition did not improve. Dr Thomas advised Carey to keep Dolly in confinement with Jonathan and books and sewing material to keep her occupied and servants to look after her. She did not abuse them nor the children. Only Carey was at the butt end.

Rev. Carey pursued his language studies amidst all his problems. Bengali under Basu, Hindi written in Nagari alphabet under another Pundit. Carey knew if he could master Nagari alphabet, he could easily learn Sanskrit and Marathi two important Indian languages. Pandit Ram Ram Basu who was with Rev. Carey from the beginning was found guilty of adultery and dishonesty, left them. He had got a teacher to teach in the native school started by Rev. Carey too left them. Carey had to find new teachers for the vacant posts. Ignatious Fernandez a Eurasian, a friend of Dr. Thomas had heard of Dr. Carey's work and sent him bright burning candles and money to buy reference books to help his translations factory in Dinajpur. In October 1796 John as Carey did his work under dim light of a mustard oil lamp. He owned a candle Fota in a Baptist from the Midlands of England came to meet Rev. Carey. By 1797 Carey had revised Dr. Thomas' work on Matthew, Mark, Luke, and James and translated the rest of the New Testament to Bengali. In December George Udny presented him with a wooden printing press, to make his work easy, Dr Thomas left the indigo plant at Mahipaldighi to start his medical practice in Calcutta. Udny gave the vacant job to Samuel Puwell. In 1798 summer, Carey toured his dominion of four hundred square miles of rice, hemump, and indigo fields thriving well; but after 10 days of rain the seasonal crop was destroyed. In 1799 Udny informed Carey of an intending drought and that they might have to abandon the indigo industry. Now Rev. Carey was in an unsettled mind, wondering whether to go back to his motherland. In the meantime, Carey visited Kitty in Calcutta as Charles Short was gravely ill. While travelling by boat he witnessed many barbaric scenes. Helpless people abandoned, the old and sick left to starve to death, widows burnt on the funeral pyre of her husband, discarding lepers, and sacrificing babies to the river.

In May 1799 Rev. Carey heard that eight missionaries were coming to Calcutta aboard the American Ship "Criterion" and would reach Calcutta in October. John Fountain went to Calcutta to his fiancé Miss. Tidd who was one of them. On December 01st John Fountain returned to Mudnabati a married man with Mr. William Ward an experienced printer who received a Danish passport to meet Rev. Carey. They informed Carey that the rest of them had been given permanent resident visas by the Danish Governor Colnel Bie to live in the town of Serampore in the Danish territory and that he had invited Rev. Carey to come to Serampore. William Carey was pleased with the suggestion and gave his consent to go to Serampore formerly called "Fredrick Nagar".

On 1<sup>st</sup> January 1800, the boats loaded with Dolly, children, the press, the manuscripts, and hundreds of botanical cuttings left Mudnabati to Serampore. They travelled along the rivers for 10

days to reach Serampore on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1800. The Danish area of the town of Serampore was on the Western bank of the river Hoogly. The Eastern bank was the war camp of Barrack Pore in the British territory under Richard Wellesley. The new missionaries were there at Serampore port to welcome the Carey family. They were Joshua and Hannah graduates from “Bristol College” Ms. Fountain(nee Tidd) , Mrs. Grant who lost her husband during the journey , Mr. and Mrs. David Brunson and William Ward an experienced printer.

Rev. Carey immediately purchased a large house on a two-acre land for all to live. All wanted Carey to be the leader, but William said “ we have only one master and that is Christ. Their principles being equality for all, prominence to none, to rule by majority, to treat Indians as equals. Leadership would rotate monthly. Duties included purchasing of supplies, keeping accounts, chairing meetings, supervising servants, meeting visitors, conducting church services. They also agreed to pool their earnings and to have a common kitchen. Hannah took over the unruly Carey boys and was a mother to all. Hannah and Joshua Marshman were in-charge of the boarding school for the European children and the free school for Indian children. So, they had to learn Bengali language, which they learnt quickly. William Ward was in-charge of the printing press with David Brunson, John fountain, Felix and Willy helping him. They printed the Bengali introductory book and religious pamphlets to be used in schools and services. Carey had to continue his language studies to complete the translations. He had already translated the whole Bible except for a few minor books.

The Danish Governor Colonel Bie was sympathetic towards the Missionary work. His official residence was open on Sundays to conduct the service. In March he invited the Missionaries for a formal dinner. In April Missionaries had a Thanksgiving service at his residence. The Governor encouraged the Danes to send their children to the Missionary school run by Marshmans. He got all the Government printing done at Ward's press. In November, the Governor Bie requested Rev. Carey to teach English to Miss. Charlotte Rumohr a relation of his, who had come from Schleswig an area sometimes under Germans, sometimes Danes. She knew five European languages and was a very wealthy lady but was disabled like Polly. Rev. Carey agreed to the request and taught her not only English but Bengali and Christianity too and was later Baptized by Rev. Carey. On 28th December 1800 Rev. Carey preached a sermon on Baptism at the Governor's residence and then he had the first Baptism in the river Hoogly amidst a large gathering including the Governor. Rev. Carey Baptized his first Hindu convert a carpenter by trade, named Krishna Pal who was converted after being treated by Dr. Thomas for a dislocated shoulder, and his son Felix who shunned the Bible in Mudnabati had changed now through William Ward. By March 1801, the Bengali New Testament was printed and consecrated by placing a bound Bengali New Testament on the communion table at a special Thanksgiving service. Rev. Carey's message was “ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ”. The first copy was purchased by Colonel Bie. One hundred copies were sent to England.

In April 1801 Marquise Richard Wellesley who was the British Governor of Calcutta since 1797, wanted to establish a university named “ East Oxford University ” to educate the children of the



English civil servants so that they could follow their father's footsteps in the future. The British Governor requested the two Anglican priests in Calcutta Rev. David Brown and Rev. Claudius Buchanan to organize it. Both of them recommended Rev. William Carey's name for the Bengali seat, as he was a veteran in the Bengali language, but the Governor refused as Rev. Carey was not an Anglican, he could not be given the professorship. Then they offered Rev. Carey a lecturer post with Rs. 500/- as salary to which Rev. Carey agreed as he could swell the Serampore coffers and only keep a paltry sum for his subsistence. He also thought by being at Fort William College in Calcutta he will be teaching the future diplomats and getting acquainted with many intellectuals who will be of use to him in the future.

Rev. Carey was now 40 years of age and was a respected teacher. He travelled every Tuesday morning to Calcutta which was 16 miles from Serampore along the River Hoogly by canoe and went by coach to the College in centre of Calcutta. There he taught Bengali, Marati and Sanskrit. He also preached and visited Colleagues till Friday. On Friday he went back to Serampore and taught Geography, Astronomy, Natural History in the three schools they had established. As Pastor he held prayer meetings and preached at the Baptist Mission Church at Serampore. He supervised the medical clinics. Meanwhile the work in the Mission continued. Very often one or two converts were Baptized on Sundays. The Bible was now being translated to Hindi.

Governor Wellesley asked Rev. Carey to gather reports about vile practices in Calcutta and its suburbs. In 1803 Governor requested Carey's students to debate in his presence on " Are the Asians Capable of High Civilization as in the West? " and at the end of the debate the Governor was highly pleased. By 1805 Krishna Pal and the other Indian converts joined the Missionaries to spread the Gospel. In the same year, the Mission formalized a set of rules called the " Serampore Compact ". This was to be read thrice a year on the first Sunday of January, May, and October at every Mission station. The compact was:-

1. To set infinite value on human souls
2. To abstain from deepening India's prejudice against the Gospel
3. To behave in an exemplary Christian way always
4. To watch for every chance of doing good to heathens
5. To preach that Jesus was crucified for our sins
6. To esteem and treat Indians as equals
7. To nurture their converts and instruct them in the Christian duties
8. To encourage the Indian converts to join the Ministry as they alone can win the natives to Christ
9. To translate the Holy Bible into all the native languages
10. To encourage a life of prayer among themselves

11. To give unreservedly to the causes without thinking of yourself

In 1806 Rev. Carey received the title of “ Professor ” and his monthly salary was doubled to Rs. 1,000/- . He was also given authority to approve all Government publications in Bengali, Sanskrit and Marati under his seal. Rev. Carey held this post for 30 years. Rev. Buchanan the Anglican priest had become a strong friend of Rev. Carey and they were collecting funds for his translations, and to send Missionaries to China. Now, Felix and John Marshman's son had learnt Chinese dialect from Johannes Lassar who grew up in Macao and mastered both Canton and Mandarin dialects of Chinese. During this time there was a change of Governors in Serampore and Calcutta. Now the Danish Governor was Krefting and the British Governor was George Barlow who stopped public preaching. Therefore Rev. Carey purchased a piece of land in Lall Bazar to build a church. In 1807 Barlow was replaced by Lord Minto, who was also against the Missionaries and wanted to seal the Serampore Press. Rev. Carey got the news from Rev. Buchanan he made an appointment with Lord Minto and sorted out the problem by showing him the Bible translations, the translated world famous Sanskrit Epics of Mahabharata and Ramayana into English and assured him of his honour and respect to the local traditions. Lord Minto reversed the order of banning the press.

In 1807 Rev. William Carey was conferred the honorary Doctor of Divinity from “ Brown University ” in USA. In the same year Felix and Willie were ordained and sent out as Missionaries. Leaving his wife in India Felix went to Rangoon in Burma with Rev. and Mrs. Chater the pioneer missionaries of Ceylon in 1812. Willie and his wife Mary went to work for Ignatius Fernandez the candle maker in Dinajpur. On the 08th of December 1807 Dolly died of a fever. With all her mental condition the children loved her very much. In 1808 Felix lost his wife at childbirth. Now Rev. William Carey decided to marry his pupil Miss. Charlotte Rumohr who was an invalid. She donated her wealth to the Serampore Mission. She also helped William's brother Tom, who was now crippled to set up a business. Tom's son Peter visited his uncle William at Serampore unexpectedly bringing family news. William Carey was happy to hear that his father at the age of seventy was quite strong and healthy. On 01st January 1809 the beautiful chapel that was being built at Lalbuzar with eight stately columns in front was officially opened. Rev. Dr. William Carey of the Baptist Missionary Society and Rev. Nathaniel Forsyth of the London Missionary Society preached. Rev. Dr. Carey was the pastor of this new church too.

In 1809 Rev. Dr. Carey published the Old Testament in four volumes. Pentateuch, Histories, Prophets and Hagiographs ( other books in the Bible ). The Serampore mission continued to prosper in every way, even in the physical setup. Dr. William Carey with all his work did not forget his hobby of gardening. His garden was full of variety of plants brought from his old garden in Mudnabati and from Bhutan. He had English plants by planting seeds. His aviary was so large that trees stood freely within it and birds filled it with song and flying freely. He had sunk large tanks for aquatic plants. The vegetable garden supplied the vegetables for the community meals. Their daily meal consisted of 4 plates of boiled rice, 4 bowls of curry, 8 good sized fish or meat, 3 tureens of soup and



Carey's Pulpit  
at Serampore

9 quarts of milk. On the rest of the property stood the other buildings, Dormitories for girls and boys separately. The Mission House was converted to be the Serampore Church. There were separate houses for individual families. Five printing presses, a warehouse to store the paper, manuscripts, type setting material and ink.

In 1811, Rev William Carey's niece Phoebe, Ann Hobson's daughter arrived in Serampore to visit her uncle. Carey's wife Charlotte warmly welcomed her, and both became great friends

On 26th June 1809 Rev. Dr. William Carey was down with a virulent type of fever but it was not his usual Malarial fever. He was between life and death. The family was around him nursing him both day and night as they were quite anxious about his condition. One day his fever left him, and he regained his health. When John Ryland in England heard of his grave illness, he sent funds from England to have his portrait painted before it was too late. So, his portrait was painted in 1812 at the age of 55 years by a renowned painter named Robert Home. Dr. Carey wanted his portrait behind a table of books with his quill pen.

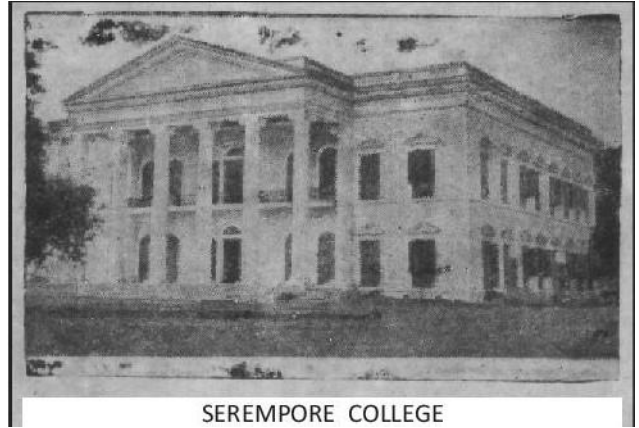


On March 12th, 1812 as he was rising from his room at Lall Bazar Chapel, Joshua Marshman brought the news of a fire in the Print Building at Serampore, but no loss of lives nor the other buildings were affected. All the printed materials, manuscripts were reduced to ashes. The gross loss was later estimated to be about Rs. 60,000/-. The presses and the type punches were saved. Dr. Carey had the courage to preach on the following Sunday on the Bible text “ Be still and know that I am your God ” and God has the right to dispose of us as he pleases, and it is man's duty to accept it humbly.

When the friends in England, the Baptist Missionary Society and the London Bible Society heard about the loss, they rallied to raise funds and the money poured to Serampore Mission. Rev. Dr. Carey that very night started to translate the Bibles lost in the fire. In 1814 five new missionaries including Eustace, Peter's younger brother were sent to the Serampore Mission. Now the new Missionaries considered the society as their sole authority. They started to criticize the old missionaries that they were feathering their own nests. Now the founders of the missionary society were no more there. The new ones started directing the old Serampore Missionaries. There was a rift between the old and the new Missionaries. In 1818 the young Missionaries pulled out of the Serampore Mission and formed the “ Calcutta Missionary Union ” in the Enatall area in Calcutta. They started a new church to compete with the Lall Bazar Chapel. In 1814 Jabez married and ordained, went to Moluccas as a Missionary. In 1814 Rev. Carey's nephew Peter died of an infection caused by the fall from a horse. In 1815 Felix's wife and children died after their ship capsized in Burma and Felix was confused.

Rev. Dr. William Carey regarded education as a holy thing and told his colleagues Marshman and Ward that it was high time that they established their own college in Serampore. So, in 1818 the

Serampore Trio purchased an eight-acre land with their savings. Money poured in for their enterprise. Though the main building was to be completed in 1821 they started classes in 1819 with 39 students. They had three departments, Art, Science, and Theology. The main purpose of the College was to educate Indians to be Indian preachers of tomorrow. In 1821 the majestic Convocation Hall with Ionic pillars overlooking the River Hoogly was officially opened. The wide-open gate was a gift from the Queen of Denmark. The ascending brazen staircase was a symbol of the ascending heights and progressive outlook of the college. The wide-open solid gates were the open door to all irrespective of colour, creed, or race. On



SEREMPORE COLLEGE

either side of the hall was the Library and the College Museum. On 23rd February 1827, the King of Denmark granted a charter to confer, degrees as the ideals of the college were so high. The Serampore College was the first college in the East to receive this status. Subsequently the British Government too confirmed it. In 1827, two Ceylonese boys studied under Rev. Dr. William Carey. They were one de Saram and the other a Livera who became a District Judge in Ceylon. Exactly 100 years later in 1927 at the centenary convocation our own Rev. W. M. P. Jayatunga (Wilmot) received the Bachelor of Divinity B.D. He was the first Baptist priest to receive it. Thereafter thirteen local priests received the Bachelor of Divinity B.D or the L.Th from the University of Serampore.



Rev. W.M.P. Jayathunge  
1923 - 1927



Rev. C.H. Rathnayake  
1925 - 1929



Rev. C.M. Wlangasekara  
1929 - 1933



Rev. H.S.L.B. Welagedara  
1931 - 1935



Rev. C.D.E. Premerwardan  
1934 - 1938



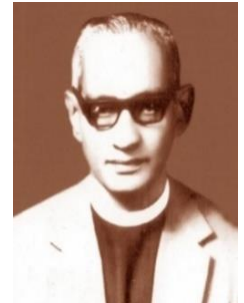
Rev. W.G. Wickramasinghe  
1939 - 1943



Rev. Hector De Silva  
1945 - 1948



Rev. D.E. Weerasinghe  
1948 - 1950



Rev. P.E. Premerwardana  
1947 - 1951



Rev. D.R. Edward  
1952 - 1956



Rev. R.C. Pietersz  
1957 - 1960



Rev. V.T. Edward  
1957 - 1961



Rev. R.L. Wijesinghe  
1963 - 1967

Our own Rev. W. G. Wickramasinghe was the lecturer of Greek language at the Serampore University from 1951 to May 1955.

Dr. Carey continued his childhood hobby of planting. The head of the Botanical Gardens in Calcutta William Roxburgh became a close friend. Though Rev. Carey wanted to join a horticulture society from the beginning there was none in Calcutta. The British Governor Lord and Lady Francis Rawdon Hastings wanted Rev. Carey to commence a Horticulture Society and the first meeting was held in September 1820. Lord Hastings gave the society a crown land to grow experimental plants. Mr. William Roxburgh after going back to England sponsored Dr. Carey to be a Member of the Royal Horticulture Society in England. In 1822 he was also a member of the Geological Society. He was elected a fellow of the Linnaen Society in London. In the same year he was made the President of the Agricultural Society of India.

In 1820 Rev. Dr. Carey went to Calcutta and met the young Missionaries who had drifted from Serampore Mission and spoke to them firmly and advised them to be humble and not to act in a high-handed manner. His own nephew Eustace, Tom's son was one of them. In May 1821 Charlotte who was the love of his life passed away which was a great loss for him in every way. In the same year he fell from a flight of steps in the garden in darkness, and severely injured his leg. He was unable to walk for four months and later he walked with a limp. In 1822 Felix at the age of 37 died of a fever. By 1823 the founders of the B M S in England were all dead. The original aims and rules of the Mission was not known to the new officers in the Mission. They were harassing the Serampore Missionaries. In 1827 Rev. Dr. Carey at the age of 66 years wrote a letter to the Baptist Missionary Society in England to say that the Serampore Mission was severed the bond with them. In 1826 Dr. Carey remarried a widow named Grace Hughes who was fifteen years younger to him. In the same year the British Governor Lord William Bentinck declared the banning of "Sati" burning of widows to which Dr. Carey and Marshman were instrumental.

In 1831 Calcutta had a severe banking crisis in which the two colleges suffered and lost their savings. So Dr. Carey was released from Fort William College after thirty years of service. Dr. Carey and Marshman transferred all their properties to the Missionary Society. At the beginning the Society was not a legal body so the properties were under individual names. In 1833 Dr. Carey suffered a stroke. In 1834 summer, his condition got worse he could not eat or move, and his speech was weak. Grace tended on him. All the children were round him. Willy came from Katwa, Jabez from Ajmar, Johnny was at home. Marshman visited him on the 08th of June. Carey had told him "let the funeral be very simple." Ever the organizer he asked them to bury him next to Charlotte and the epitaph on the tomb to lines from Isaac Watt's writings:

"A wretched, poor and helpless worm. On thy kind arms I fall"

When the Principal of Serempore College Alexander Duff visited him, Carey had said "when I am gone say nothing of Dr. Carey, but about Dr. Carey's Saviour." Rev. Dr. William Carey died

at sunrise on June 09th 1834 at the age of 72 years, slogging in India for 41 long years. Danish Government House in Singapore had their flag hoisted at half-mast on that day as a mark of respect.

**i.** William Carey, as the poor humble cobbler was small in stature. **ii.** He was a self-taught man who received the Doctor of Divinity and a Professorship from two different Universities. **iii.** He was the father of Modern Missions and a founder of B. M. S. **iv.** He was a linguist who knew 06 European Languages, English, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French and Italian and 30 Indian Languages. **v.** He was the translator, who translated the entire Bible to six Indian languages. Bengali, Sanskrit, Marati, Punjab, Oriya and Hindi. The New Testament and other books to 28 languages. Thelegu, Konkani, Assamese, Lahuda, Gujarati, Bikaneri, Awadhi, Kashmiri, Nepali, Bagheli, Marwar, Harathi, Kanoji, Kanarese, Jaipuri, Pashto, Kumaori, Sindhi, Dofri, Malvi, Bhatneri, Mugahi, Brajbhasa, Palpa, Gharwali, Manipuri, Khasi and Chinese. He compiled Dictionaries, translated Ramayanaye and Mahabharathi to English. Published grammar books. The Tamil and the Sinhala Bibles were printed in their Press. **vi.** He was one educationist who with Marshman opened 200 vernacular schools in Calcutta and its suburbs. He was the Professor of Bengali, Marati and Sanskrit a Fort Fredric College for 30 years. He was the founder of the Serampore College. **vii.** He was a social reformer who was instrumental in abolishing “Sati”. eliminating child sacrifice, abolishing lepers being sent to death through purifying fires. Commencing homes for the lepers, destitute and elders. **viii.** He was an agriculturist being the President of the Agriculture Society of India, founder of the Horticulture Society in Calcutta. A member of the Royal Horticulture and Geological Society in London and the Fellow of the Linnean Society of London.

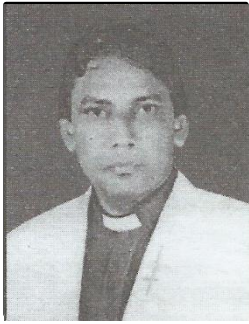
Though William Carey never set foot to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), our beautiful Island, he is remembered and honoured by having the only Baptist school “ Carey College, Colombo ” being named after him. There are nine Carey Colleges around the world. Ceylon, New Zealand, Brazil and the others are not known.

#### *Carey College*

In 1963 when the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka inaugurated the Theological College of Lanka (TCL) at Pilimithalawa. Miss W.G Turney the field Secretary of the B.M.S in Sri Lanka represented the Baptist’s on their inaugural committee and was the founder Secretary. The TCL was affiliated to the Serempore College India and the BTH was conferred on our Baptist clergy who were successful at the final examination.

Our Clergy who obtained the Serempore College B. Th through the Lanka Theological College Pilimethalawa affiliated to the Serempore College India





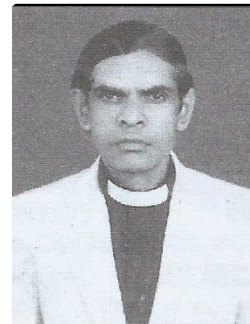
Rev. W. Warshamanage  
1975



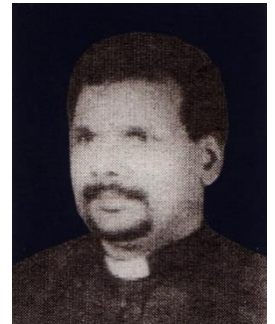
Rev. Arty De Silva  
1977



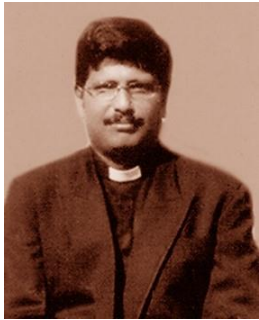
Rev. Densil Jayamanne  
1981



Rev. Sarath Wickramasinghe  
1984



Rev. Freddie De Alwis  
1988



Rev. Heshan De Silva  
1991



Rev. Willie Ranasinghe  
1991



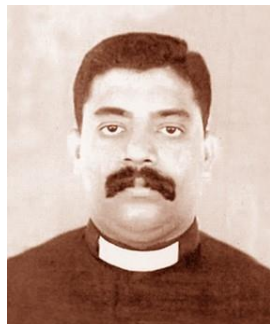
Rev. Priyantha  
Wijegoonewardana  
1999



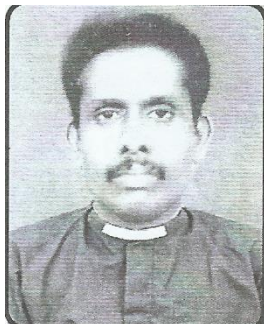
Rev. Gayan Gunsekara  
2001



Rev. Ranjini Liyanarachchi  
2001



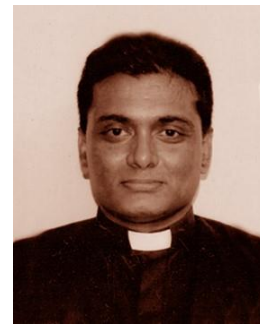
Rev. Sunil Shantha  
Warshamanage  
2004



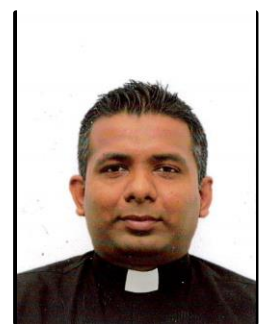
Rev. Raplh Solomon  
2006



Rev. Dinesh Gomes  
2008



Rev. Shriyan Jayamanne  
2008



Rev. Roshan Perera  
2014



Rev. Roshan Algama  
2015



Rev. H.D.R. Mayuranjana  
2017



Rev. Rukmal Fernando  
2018



In 1970 the Sri Lankan Baptist Sangamaya under the leadership of Rev. Dr. W.G. Wickramasinghe the President started a leadership training institute at Carey College on Saturdays to train Lay men in Divinity and Leadership. It was a stepping stone to enter the TCL or become evangelist to help the local pastors. On 28<sup>th</sup> March 1997 institute was named the William Carey Institute and the venue changed from time to time to different churches. Now it is held in the SLBS hall and two branches in the North. The present directors have started to send some students for the Diploma in Christian Studies (DIPCS) conducted by the Serempore College India through the TCL, which is amalgamated, to the Serempore College.

### **Sources**

The booklet “ William Carey” by Rev. W. M. P. Jayathunga 1942.

. An article written to the press in 1993 to celebrate the bicentenary of Carey's arrival in India by Mr. B. E. Fernando the President of the Ceylon Bible Society.

Extracts sent by Rev. Rohan Wijesinghe, the last Sri Lankan Baptist student of Serampore from “William Carey father of Modern Missions" by Gaten B. Roy.

"William Carey Father of Modern Missions" by Sam Wellman 2003.

# THE BMS MISSIONARIES IN CEYLON

REV. JAMES CHATER & MS. ANN CHATER

1812 – 1828

THE PIONEER BAPTIST MISSIONARIES IN CEYLON



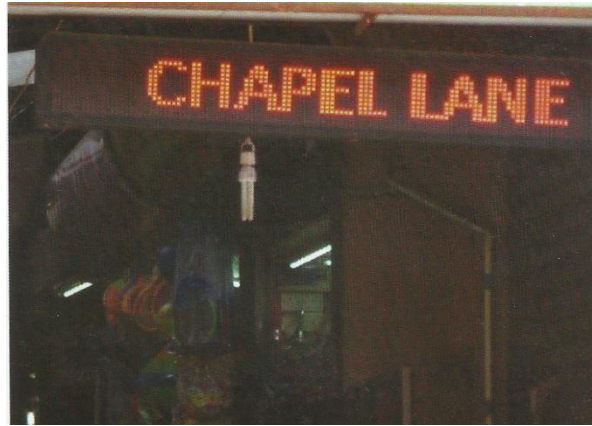
*Figure 1: Rev. James Chater*

James Chater was born on 6th February 1789 in England. After completing his secondary education he joined the “Bristol College” for three years to do his Theological training. His ambition was to go to India to join the Serampore Missionaries. On 12th April 1806, Rev. James Chater and Rev.W. Robinson with their families set sail on “ Benjamin Franklin” to proceed to India. After a perilous journey of many months they reached the Indian shores, but was prohibited to land in Bengal by the British Governor of India, as they thought that the presence of the Christian Missionaries was the cause for the Velore Massacre. Ultimately in 1807 Rev. William Carey had intervened and solved the problem. The Robinson family was allowed to enter the Danish territory in Serampore but the Chater family had to proceed to Rangoon in Burma with Carey’s son Felix.

In Burma the Chater family experienced barbarous acts of punishment. They were not affected by it, as they were under God’s protection through prayer. By the end of 1809 Rev. Chater had prepared a little booklet of scripture passages in Burmese. He also commenced the translation of the New Testament into Burmese. Then the civil war broke out in Burma and with ill health of Mrs. Chater they were forced to leave Burma.

They left Burma and sailed to Ceylon and landed in Colombo as the pioneer Baptist Missionaries of Ceylon. On 16th April 1812, the Governor of Ceylon Sir Robert Brownrigg and Lady Brownrigg being devoted Christians welcomed Rev. and Mrs Chater warmly. Rev. Chater started to study the Sinhala language earnestly and in two years time he was able to preach the first sermon in Sinhala. Though he had publicized the service by distributing hand bills, no one came to listen to him except his household. He was not demoralized about it. He continued to preach on every Sunday in all three languages in English, Sinalese and Portugees. His venue was an abandoned ware house

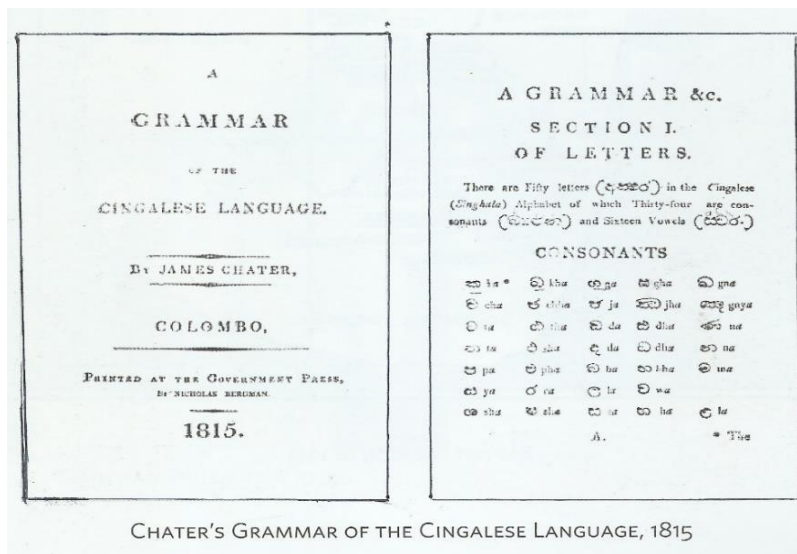
converted into a chapel in Prince Street, Pettah. Rev. Chater was assisted by an earnest young burgher boy named **Hendrick Siers**.



Pettah Chapel

Rev. Chater started a divinity class. Hendrick Siers and F.J Corea, who went to Matale were two of his students. In 1813 Rev. Chater bought a plot of land in the Grandpass area lying to the north of the city on the banks of Kelani River to build a church. It was chosen as a strategic centre for reaching the Sinhalese residents in the area and in the villages around.

In 1815 many soldiers who attended the Pettah church were baptized. In the same year they were blessed with a son on the 29th september 1815 and was named Andrew Fuller. He sent his two elder sons to England under the care of Lord and Lady Molesworth in a cargo ship named “Arniston”. But what a tragedy! the ship stuck in a rock and was founded near the Cape of Good Hope. Everyone including the two bright promising sons of Rev. Chater perished. Rev. Chater had four sons and two daughters. In 1815 Rev. Chater continued his language studies and published a Sinhala Grammer book in 1815.



CHATER'S GRAMMAR OF THE CINGALESE LANGUAGE, 1815

In 1816 **Rev. and Mrs Thomas Griffith** arrived in Ceylon and commenced an English and a Portugese school in the Galle town where they were stationed. They abandoned the work started enthusiastically because of their ill health and returned to England in 1817. The first Baptist church was built in Grandpass and opened to the Glory of God on 5th October 1817 amidst a large gathering. On that day Rev. Chater preached in all three languages. He also built a Manse for him to reside adjoining the Church.



Grandpass Baptist Church

An English school for the boys too was started. Rev. Chater was not disheartened. He went ahead by commencing three girls' schools and seven boys's schools in the suburbs of Colombo. Rev. Chater and Hendrick Siers visited the villages within twenty mile radius on foot, spreading the Gospel. They visited the Hendala Leprosy Hospital situated on the northern bank of the watersmouth of the Kelani River.

In 1817 the first Sinhala convert who was a Buddhist priest later named Theophilus was baptised by Rev. Chater, but died within the same year after a painfull illness. This was a great disappointment. In 1820 Ms. Ann Chater who was pregnant embarked on a journey to England with her two younger boys. What a sorrow Ms. Chater on her way home died in the Island of Helena giving birth to twin girls. The children were orphaned in an unknown island. The Christian workers and the affluent residents of the area rallied together to send the Children to England. After the sudden death of his wife, Rev. Chater's health too declined. Yet he ploded on courageously.

Rev. Chater and Brother Siers were searching a suitable area to expand their work. Then they came across the jungle village of Hanwella, 20 miles interior along the Kelani River where the Mudliyar and the Muhandiram of the district offered valuable assistance in building the Chapel and the Manse. In 1820 when the church was formed Rev. Chater baptized three believers. They being Mrs. Siers, Muhandiram's elder son named Don Carolis de Alwis who later became a deacon and another person. During this time under the leadership of Tolfrey a Civil Servant, the Bible was translated into Sinhala. After Trolfrey's death the main role was on Rev. Chater.

In 1823 the entire Bible was translated to Sinhala and published. He also translated the New Testament into Portugese with the help of Hendrick Siers. In 1824 Rev. Chater baptized 8 believers at Grandpass. In 1825 the Christian Literary Society ( C.L.S) was formed and Rev. Chater was elected as the founder Secretary. In 1826 the Muhandiram, his wife and the younger son were baptized at Hanwella.

By now Rev. Chater's health had declined rapidly. Therefore in 1827 he went to Bombay to restore his health, but his condition never improved. On 25th December 1828 he set sail on the ship "Sepping" to go to England for a vacation. When the ship reached the French coast he was called home on 2nd January 1829 and was given a sea buriel.

Rev. Chater married Miss Ann Deborah after his wifes death. She had stayed on in Ceylon while Rev. Chater set sail to his homeland. After Rev. Chaters death Mrs. Ann Deborah Chater got married to Rev. Gogerly of the Methodist Mission.

It is intresting to note that his son Andrew Fuller Chater who was born in Ceylon, too became a Baptist clergyman in 1846, and was the rector at Nantwich Baptist Church. In 1849 there had been a Cholera epidemic in England and he did much to improve the sanitation of the area by building the water and drainage systems and creating a new cemetery to bury the dead. On the 24th of January 1872 he died and was burried in the same cemetery. A stained glass window was dedicated to Rev. Andrew Chater at the St. Mary's Church Nantwich.

When the Sri Lanka Baptist Sangamaya commemorated the 175th Anniversary of the Baptist Missionary work in our Island the Secretary of the S.L.B.S. Mr. Lorenzo Kariapperuma took great pains to issue a commemorative stamp by the Philatalic Bureau of Sri Lanka on 18th August 1989 at the Baptist Head Quarters, situated at No. 46, Kynsey Road, Colombo 8. The picture of the stamp being the bust size photo of Rev. Chater and the front view of the Grandpass Church as a mark of respect to the pioneer Baptist Missionary to Ceylon now called Sri Lanka.



### Sources

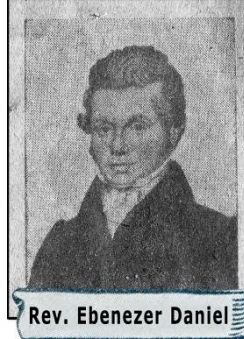
Lanka the Resplendent Isle by John A. Ewing 1912

Baptist Jayanthiya 1812- 1816 by C M Elangasekera & W G Turney 1962

Mrs. Dora Wijesinghe's notes from the Past Baptist Messengers

# REV. EBENEZER DANIEL AND MS. MARIA DANIEL (1830 – 1844)

## THE APOSTLE OF SRI LANKA



Ebenezer Daniel was born on 14th October 1784 at Burford, Oxfordshire England. His mother was a very committed Christian lady. Therefore Ebenezer from his childhood had recognised Jesus Christ as his personal saviour. He was a brilliant student. Had he continued his studies he would have excelled and reached the top of the secular world. Instead after his secondary education, at the age of 18 years he joined the “ Bristol Theological College” in London to pursue his studies in Divinity. Here he met James Chater (the pioneer missionary of Ceylon) as a fellow student, with whom he had a happy friendship. After graduating from the Theological College he was the Pastor of the large flourishing “ Luton Baptist Church” in Bedfordshire England, for 18 long years. He also served as an executive member of the Baptist Missionary Society in London.

When Rev. Ebenezer Daniel heard of the death of his friend Rev. James Chater and the vacuum created by it in the Missionary work in Ceylon he got the call to go to Ceylon. It was not an easy task to make the decision. With much consultation and prayer he obeyed the irresistible call to go to Ceylon. He set sail on 1st May 1830 for Ceylon with his wife and the three daughters. They reached Colombo on 15th August 1830. After Rev. Chater left the island in 1828 Rev. Hendrick Siers, Rev. Chater’s beloved student had continued the work with the help of the Methodist (Wesleyan) Missionary Rev. Benjamin Clough. The arrival of the new missionary family was hailed with joy by the little band of Sinhalese Christians.

As it was a Sunday he preached two sermons in English to a congregation consisting chiefly of British soldiers and interpreted to Sinhalese. He applied himself to study Sinhala and in a little over one year he preached in Sinhala for the congregation to understand the way to salvation. He reorganized the work by starting Sunday Schools in English, Sinhalese and Portugese in Combo. He appointed scripture readers which was commenced in 1827 to go from house to house. Preaching stations were started in seven neighbouring villages and services conducted regularly. Rev. Ebenezer and Rev. Siers went by foot on narrow foot paths on either side climbing up to hillocks and going down to valleys. They crossed streams and rivulets on a single tree trunk with a bamboo rail to hold on to, or wade through the water with their trouser or cloth rolled up. In the

process they were bitten by the blood sucking leeches. When they visited houses they had to sit on benches or even on mats spread on the ground. In the night they had to sleep in the verandah or in an out house on a camp bed or on a mat, bitten by mosquitoes. Some times they were without a proper meal for days.

By 1831 fifteen schools were opened in these villages and the total student population was about 100. When preaching or teaching the word of God they used the simplest form of language. In 1832, Rev. Ebenezer wrote tracts to suit the Roman Catholic and Mohammedan communities in Colombo.

As the two clergymen spread the good news many suburban churches came up. Many stories about their beginnings have passed down by word of mouth. When the two men of God went along the Kandy road to the villages beyond Biyanwila they used to stop at the coffee boutique of Marthina Hamy and her daughter Issebella, to have hoppers and coffee for breakfast and to break journey and relax. At first they were hospitable to the Missionaries but when they started to speak about God's love and salvation for the sinners, Marthina Hamy the mother became prejudiced though Issebella listened to them earnestly. So when the Missionaries came on their next visit to the boutique Marthina Hamy threw a handful of dried chillies to the fire place for the fumes to spread a smarting smoke, so that the eyes of the Missionaries would smart. The Missionaries visited them at the next visit too and the mother and daughter were amazed at the humbleness of the Missionaries and were ashamed of themselves. Rev. Ebenezer baptised thirteen converts excluding Issebella as she was married to Johnathen Alwis from the Pinto family of Kaluwalgoda, Makevita by then. In the same year the Biyanwila church was started with twenty six members and Rev. John Melder as their first pastor.

In 1834 Mrs. Maria Daniel commenced a girls school in Grandpass with about fifty children. In the same year a major flood had occurred. The Kelani River was over flowing and many Baptist families were affected. On hearing their plight Rev. Ebenezer had gone to a house where the flood waters were approaching. He drew a line with his walking stick, knelt there and prayed for their protection. What a miracle the flood waters receded. This was witnessed by three young students who had followed the Missionary to ridicule him, but instead they were convinced of God's grace. They were the founder members of the Madampe church in the North Western Province in 1870. The young students were a Guneratne, a Jayawardena and a Dabare.

In 1835 the " Good News" spread to Matale by F. J Corea a member of the Colombo Church who was a student of Rev. James Chater. In the same year Mrs. Daniel and the three daughters set sail to go to their motherland as Mrs. Daniel's health declined. What a sorrow she too could not reach her destination like Mrs. Chater. She was given a sea burriel on 19th November 1835. The daughters went to England and Rev. Ebenezer was left alone in Ceylon.



In 1836 work of the church buildings of the Slave Island and Biyanwila were completed. The Biyanwila church was dedicated to the Glory of God on 28th July 1836 amidst a large gathering who had come from Colombo . Rev. John Melder continued as their Pastor.

In the same year Rev. Ebenezer was appointed as the treasurer of the Christian Literary Society ( C.L.S ) In 1837 Rev. Ebenezer joined the Methodist priests to revise the Sinhala Bible. By 1838 church buildings of Matale and Kotikawatta were under construction. The Matale church was dedicated to the Glory of God on 24th May 1838. This church was the result of Rev. Ebenezer Daniel visiting his church members by foot walking eighty eight miles to Matale from Colombo. The founder pastor was Mr. F. J Corea, unpaid lay Pastor for nearly twenty years. Matale had been having many local lay preachers. One of them while visiting the villeges stepped into a class conducted by a Buddhist monk and started to teach about Christ. The Buddhist monk was unhappy about this and instructed his pupils not to offer a seat but to spread a mat at the feet of the Buddhist monk so when he came there again he had to sit on the mat, but did not make any fuss. He spoke about Christ again. This time the Buddhist monk instructed his pupils to pelt him with mud and stones if he comes again. They did so when he approached the class. He nearly put up his umbrella to protect himself and sat on the mat and spoke about Christ. The Buddhist monk saw the humbleness of the Christian preacher and asked his pupils not to harm him ever again. Amidst the pupils of this class, there was a Kandyan boy of a noble family who was learning to be a Buddhist priest. He also had a profound knowladge in astrology and possessed a large number of books on this subject. This young man after listening to the Christian preacher started to inquire seriously about Christianity. He later became a government servant and was transferred to a distant place. During this time he had been asking God to show him the truth and to give him a sign. After sometime when he went home he found the astrologycal book case had been destroyed by white ants. He believed that it was a God given sign, and he became a Christian. He later bacame a Baptist priest who was popularly known as Rev. P. C Dharmakeerthi “the faithful”. He served the Matale Church as an unpaid pastor for 20 years.

In 1830's a young man named Don Peter Perera of noble heritage from Kohalwila who was educated at the Fort Dius Seminary and having an ambition to be a Crown lawyer was influenced by Rev. Ebenezer Daniel and Peter had become a Baptist priest and served the mission for fifty long years. **Rev. Edward MacCarthy** came to Sri Lanka in 1839. He went to Kandy and took the word to Kurunegala. Malandeniya, Medagama, Harankawa mission stations were started. Because of his ill health he went back to his homeland in 1845.

On June 9th 1839 Rev. Siers died at the age of 56 years after a brief illness and was buried in the Pettah Church. Rev. Harris and Rev. Ebenezer officiated at the funeral. His death was a great blow to the Baptist community. Rev. Melder took the sad news to Issebella when he visited her in Makewita. On 2nd September 1939 Issebella, Johnathen and another convert were baptized at the Aththanagalu Oya by Rev. Melder. Issabella was the first member of the Makewita Baptist Church.



Rev. Ebenezer Daniels' mode of travel was by foot and by boat along the Kelani River, occasionally a bullock cart ride was offered. When Rev. Ebenezer travelled by boat sometimes he used to get down at the Nagahamuna Ferry, to have hoppers and coffee before visiting his friend Korale Mudliyer at Gonawela. There he used to meet Algama Appuhamilage Don Juwanis Wijayawardena Vidane Aarachchi under the Mudliyar Koralage.

Mudliyar was already a Christian and services were held in his home on Sundays. Don Juwanis Wijayawardena was a strong Buddhist, and a famous astrologer who was under the Mudliar. In 1840 he allowed the Sunday services to be held in the school hall situated in his own land. In 1842 August 2nd, Juwanis Wijewardena got baptized with two others by Rev. Ebenezer at the Kotikawatte Church. The Gonawela church premises was donated by his father Algama Appuhamilage Don Solomon Wijayawardena. The first Pastor was Rev. D. B Perera in 1840.

In 1841 Rev. Ebenezer had gone to Moratuwa and preached in the school hall of Andiris de Mel where Juan de Silva and Arnolis Peeris had been amongst the listeners. In the year of 1842 Rev. Ebenezer took the word of God to Ratnapura and Katukande. Mr. F. Ondatchy and Mr. Malleappah, two lay preachers were appointed to carry on the work. In 1843 Rev. Ebenezer Daniel commenced an academy in Colombo to train six or seven young men for the Ministry.

By 1844 the tropical heat of our country had exhausted Rev. Ebenezer Daniel's constitution. On 26th May 1844 he preached in the morning at the Pettah Church although he was ill. When he was preaching in the evening his condition got worse and he was taken to the Grandpass Manse. On hearing of his illness his friend the Chief Justice Sir Anthony Oliphant, who had once offered a lift in his charriot to Rev. Ebenezer Daniel who was walking, but had been refused the offer by saying "I do not want a lift from a person who breaks the Sabbath" as he had gone hunting without going to church. After this incident the chief justice remembered to keep the Sabbath. He visited Rev. Ebenezer Daniel and took him to his official residence named "Selby House" and nursed him with the promise of keeping his doors open to Rev. Daniels visitor's without race, religion or status as a barrier.

On 2nd June 1844 at 10am he was called for higher service. He was known as the "Apostle of Lanka" for the untiring effort in carrying the word of God to the length and breadth of Lanka, and was instrumental in opening up many churches and schools in most of the villages he visited. He was buried in the grave of Rev. Hendrick Siers his faithful assistant. Rev. Dawson and Rev. Gogerly of the Methodist Mission officiated at the funeral service.

In later years when the Pettah church at Prince Street was taken over by the Government for town expansion the remains were interred at the General Cemetery Borella and the tablet was fixed on the wall of the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church, Colombo 7. On June 2nd 2005, Baptist Men's Fellowship and the Sangamaya officers held a "Thanks Giving Service" at the grave side for his 61st death anniversary.



**At the grave site**



**Tablet at the CGBC**

Sources – Same as Rev. Chater

---

Rev. Ebenezer Daniel's Co- Missionaries

1. Joseph & Mary Anne Harris (1839-1842)
2. Edward MacCarthy (1839-1846)
3. Charles Cornelius & Susanna Dawson (1841-1850)

## **Rev. Joseph Harris and Ms. Ann Harris 1938 - 1943**

### **THE PIONEER MISSIONARIES OF KANDY**

As Rev. Ebenezer Daniel was struggling alone with the missionary work in Ceylon, Rev. Joseph Harris and Mrs. Ann Harris from St. Albans arrived on 2nd November 1838. They were stationed in Grandpass. Then Rev. Ebenezer started to visit the suburban churches during the week and went to Hanwella for the week-end and stayed at the Mudliyar's house as Rev. Siers was residing at the Hanwella Manse.

In 1840 Rev. Harris went to Matale to Baptize twenty nine believers as their Pastor Mr. F.J. Corea was a layman. In 1840 the Hendala Baptist church got their first Pastor, Rev. J P de Silva, though the Missionaries and the local clergy had been visiting them for quite some time. In 1841 Rev. and Ms. Harris went to Kandy to spread the gospel. In the same year the Kotikawatte Church building was dedicated and Rev. Issac A. Whyttu Nathen was their first Pastor. He was a teacher at the Mattakkluliya school started by Rev. Chater. The same year a church was built in an abandoned teak plantation at Welgama by the members themselves. They used to conduct a prayer session

after the morning service. Rev. Ebenezer conducted a communion service in that church for the first time with twenty five communicants.

In 1842 Rev. Harris was very ill with fever and had to be carried to Colombo in a Palenquin. The interpreter Mudlier Wanigathunge of the Kandy Municipal Council, and a member of the Kandy Baptist Church, took the initiative to take Rev. Harris to Colombo. Mudlier himself went by foot accompanying the patient while his own child was ill at home. Such were the attitudes of our early Christians. Mudlier Wanigathunge was also an unpaid worker of the Kandy Baptist Church. In 1843 Rev. and Ms. Harris left the island because of his ill health.

## **REV. CHARLES CORNELIUS DAWSON AND MRS. SUSANNA (1841- 1850)**

### **THE PIONEER MISSIONARIES TO INTRODUCE PRINTING**

Rev. Ebenezer Daniel had requested the BMS in London for a printing press. They obliged and sent it through the newly married Missionary couple Rev. Charles Cornelius Dawson and Ms. Susanna Dawson who landed in the island on 18th February 1841. They were posted to Kandy. Rev. and Ms. Harris welcomed them very warmly. The printing press was installed in Kandy as Rev. Dawson had a knowledge in printing. He started to print religious pamphlets to be distributed. They also printed two journals “Uragala” in Sinhala and “Investor” in English. He was the pastor of the CGBC and the Kandy Church during his stay.

The Kandy church which was under construction on a land gifted by the Government of Ceylon was dedicated to the Glory of God on December 25th 1841. On that day several new members were baptized. Mr. Samuel de Sarem was one of them. In 1841 the word of God was taken to the lowest clans and to “Veddas” by the evangelists of the Matale Church. In 1842 the Estate Superintendents requested Rev. Ebenezer Daniel to preach the word of God to the people in the estates. Rev. Thomas Garnier was appointed to manage the Tamil work in the estates. He was gifted with a house in Kundasale and a horse for his travelling by a friend. Mr. Solomon Ambrose of Jaffna and Mr. Phillip Pulle from India assisted Rev. Garnier in Colombo and in the estates with the Tamil congregations. Rev. Dawson was the pastor till he left in 1850.

The Dawson couple was blessed with three boys while in Ceylon. Dawson toiled for 9 years through illnesses. When Rev. Dawson was very ill, leeches were applied to his temples to draw the blood out. His little son seeing his father bleeding from his face and disfigured, started sobbing in the night. When the mother questioned him, he has said “I’m thinking how sad if papa should die leaving us; could we not pray that we might all die together?”. The Dawson family sailed on the ship “City of London” from Colombo to England in February 1850, but to everyone’s sorrow the ship was lost in mid sea. Any way the little child’s prayer was answered as they all perished together.

Sources – Lanka the Resplendent Isle by Rev. J.A. Ewing.

## REV. JACOB DAVIES AND MS. ELIZA DAVIES (1844 - 1849)

### MS. DAVIES THE FOUNDER OF THE GIRLS BOARDING SCHOOL COLOMBO

Rev. Jacob Davies of Winchester was born in England in 1815. He was a product of “ Horton College” Bradford. He was a shy unassuming person with a wide general knowledge. Rev. and Ms. Davies came to Ceylon in 1844 to fill the vacancy created by Rev. Ebenezer Daniel’s death in 1844. Rev. Davies was young and inexperienced. Now he was in an unknown land among unknown people without knowing their language. He with great courage started to work preaching three times to the English congregation and once to the Sinhala congregation by the help of an interpreter in the churches in Colombo.

He continued the academy in Colombo to train young men for the ministry. He carried them forward in their studies by introducing them to the Greek New Testament. He visited the villages where his predecessors had opened up. Sometimes he preached five times a day visiting the schools and the mission stations. He too used to walk for miles in the hot sun and in two years his health started deteriorating. In 1845 Ms. Davies started a Sunday School in the Pettah church with about forty children. In 1846 Rev. **Charles Bennett Lewis and Marianne Lewis** came to Ceylon to assist the Davies couple for a short period. In the same year in 1846 Ms. Eliza Davies commenced the first Sinhalese Boarding School for girls in Colombo at No. 44, Kynsey Road with twelve girls, with the assistance of Ms. Marianne Lewis . In 1847 Rev. & Ms. Lewis left for Calcutta. Rev. Davies produced a series of reading sheets and scripture manuals to help the teachers to improve the standards in the schools. His health went down rapidly and preparations were made for him to leave the island. In the mean time he got an attack of dysentery as his constitution was weak and died within a week on November 2nd 1849 at the age of 34 years. His funeral was attended by all ranks of people. His death was regarded as a public loss. Sir Emerson Tennant an impartial writer



has written “A more enlightened Christian I never met, and a more benevolent spirit never winged its way from scene of earthly usefulness to an eternal reward”. Rev. James Allan officiated at the funeral. Ms. Davies returned to England. The tablet which was erected at the Pettah church installed in the Cinnamon Gardens Church in the later years and it is still there to be seen.

Sources – Lanka the Resplendent Isle by Rev. John A Ewing.

## **REV. JAMES ALLAN AND MS. JANE ALLAN (1846 – 1866)**

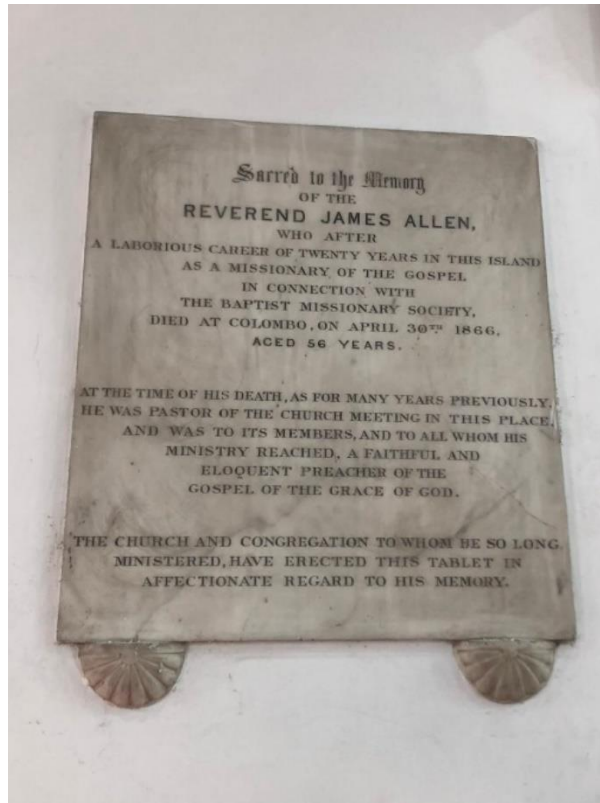
### **THE FIRST MISSIONARIES WHO SERVED THE LONGEST PERIOD**



Rev. James Allan was born on 16th April 1810. He got married to Jane on 30th October 1841 in England. He had been the Pastor in-charge of a church in Alcester in England. Rev. and Mrs. James Allen arrived in Ceylon on 3rd April 1846 with their two daughters and they were stationed in Kandy. In 1847 they were blessed with a son. When Rev. Jacob Davies died in Colombo in 1849 Rev. and Ms. Allan succeeded him.

Under Rev. Allan's guidance the Pettah church grew steadily. Rev. Allan's time was mostly spent with the Sinhalese congregation. Some of the lay preachers were of a great help. Many influential people joined the church. Dr. Christopher Elliot (civil medical officer) Mr. A M Ferguson (the pioneer editor of the Ceylon Observer), Mr. R.V Dunlop (Manager Oriental Bank) Mr. P. Schumacher (Paymaster of the Ceylon Rifles) were amongst them. Ms. Allan succeeded Ms. Davies in running the Girl's Boarding School from 1849 – 1865 and Rev. Allan was the Pastor at the Pettah church from 1849 – 1866. In 1850 the Pettah chapel at the ware house at Prince Street was demolished and a new church was constructed under the guidance of George Charter, a member of the church and an Engineer by profession. He was the Grand father of Rev. H. J Charter the founder Principal of Carey College from 1914 to 1921. During Rev. Allan's Pastorship of 17 years at the Pettah church, the membership was doubled.

In 1851 the New church was dedicated to the glory of God. Rev. and Ms. Allan served our country for twenty years. Rev. Allan was very keen to see new churches coming up. In 1866 he attended the opening of the new church in Hanwella. A fortnight later he died on 30th April 1866 in Colombo at the age of 56 years. After a service in the Pettah church which he was instrumental in building he was buried at the Wolfendhal cemetery in Pettah amidst a large



gathering (presently the Titus Stores building is situated where the cemetery was). Ms. Allan had already left the island in 1865 and continued to live in England till 1911 and died at the age of 91

The tablet which was erected in his memory in the Pettah church was later shifted to the Cinnamons Gardens Baptist Church and is still to be seen there. It is interesting to note that Rev. Herbert Anderson who was the B.M.S Field Secretary in India, was a son-in-law of Rev. and Ms. Allan. He represented the B.M.S at the Centenary Celebrations in 1912, and he visited many of our local village churches with Rev. and Mrs. Ewing our field secretary.

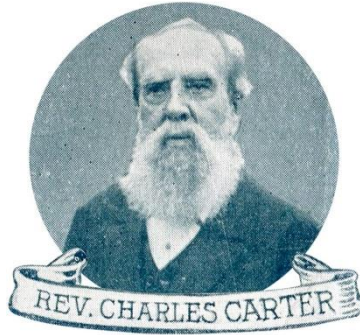
Sources:

Lanka Resplendent Isle by John A Ewing



# REV. CHARLES HENRY AND HANNAH MORTON CARTER 1853 – 1881 & 1888 - 1891

## THE SINHALESE SCHOLARS

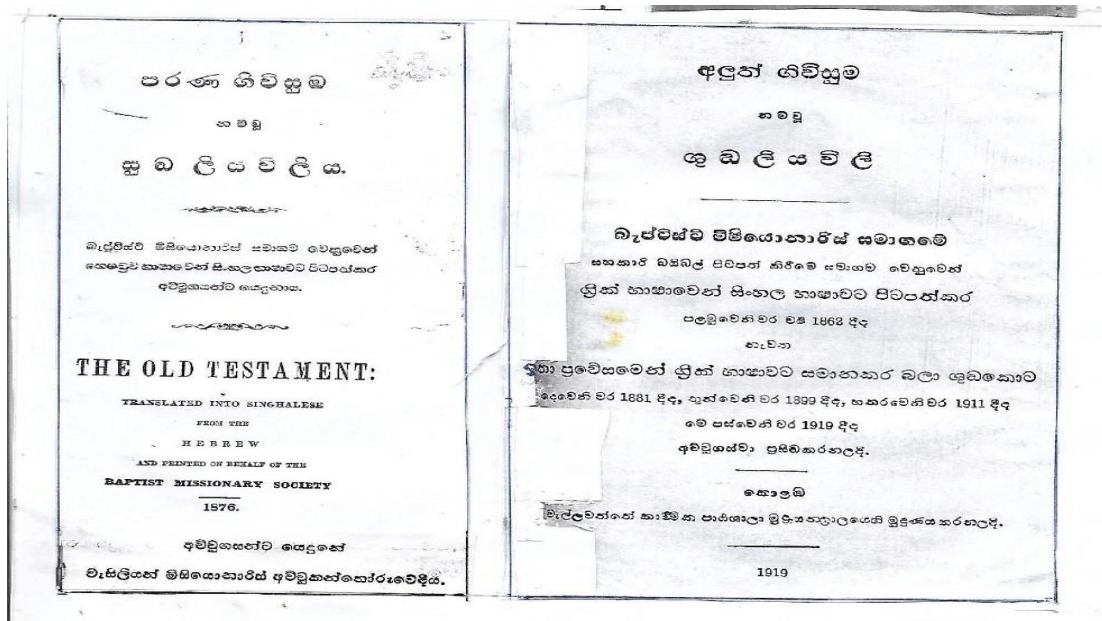


Charles Henry Carter was born on the 29th of October 1828 at Licester in England. Their family trade was to transport goods by cart. He would have had his Primary education in their village school. From his young days he was keen to serve the Lord. At the age of 17 he was baptized. After completing his secondary education he worked in a flour mill run by an uncle of his. Though he was occupied in a job his childhood ambition to serve the Lord was blooming in him. Therefore he left his job and joined the “Horton College” also known as “ Rawden College” to persue his Theological Studies. There he studied not only Theology, but Philosophy and languages such as French, German, Latin, Greek and Hebrew. He completed his university studies obtaining a degree in 1849. Now his vision was to go to India as a Missionary. His venue changed later and decided to go to Ceylon. Before leaving the native shores, he got married to Miss. Hannah Morton. In 1853 they boarded a ship sailing through the Galle Harbour. They landed in Galle on 22nd September 1853. Rev. and Ms.Carter had to stay in Galle till a train came to Galle for them to proceed to Colombo. While staying in Galle they used the time profitably by learning the Sinhalese alphabet from a Sinhalese girl of twelve years. After they reached Colombo they continued to study the Sinhalese language systamatically stationed at Biyanwila. In four months he was able to preach in Sinhalese.

In 1855 March Rev. and Ms. Carter succeeded Rev. and Ms. Davis of Winchester who were in Kandy from 1851 – 1855 and left for New Zealand. Rev. Carter preached in English and Sinhalese. As there were many Tamil labourers working in the coffee plantations Rev. Carter soon learnt Tamil to reach out to them. Rev. Carter was the Pastor of the Kandy Church as well as the Missionary of the Hill Country. He was a reputed preacher and was well known for his open-air services. Many people who heard him were converted, though he baptized them only after he was convinced about their conversions. Rev. Juan de Silva of Moratuwa who was converted by listening to Rev. James Chater’s sermon was later baptized by Rev. Carter in Kandy in the year 1856.

From 1856 – 1860 Rev. Carter conducted a divinity class to train young men for priesthood. There were six students under his training. Two of them were Rev. Juan de Silva of Moratuwa and Rev. J. Samuel Perera.

Rev. Carter’s greatest skill was his translations. During the Dutch period the New Testament had been translated into Sinhala. After the British Missionaries arrived in Ceylon Mr. Tolfrey who was a Civil Servant and Rev. James Chater translated the Bible to Sinhala which was published in 1823. This first translations had many vocabulary and linguistic errors in it. Therefore there had been many doctrinal debates between Buddhists and Christians over it. This made an urgent necessity to have a proper Sinhalese Bible as quickly as possible. So Rev. Carter with his knowledge of Hebrew and Greek undertook to translate the English Bible to Sinhala with many Sinhala workers to assist him.



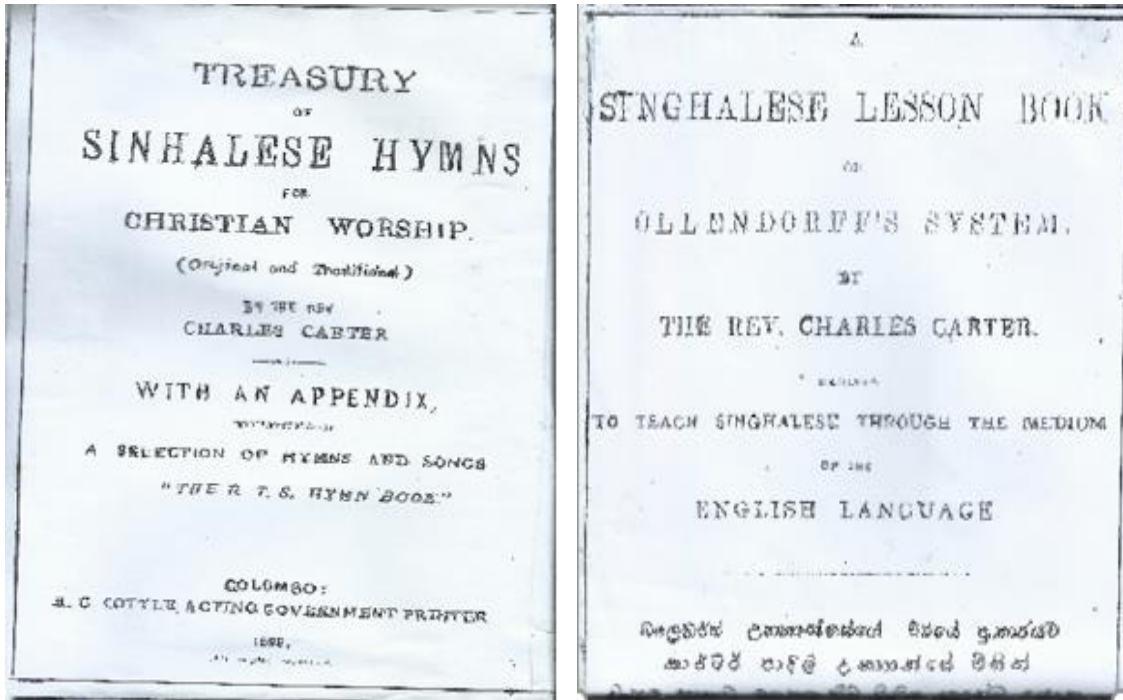
Carter’s Bibles

Firstly he translated the book of Psalms. Then he started on the New Testament, translating it with the help of the Greek Bible. Mudlier Hendrick Perera Wanigatunga the chief interpreter of the Kandy Municipal Council who was a member of the Kandy Baptist church and Rev. J Samuel Perera who was the Pastor in-charge of the Kandy Baptist church and his own student helped him .Rev. Juan de Silva was the scribe.

In 1862 Rev.Carter was able to publish the first edition of the New Testament. In 1860 Rev.Carter got the honour of being the founder Missionary of Korigamma now known as Beligodapitiya with Rev. J Miguel Perera as the Pastor. Rev. Carter continued his writings, by compiling and publishing a grammer book, to be used in the vernacular schools.



In 1863 Rev. and Ms. F.D Waldo came to Ceylon. He was posted to Kandy as the Pastor of the Kandy Baptist Church and the Missionary of the hill country. So Rev. Carter was released from his pastoral duties, to attend to his translations. Rev. Carter started translating the Old Testament directly from the Hebrew Bible. By 1876 he completed it and published the Old Testament . In the mean time he took time to translate the English Hymns to Sinhala which was sung to the original Western tunes. In 1873 he compiled this Hymn Book with one hundred and fifty hymns. In 1875 he went to England and came back in 1878 . In 1881 Rev. Carter published the second version of the New Testament.

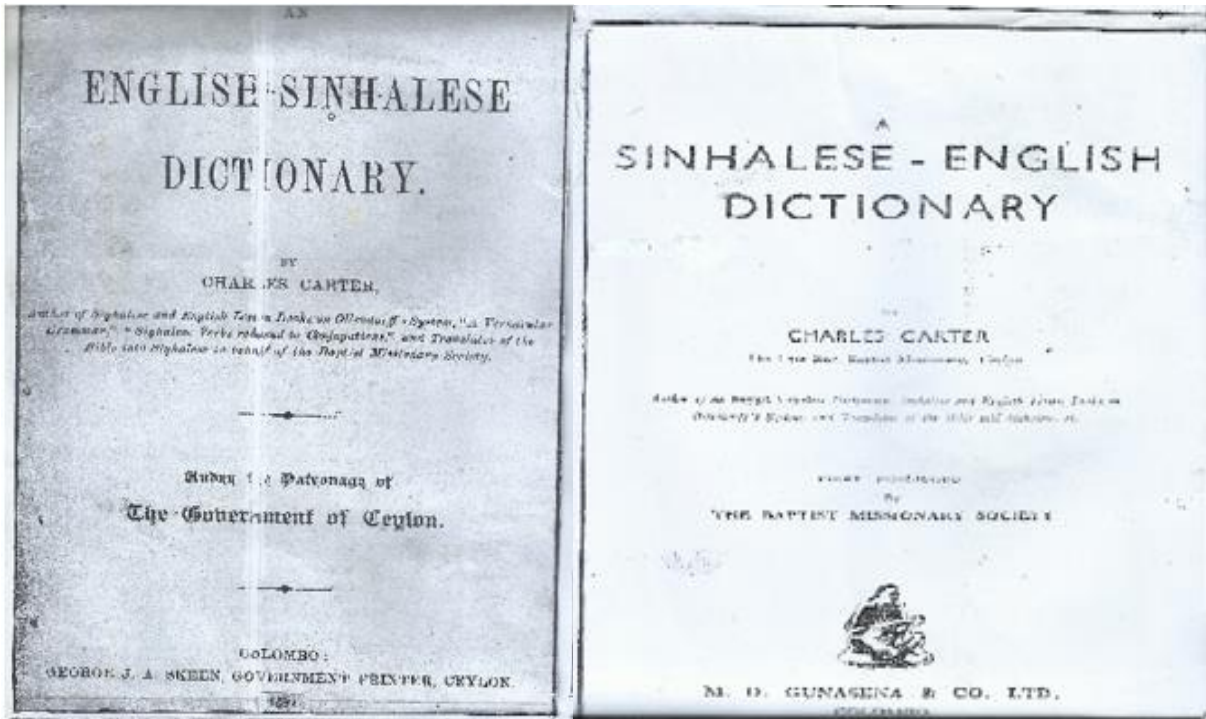


The Treasury of hymns he had compiled in New Zealand was printed and published in 1892 by H. C Cottle the Acting Government Printer. This Hymn book was in use in the Sinhala speaking churches for a very long time. Still some of those are in the Chistian Hymnal published by the C. L. S and are used in our churches. The hymn numbers are No. 11, 43, 463, 525 and 687. Rev. Carter was the Author of a Sinhalese lesson book on “ Ollendorffs System” that is to teach Sinhalese through the English Medium. This was published before the dictionaries.

During this time he had begun to compile the English-Sinhala Dictionary and the Sinhala-English dictionary. By this time Rev. Carter’s health was deteriorating and it was necessary for him to leave the country without delay. They left Ceylon and went to New Zealand. There they were missionaries in charge of the Mozambi Baptist Church from 1881 – 1888.

He also worked on the two dictionaries .Rev. Carter was the founder President of the New Zealand Baptist Union. In 1888. Rev. Carter came back to Ceylon to publish his works completed in New Zealand. Though he was physically living in New Zealand his mind was in Ceylon. He then got

the assistance of Pandit D. T. Gunasekera of Katugastota to check the two dictionaries, completed in New Zealand. In 1891 Sir Arthur Hamilton Gordon the Governor of Ceylon got the English-Sinhalese Dictionary printed and published by the Government Press under the patronage of the Government of Ceylon by George A. S Keen the Government printer. In 1891 Rev. Carter left Ceylon for good.



### Carters Dictionaries

The third edition of the New Testament was completed while living in New Zealand. In 1899 he published the third edition of the New Testament. The revised full Bible was published in 1905. In order to avoid the risk of losing the treasured work Ms. Carter made hand written copies of the entire Bible and the two dictionaries that were kept in safety to avoid the risk of losing them in the transition to Ceylon. On July 6th 1914 at the age of 85 years Rev. Carter died peacefully in his own home in New Zealand. On July 8th the funeral service was held in their church with many Baptist priests taking part. At the end of the service the Dead March was played by the organist. The funeral procession left the church to the Puram cemetery. Even after his death Ms. Carter sent the revised editions to be printed in Ceylon. The Sinhala English Dictionary with 86000 Sinhala words was sent to Ceylon and was printed by M. D Gunasena & Co. Ltd. and published by the Baptist Missionary Society in 1914.

On 19th December 1922 Ms. Carter died at the age of 91 years. Rev. and Mrs. Carter's son Charles was born in Ceylon in 1854 and grew up here till the age of 26 years. He was a Manager of a coffee

plantation. In 1880 he migrated to New Zealand and served in Auckland education board for 21 years as a Head Master. He died in 1926 after an illness.

It is interesting to note that Rev. H. A. and Ms. Lapham who came to Ceylon in 1880 was the founder of the Kekirawa Mission station opened in 1900. They were the son-in-law and daughter of Rev. and Ms. Carter. Miss Ruth Lapham who came to Ceylon as Missionary in 1907 and was the Principal of Girls Boarding School in Colombo from 1909 – 1912 was the daughter of Rev. and Ms. H. A. Lapham and the Grand daughter of Rev. and Ms. Carter.

#### Sources

Lanka the Resplendent Isle

---

# REV. HENRY ROBERT PIGOTT AND MS. ELLEN PIGOTT

1862 – 1891

## THE PIONEERS OF SABARAGAMUWA



Henry Robert Pigott was born in Dublin in Great Britain. His father was a Civil Servant and a businessman in Dublin. His mother had died prematurely when Robert was a child. After the mother's death his father had gone to America leaving the child. Robert got the love, affection, care and the security from the Baptist Clergy. After his Secondary education he did a Theological training. In the meantime he had met Ellen Guiles a daughter of a Baptist priest. They got married in 1862. Then the young couple set sail to Ceylon. At the Colombo Harbour they were met by Rev. and Ms. James Allan. The new missionary couple were stationed in Mattakkuliya to assist Rev. Walldock, the pastor of the Pettah Church. Their eldest child Anni was born while at Mattakkuliya in March 1863.

In 1864 they moved to Slave Island which was closer to Pettah. There they were blessed with another baby named Aileen but what a sorrow they lost her due to a malignant sore throat. Mrs. Allen was pregnant and she could not bear the Colombo heat. So they went to a coffee plantation 13 miles off Gampola to restore her health. Frank was born there. Rev. Pigott started a service at Wadikelle Estate. From 1863 – 1868 Rev. Pigott was the pastor of the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church. After Rev. Allan's death Rev. Pigott was made the Colombo Missionary from 1866. After Ms. Allan left the island Ms. Pigott with Ms. Walldock took the leadership to run the Girls Boarding School at No. 44 Kynsey Road, Colombo. On 21st January 1870 the Foundation stone was laid for the Madampe Baptist Church on the lands gifted by Mr. Don Davith Wijesundera Sandarathne and Mr.C.E. Corea. The church was completed in the same year and Rev. Pigott was invited to dedicate and declared open the church for the glory of God on 5th April 1870.

In 1870 a Baptist from England was the Railway Engineer at Ratnapura. He had a good friend Mr.Ferguson the Magistrate of Ratnapura. In 1878 when Rev. and Mrs Pigott came as the area Missionaries to Ratnapura, both of them ( Railway Engineer and the Magistrate )were of great help. They informed the Missionaries of a Hillock that could be purchased. The BMS immediately purchased it and was known as the Ferguson Hill. The mission House named Etherington House was on this hill.

In 1878 Rev. and Ms. Pigott went to Ratnapura as the first missionaries to be stationed in the Sabaragamuwa Province. They were blessed with Ellen while they were there in 1878. Though Rev. Ebenezer Daniel had penetrated to Ratnapura District in 1843 only local workers laboured there till the missionary couple settle down there.

Rev. Pigott started his pioneer work rigorously. The number of Sinhalese workers was increased to three Mission Stations and schools were opened up in various centres such as Balangoda, Pelmadulla, Eheliyagoda and Avissawella, where the Baptist families lived and was being visited by Rev. Pigott who baptized them. During the Sri Pada pilgrim seasons Rev. Pigott with the local workers spread the good news to the Pilgrims passing through Ratnapura. The church was built facing the main Colombo-Ratnapura Road, with the money collected locally. It was dedicated to God's glory on 18th April 1882. The first sermon was delivered by Mr. Ferguson the Ratnapura Magistrate. The Ratnapura Railway Engineer was also a participant at the opening of the church. He was instrumental in organizing the purchase of land in the Ferguson Hill.



*Figure 2: Ratnapura Baptist Church*

Ms. Pigott conducted a Girl's school in her home and visited the homes of aristocratic families to teach English. Rev. Pigott baptized six converts and senior scholars who attended the church. In 1866 Rev. and Ms. Pigott left the District to work in Colombo. **Rev. and Ms. Gray** succeeded them and continued the work. On 26th December 1881 Rev. and Ms. Pigott set sail on the ship "R.M.S Ballarat" to Sydney in Australia with their younger daughters Effie and Mary to visit their son Harry who had settled down in Australia and was involved in the tea business. But later on they decided to settle down in Australia themselves. Rev. Pigott died in Australia on 26th February 1904 at New South Wales. Mrs. Piggot died on 27th July 1925 at the age of 85 years. It is interesting to note that one of their daughters Ms. Foucer (nee Pigott) declared open the Ferguson High School Hall on 10th March 1919. Recently we have got to know that the Great Grand children of Rev. and Mrs. Pigott are living in Australia and working with the daughter-in-law of Mr. Nihal Munasinghe of Madampe. Rev. Piggots great grandson, David Piggot is an executive in policy and corporate affairs of the Mission Australia in Sydney.

Sources: Lanka the Resplendent Isle by John A Ewing.

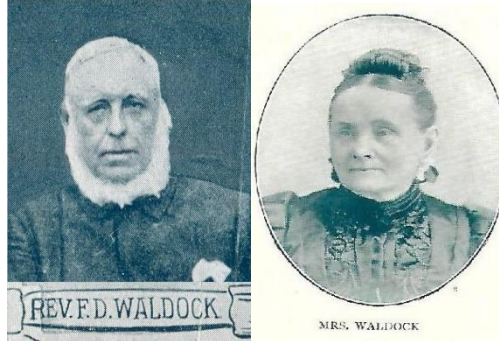
Research done by Mr. Nihal Munasinghe.



# REV. FRED DAVID AND MS. MARIA C WALDOCK

1862 - 1897 & 1901 - 1905

## THE BAPTIST ARCHITECT AND BUILDER



Rev. Fred David Waldock was born in England in 1832. After completing the secondary education he joined a famous Engineering Company in England. Then he gained a wide knowledge in renovating and constructing buildings and drawing architectural plans. When he was in his late twenties he got the calling to serve the Lord. So he joined the “Regent Park College of Divinity” in London and completed a Theological training. He was keen about the Missionary work in Ceylon, and was praying about it. Then he felt the need to go to Ceylon with his wife Mariah.

They set sail from England in December 1861 and reached Colombo on 23rd April 1862. Rev. and Ms. James Allan welcomed them. He had been about 30 years old at the time. On the day he set foot on the island he preached his first sermon based on Hebrews 13: 8 “Yesterday to-day for ever Jesus is the same”. It is interesting to note that his last sermon before he left the island after his retirement in 1897 was also based on the same theme.

Rev. and Ms. Waldock continued their Missionary work in Kandy from 1862 – 1868. He was not only the Pastor of the Kandy Baptist Church but the Missionary of the Kandyan region. So he had to visit the Mission stations in the suburbs of Kandy. He was also a regular visitor to the Bogambara prison for counselling and preaching to the prisoners. It is mentioned in the “Lanka Resplendant Isle” by J. A Ewing that “Saradiel” the well known bandit popularly known as Robinhood of Ceylon had been converted to Christianity by listening to the word of God spoken by Rev. Waldock before Saradiel was sent to the gallows in 1864. Another prisoner “Perumal” who was convicted to the gallows, after hearing the God’s word, repented over his sinful deeds, was baptized within the prison walls before being executed later 1872.

On 6th April 1868 Rev. and Ms. Waldock came to serve in the Colombo Church as the Co-pastor with Rev. Pigott till 1874. On 21st January 1870 Rev. Waldock layed the foundation stone for the Madampe Baptist Church building to which he himself had drawn the ground plan.

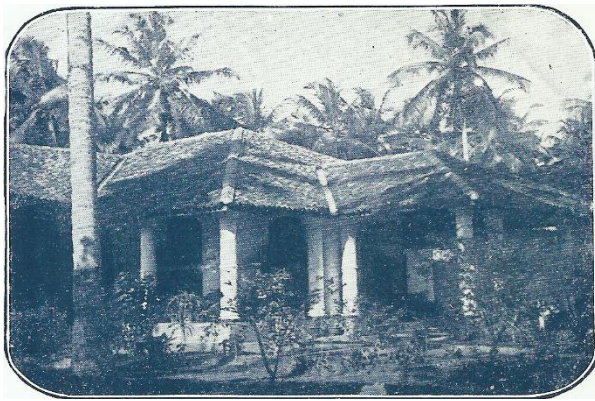
As the Pettah area was becoming densely populated and more commercialized the present site was purchased from the Government for five hundred Pounds in 1875. The foundation stone was laid on 4th April 1876 and completed and opened on 1st October 1877 with Rev. Waldock as the architect and builder. This Gothic building, is a model of architectural simplicity and good taste, is a monument for the builder. The Manse that was demolished in the early 1970's, was built in 1891 by Rev. Waldock. The Ferguson Memorial Hall in the church premises built in Memory of Mr. & Ms. A. M Ferguson by their sons was opened in 1896 was also one of Rev. Waldock's handy works.



Cinnamon Gardgens Baptist church



Ferguson Memorial Hall



Colombo Mission House



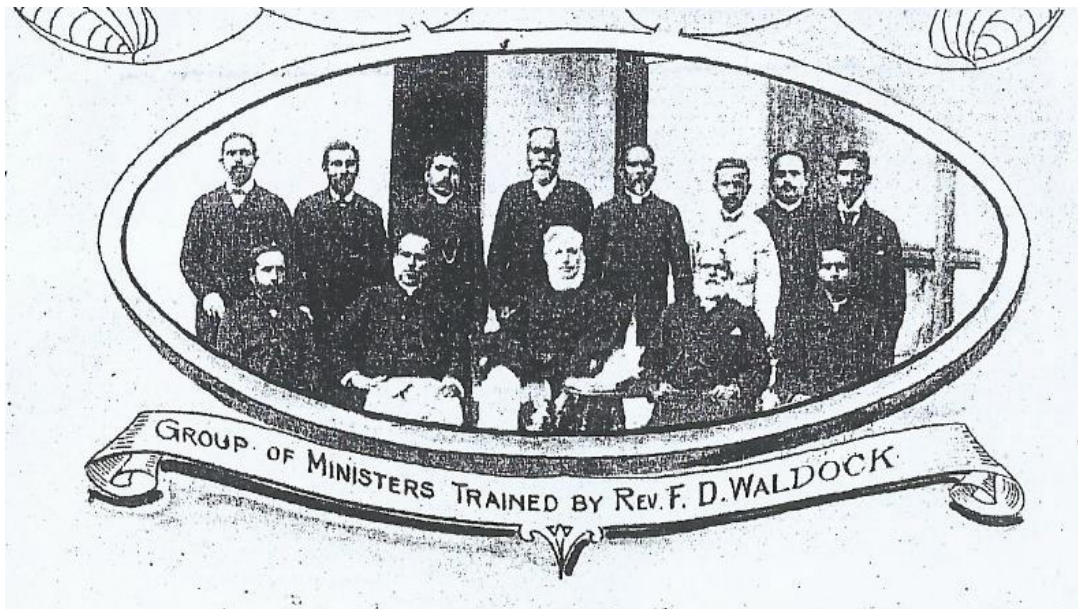
Mattakkuliya Baptist Church

In Rev. H. J Charter's "Ceylon advancing" it is mentioned that the Colombo Mission House, the girls Boarding school was built by him. Several of our village churches such as Mattakuliya, Makewita, Madampe, Gonawela and Kotikawatte were built or renovated under his guidance. He had a set of masons and carpenters trained by him, for his work. After the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church was opened for services the Pettah Church was handed over to the BMS.

Rev. Waldock was the Field Secretary of the BMS from 1878 to 1896. After Ms. Davies who started the Girls Boarding School in 1846, and returned to England in 1849 the wives of the Missionaries took care of the school. Ms. Waldock held the reigns from 1868 to 1897 till her

health deteriorated. Ms. Waldock used to visit the leper hospital at Hendala and attended to the needs of its inmates with the help of the Mattakuliya ladies. In 1897 Rev. & Ms. Waldock returned to England.

Rev. Waldock was a very intelligent and a educated peron, with a wide general knowledge. He was a good administrator who could solve any problem very easily. He was honest and truthful with a good moral character. He had a deep Bibilical knowledge and his sermons were simple so that all could undestand very easily. During his period he had trained twelve Divinity students and one has been Mr. Samuel de Sarem.



In 1895 the Baptist Union was established in Ceylon. Rev. F. D Waldock was it's founder President from 1895 to 1897. Again he was re-elected from 1902 to 1903 for a second term of service. Rev. Waldock was very fond of Ceylon. He had once said that if he was widowed some day, he would come back to Ceylon to settle down in Hanwella. After leaving Ceylon for good in 1903 he visited again in 1905.

On 6th October 1908 he was called for a greater service and Ms. Waldock followed him on 30th September 1909. Although Rev. and Ms. Waldock are not with us physically their names lives on. In 1912 when the Missionary society in England was planning to comemorate the centenary of their work in Ceylon the Baptists in Ceylon planned to start a Boys' English School in Colombo. Then Rev. Waldock's family and friends volunteered to build the College Hall. The foundation stone was laid by Ms. F. W Waldock the wife of his eldest son on 15th July 1913. After completing the construction the Hall was declared open to the Glory of God on 3rd July 1914 by MR. R. V. B Byrde the Mayor of Colombo. It was named "The Waldock Memorial Hall" in remembrance of the great Architect and the builder of the Baptist Mission.





"CENTENARY HIGH SCHOOL & WALDOCK MEMORIAL HALL."

In 1963 during Rev. W. G Wickramasinghe's Principleship the Waldock Memorial Hall was demolished giving way to a new hall and buldings. In 1924 Rev. Harrold Spooner the Principal introduced the House system to the College. One of the Houses was named the "The Waldock House". Specially during the Annual Sports Meets and other Inter House competitions the name Waldock was used constantly.

#### Sources

Lanka the Resplendent Isle by John A Ewing 1912.

Ceylon Advancing by H J Charter 1955

Carey College 50th Souvenir Magazine in 1964

# REV. HENRY ALFRED LAPHAM AND MS. LAPHAM

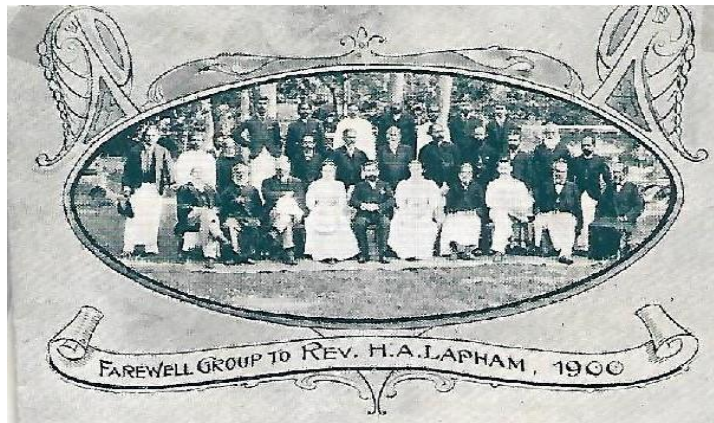
1880 - 1902

## PIONEER MISSIONARIES OF KEKIRAWA



Rev. H. A. Lapham came to Ceylon in 1880 and Ms. Lapham in 1882. Ms. Lapham was the daughter of Rev. Charles and Ms. Hannah Carter our great Sinhala scholars from 1853 -1891. Their daughter Ruth Lapham came to Ceylon in 1906 through Rev. Etherington's "Forward movement" to start evangelistic work among women and girls in the villages but after her language learning she became the Principal of the Girl's Boarding School Colombo from 1909 to 1910. After Miss Kathleen Dunn came in 1910 as Principal of the Boarding School, Miss Lapham was released to work with the Bible Teachers for which she had come to Ceylon. In 1912 she left the Mission to get married. Miss Ethel Evans succeeded her.

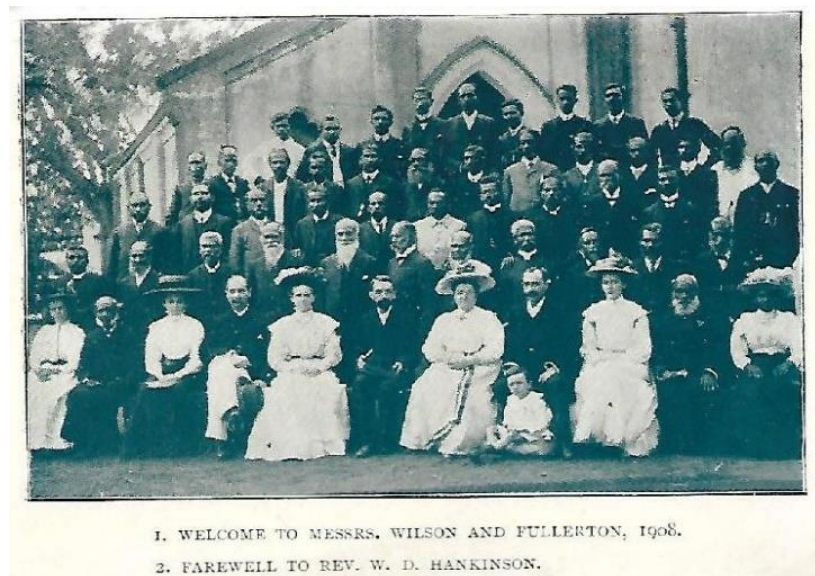
Rev. and Ms. Lapham were the Missionaries in Kandy from 1880 to 1884 and then the Pastor of the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church from 1884 to 1887. In 1887 Rev. Lapham ventured towards the North Central Province. Their main Mission station was Kekirawe. The Kekirawe Church was started in 1900 and a Mission School with about 40 children. Later the church was built in 1934 and the Manse was built in 1930. Mission schools were started in Maanawe, Galapitigala, Hiripitiyagama and Yakkalgame. Rev. and Ms. Lapham returned to England in 1902 after serving in Ceylon for 22 long years.



## REV. WALTER D. HANKINSON & MS. HANKINSON 1893 -1900 & NOVEMBER 1908 – MARCH 1910



Rev. and Ms. Hankinson came to Ceylon in 1893 and 1897 respectively. Rev. Hankinson had his divinity degree from the “Rowdon College” of Divinity in London. He was brilliant in Sinhala language and did much for the spiritual upliftment of the Sinhalese Churches. He was mainly responsible for the formation of the Ceylon Baptist Union in July 1895 when Rev. F. D. Waldock was made the founder President. Rev. Hankinson worked in Ratnapura in 1896. From 1897 – 1899 he was the Field Secretary of the B. M. S. in Ceylon. In 1900 they returned to England.



1. WELCOME TO MESSRS. WILSON AND FULLERTON, 1908.  
2. FAREWELL TO REV. W. D. HANKINSON.

Rev. Hankinson came to Ceylon again for a short period from November 1908 to March 1910. When they returned in 1910 Miss Evelyn Tippot the fiancée of Rev. S.F. Pearce accompanied them. Rev. Hankinson had the privilege of giving the bride at the wedding service. He returned to England in 1910 for good.

# **REV. BRUCE ETHERINGTON AND MS. ANNIE ETHERINGTON**

**1899 - 1907**

## **THE FOUNDER OF THE “ FORWARD MOVEMENT”**



Bruce Etherington was born in 1874 at the Baptist Mission House in Benaris in India, where his parents were missionaries for many years. He received his education at the Taunton Independent College and Bristol Grammar School in England. At the London Matriculation, Intermediate Arts, and the final B.A. Examination he received first class passes. From 1894 to 1899 he joined the Regent Park College to follow postgraduate studies in Arts and Theology, and passed with distinctions. His father Rev. W.D. Etherington (M.A) was a scholar in Hindi.

Rev. Bruce Etherington following his father's footsteps came to Ceylon as a Missionary in June 1899. He was posted at Matale to study Sinhala which he completed successfully. In January 1900 Rev. Etherington married Miss Margaret Annie Ferguson, the younger daughter of Hon. John Ferguson (C.M.G), and the superintendent of Ceylon Observer and Mrs. Ferguson. They were blessed with a son and a daughter.

After Rev. Walter Hankinson went back to England in 1910, Rev. Etherington succeeded him and came to live in the Colombo Mission House. When Rev. Etherington visited the North Central Province he was down with Malaria. Therefore the family went on furlough before the due date to regain his health. Rev. Etherington had a vision for Ceylon. While in Matale he thought of starting a Girls English School. He also started the Forward Movement to bring down more missionaries to Ceylon. So when he was in England he visited many Baptist churches looking for new Missionaries. In 1906 he was able to get down Rev. S.F. Pearce, Rev. H.J Charter, two bachelors and Miss Ruth Lapham. When he visited the Reading Baptist Church at Kings Road, Miss Emily Collier and Miss Agnus Coleman two cousins decided to come to Ceylon to start the Girls School in Matale. So they came in 1907.



Rev. Etherington always had a busy schedule. On 3rd October 1907 he had attended a wedding ceremony. He was hale and hearty and took the forefront. On the 4th Friday he prepared a series of lectures for the Baptist young men which he had undertaken to deliver. On Sunday the 6th he had undertaken to preach at the Anniversary service of the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church. But what a tragedy on Saturday the 5th he was suddenly taken ill and was hospitalised and on Sunday a surgery was performed. Rev. H. J. Charter had preached at the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church filling the vacuum created by Rev. Etherington being in Hospital. On Monday his condition was critical and on 9th Wednesday morning he passed away after listening to a Bible passage read by his wife, and he himself delivering his spirit to the Lord amidst all his suffering. That same evening he was buried amidst a large sorrowing gathering with their heads bowed low in despair. Revs. John Ewing, H. J. Charter and S.F. Pearce participated at the funeral services.

On October 13th a memorial service was held at the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church led by Rev. Peacock their pastor. On October 20th a memorial service was held in Matale with Rev. S.F. Pearce taking the lead. Rev. G. A. Aponso had a special memorial service at Mattakkuliya church where Rev. Etherington had preached the 1st sermon with the help of a translator who was converted the same day. On October 29th Mrs. Etherington and the two children set sail to England in S.S. Wochestershire. The Mission started a fund to establish the Etherington Memorial Library. Later Mission house purchased in Ratnapura was named Etherington House. After some time Annie got married to Rev. Russett a Baptist Pastor in England.

#### Sources

Lanka the Resplendant Isle by Rev. J.A. Ewing 1912.

From the Baptist Messenger – 1907 November

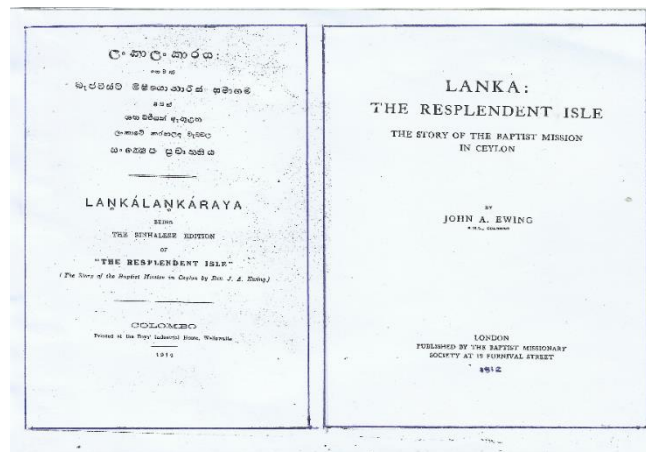
# REV. JOHN ALEXANDER EWING AND MS. EWING 1902 – 1934

## MUCH LOVED AND HONOURED MISSIONARIES

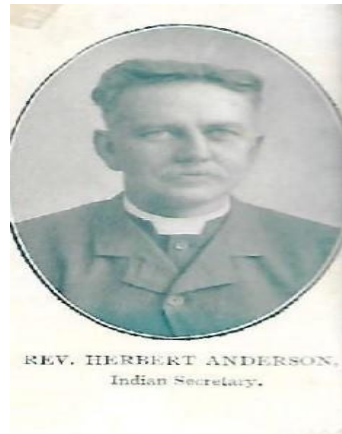


John Alexander Ewing was born in 1876 in England. He was baptized in 1894. After completing his education he had a secular job for 8 years. Then he got his calling to be a Missionary and go to India. Therefore he joined the “Rodney Theological College” and did a Theological degree. Then Rev. and Ms. Ewing planned to go to India but instead came to Ceylon in 1902 according to God’s plan. They were posted to Kotikawatte Church to do their language studies. After completing two year of probation they were stationed in Matale as Area Missionaries of Kandy and Matale from 1904 – 1907. During this time they had their son Harry with them. Ms. Ewing started an English School at the Mission House of Matale, which was the nucleus of the B.M.S. English School. After the sudden death of Rev. Bruce Ethering in Colombo on 9th October 1907, Rev. & Ms. Ewing came to Colombo as the Field Secretary of the B.M.S., which he held for 27 years till he left the island in 1934. In 1907 – 1908 he was elected as the BU President too.

In 1912 as the field Secretary of the BMS, he was responsible in organizing the BMS Centenary celebrations. He with the help of Rev. Charter and Rev. Pearce started to plan ahead. Rev. Ewing started to write the story of the Baptist Mission in Ceylon named “Lanka the Resplendent Isle”. It was printed and published by the BMS at No.19, Furnival Street, London. Later the Sinhala edition was translated with the help of Rev. S R Perera Maldeniye. Rev. G. A. Aponso and Rev. J. W Perera. It was printed at the Boy’s Industrial Home, Wellawatte in 1914 and published by the Colombo Missionary Society. It was named Lankalankaraya.



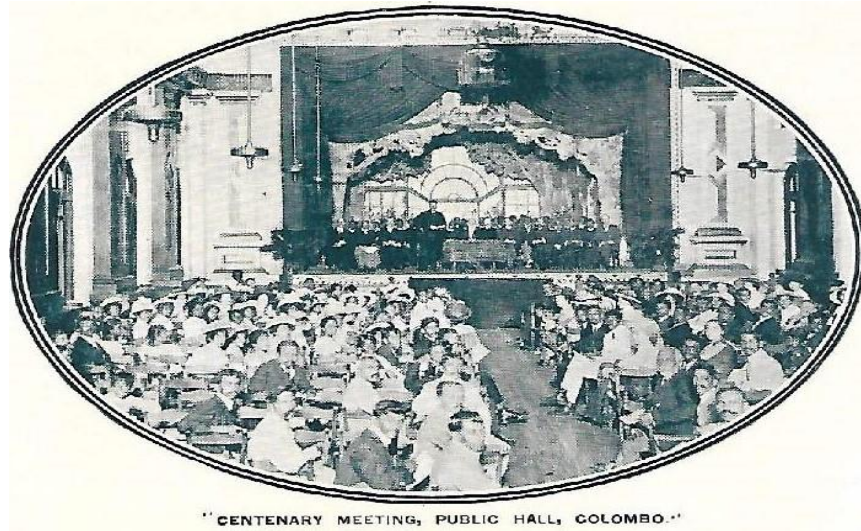
In 1911 Rev. Herbert Anderson and Ms. Anderson son in law & daughter of Rev. James and Ms. Jane Allan being the Secretary of the BMS India, arrived in Ceylon for the centenary celebrations.



The local churches had organised independent celebrations in their own churches through out the year. Rev. and Ms. Ewing with Rev. and Ms. Anderson the guest Missionaries participated in many of them. In the first week of December 1912 main celebrations were held in Colombo.

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1st December | A Thanks giving service was held at Cinnamon Gardens Church in the morning. In the evening a public meeting was held at the Grandpass Church with Rev. and Ms. Anderson.          |
| 2nd December | A public meeting was held with Rev. Ewing presiding. A reception was given to the representatives of the Baptist churches and the Heads of other denominations, in the evening.   |
| 3rd December | A full day programme with special programmes for children were organized by Senior Pastors of the Baptist church who shared their experiences.                                    |
| 4th December | Many Programmes were held from morning. The concluding Public Meeting was held at the Public Hall with Rev. H. J Charter presiding and Rev. Alexander Fairlie as the Chief guest. |





In 1914 when Carey College was founded as the centenary effort and when the Hall was opened, Rev Ewing represented the BMS at the occasion. From 1931-1932 he was the President of the Ceylon Baptist Union ( B.U.) for the second tenure of office. He was instrumental in forming the Ceylon Baptist Council ( C. B. C.) on 22nd February 1932 and was the founder Chairman. He not only served the Baptist denomination but the entire Christian Church in Ceylon by being the Chairman of the Christian Literary Society ( CLS) twice.

During his thirty two (32) years of long service he had organised many evangelical tours with the local Pastors to win souls for the Lord under trying circumstances. Due to Ms. Ewing's ill health he returned to his motherland in 1934. In England he continued to serve the Lord. On 7th June 1951 he was called home for greater service.

### Sources

Resplendent Isle written by himself – 1812

Ms. Dora Wijesinghe's notes from the Past Baptist Messengers

---

# REV. H. J CHARTER ( B.A , B. D ) & MS AGNES CHARTER 1906 – 1945

## THE BAPTIST EDUCATIONISTS



Howard J Charter was born in 1870 in England. He was the Grandson of Mr. George Charter an Engineer in Ceylon in the 1850's who was a member of the Pettah Baptist Church founded by Rev. James Charter in 1812. In 1850/51 when the new church was built Mr. Charter was instrumental in supervising the construction of it. Howard after completing his secondary education joined "Rodney Theological College" and did his Theological degree and Bachelor of Arts degree.

Then he served as a Pastor for five years in a church in his motherland, when he got the calling to go as a Missionary to the East. He was a bachelor then. Rev. H. J Charter and Rev. S. F Pearce set sail to Ceylon as the first contingent in the "Forward Movement" initiated by Rev. Bruce Etherington. They landed in Ceylon in November 1906. After they completed their probation period of two years and their language studies in Matale, Rev. Charter was posted to Matale and Rev. Pearce to Ratnapura. They were brought mainly to train workers on a more systematic way. So Rev. Charter began the Theological training in Matale with the help of his Sinhalese tutor Mr. Samuel de Sarem who was a pandit in Sinhala. He was a student of Rev. Waldock. Mr. de Sarem was the editor of the Baptist Messenger from its inception in 1894 until his death in 1923.

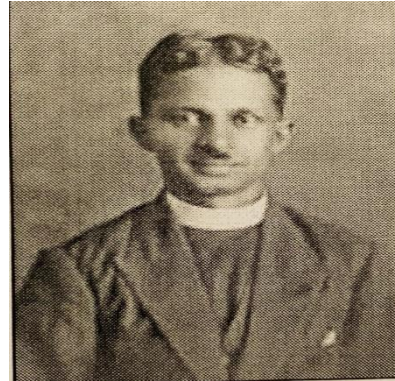
In Matale Rev. Charter met Miss Agnes Coleman and Miss Emily Collier who came in 1907 to Ceylon under Rev. Bruce Etherington's forward movement. Agnes Coleman and Emily Collier started the BMS English School Matale on the foundation laid by Ms. Ewing. In 1908 Rev. Charter got married to Miss Agnes Coleman. They were blessed with a daughter and a son. They continued to serve the area with enthusiasm.

In 1912 Rev. and Ms. Charter was in Colombo helping Rev. Ewing with the centenary celebrations. From 1913 – 1914 he was the President of the Ceylon Baptist Union. On 12th January 1914 when Carey College was founded by the Baptists as a centenary effort he was appointed as the first Principal from 1914 – 1921. He did much to improve the school with the help of his wife who too was a founder Principal. He introduced the "School Motto" and held the first sports meet and prize giving. Scouting, Athletics and Volley Ball were introduced as extra curricular activities.

While being the Principal of Carey College, Colombo he pastored the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church from 1918 – 1920.

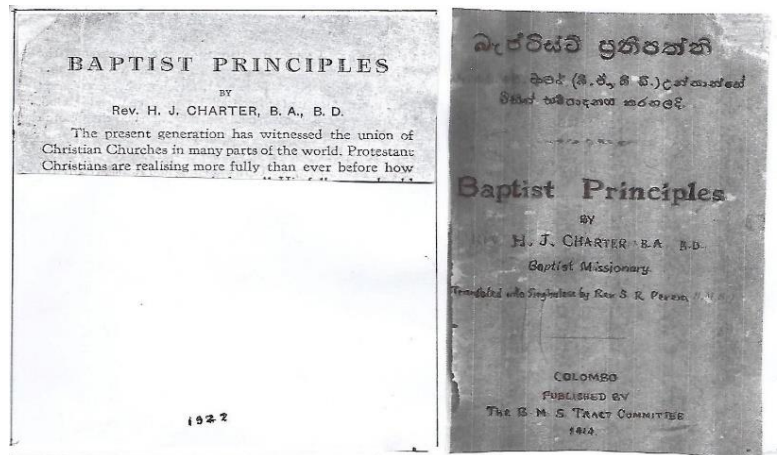


Rev. S. J. De. S. Weerasinghe



Rev. F. A. Peiris

From 1914 Rev. Charter started the Divinity Classes at Carey College along side of the Boy's School. According to the past records, about five students had been studying under him of which Rev. S. J. de S. Weerasinghe and Rev. F. A. Peiris were sent to the United College Bangalore for further studies. In 1921 as Rev. Charter's vision was to train youth for Missionary work he was posted to Matale to achieve his goals. In 1922 he wrote a booklet on the Baptist Principals in English, which was translated into Sinhalese by Rev. S R Perera Maldeniye in 1914. It was published by BMS Tract Committee.



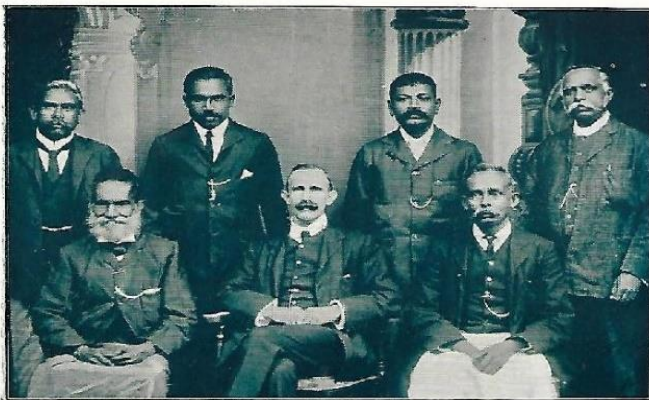
In 1921 Rev. Charter had a few Theological students at Matale. In 1894 the Peradeniya Training Colony was started by Ceylon Missionary Society (C. M. S. ) and the Methodist Mission to train teachers and a few Baptists students were taken with a special arrangement. When the United Society for Christian Literature was founded Rev. Charter who was appointed as General Editor from 1926. Then Rev. Charter had to move to Peradeniya with his Theological students. There he had to devote half of his time for Literary work and the other half to teach Divinity. At the Peradeniya Training Colony there were many students following different courses They were Divinity Students ,Teacher Trainees, Evangelists, Bible Teachers, Catechists and Colportears.



Their subjects consisted of the Old Testament, the New Testament, the Church History, Theology, Homiletics, Missionary work and English.

The teacher trainees after the two year training period according to the Government syllabus had to stay back for an extra term, to be trained on Homiletics (the art of preaching).

In 1932 the Theological training at the Peradeniya came to an end as all the three denominations started to send their students to Serampore and Bangalore Theological Colleges in India. Rev. Charter when stationed at Peradeniya, Pastored the Kandy Baptist Church from 1926 – 1932. In 1932 Rev. and Msrter opted to go to Kekirawa considered as a difficult station which was almost closing down. Rev. Charter’s son who was an a student of architecture designed the new church and it was built and dedicated in September 1934. Rev. Charter was the B. U. President for the second time in 1933/1934. In 1942 – 1945 he pastored the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church for the second time.



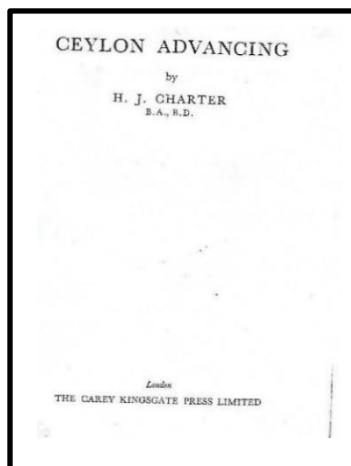
MISSIONARIES OF THE KANDY DISTRICT.

P. C. de Silva. S. P. Jayasingha. A. R. Ganaselera. D. W. Abayarathna.  
J. S. Perera. H. J. Charter, B.A., B.D. S. E. Perera. (Pastor, Kandy Church).



REV. H. J. CHARTER, B. A., B. D.  
PRESIDENT OF THE CEYLON BAPTIST UNION  
1933-34.

President of the Ceylon Baptist Union  
1933-1934



After retirement

Rev. Charter who had a broad forehead and had many capabilities was considered a very wise person. They left our shores in 1945, but continued to work for the Lord in England. While in England he wrote a book on B.M.S Work in Ceylon named “Ceylon Advancing” which was printed at the Carey Kingsgate Press Ltd., London and published in 1955. This was sent to Ceylon

for the B M S Ter Jubilee Celebrations in 1962. Rev. H J Charter passed away on 7th April 1955 in England.

## **REV. S.F. PEARCE AND MS. EVLYN PEARCE 1906-1950**

### **THE LONGEST BAPTIST MISSIONARY TO LIVE IN CEYLON**

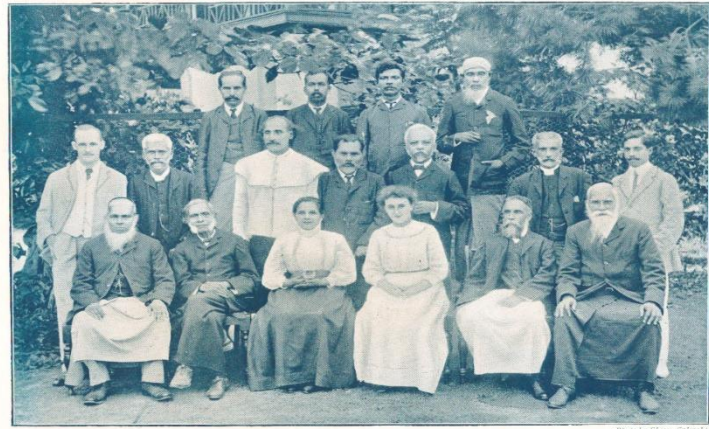


Stanley Fredrick Pearce was born in England. When Rev. Bruce Etherington went on furlough in 1906 he went round gathering Missionaries to come to Ceylon as the number of Missionaries were few. Rev. S F Pearce and Rev. H J Charter two young clergyman volunteered and sailed to Ceylon and landed in November 1906. After they completed their probation period and their language studies in Matale, Rev. Pearce was stationed at Ratnapura in 1908 as the Area Missionaries of Sabaragamuwa. After Rev. Piggot left the area in 1886 the work in the Mission field had decreased. Miss Evlyn Tippet, Rev.Pearces Fiancee came to Ceylon in November 1908 with Rev. Hankinson. On 7th November 1908 Rev. Pearce married Miss. Tippet at the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church. The bride was given away by Rev.Hankinson. The service was conducted by Revs. J.A. Ewing,W. R. Peacock and Henry Silva. The Bestman was Rev.H. J.Charter. A reception was held by Rev.and Mrs. Ewing in the Ferguson Hall. Now Rev. and Mrs.Pearce put their heart and soul in reorganising the work in Ratnapura ,Balangoda, Pelmadulla, Udumatte and Thalawitiya.

On 1st November 1909 they were blessed with a son. Rev. Pearce had mentioned in his letter published in the Golden Jubilee Magazine of the B.M.S Matale that his three children had their early education at the B.M.S English School before leaving to England for their studies. Further more their standard of education was so good that they fitted into the education system in England without any difficulty. There was no mention about the time period of their schooling at the B.M.S Matale. In 1911 Rev. Pearce's father Mr.Samuel Pearce came to Ceylon to visit his son's family. In 1913 the Pearce family went on furlough to England along with the two daughters.In 1921 as Rev. Pearces health deteriorated the couple went to New Zealand on a holiday to regain his health. In later years their youngest son when serving in the forces died in the German trenches giving his life for the country. This was a very sad news for the family.



**Missionaries of Sabaragamuwa**



**MISSIONARIES WORKING IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES.**  
*Photo by Silvio, Colombo.*  
*Top Row:* K. J. P. Perera, P. Simon Perera, H. C. Markus, A. P. Gomes, J. H. de Silva, P. Samanajewa (Office Assistant)  
*Middle Row:* S. F. Pearce, C. D. Hendrich, D. H. Perera, J. A. Perera, S. de Saram, H. de Silva, G. A. Agnew  
*Bottom Row:* D. B. Lewis, Juan de Silva, Mrs. Rodrigo (Biblewoman), Mrs. Pearce, H. de Silva, G. A. Agnew  
*See page 95.*

**Missionaries of the Maritime Provinces**

By 1911 Rev. and Ms. Pearce were the Missionaries of the Maritime Provinces. Ms. Pearce was actively involved with Ms. Rodrigo a Bible teacher. Rev. Pearce had been instrumental in setting up the Kal-Eliya Mission Stations. When the B.M.S was celebrating its Centenary Celebrations of their work in Ceylon Rev. and Ms. Pearce and Rev. and Ms. Charter were a great asset to Rev. and Ms. Ewing to organize the programmes in 1912. In 1914 Rev. Pearce had been at the opening of the Waddock Memorial Hall of Carey College.

Rev. Pearce was very fluent in Sinhalese. He was very capable in organizing evangelical tours to remote areas walking from village to village conducting open air services. He was a vibrant speaker. He used to rough out without any fuss when they were going on circuit tours. Eating what was offered and sleeping on camp beds and mats and talking to the villages in a friendly manner. He mainly served the Matale, Kandy, Ratnapura and Colombo regions.

He was a good leader and a good administrator. Rev. Pearce was the President of the Ceylon Baptist Union ( B.U ) many times, 1921/1922, 1927/1928, 1935/1936, and 1944/1945. He was the Chairman of the Ceylon Baptist Council ( C.B.C ) twice in 1938/1939 and 1948/1949. He acted as the Principal of Carey College in 1932, when Rev. Spooner went on furlough. From 1934 – 1946 he was the General Manager of the B M S Schools numbering about 40 including the four English Schools. He was the Field Secretary of the BMS from 1934 till his retirement in March 1951, and lived in the Colombo Mission House. He was also involved in other Christian Organizations. He was the Vice President of the Bible Society for 10 years and served as an executive officer for 15 years. When the Bible Society published the Union Version in 1952, Rev. Pearce was the only European to be on the translation board.

It was a great loss to Rev. Pearce when Ms. Evylyn Pearce died in 1935. In 1937 he married Miss Florie Mosely who had been in Ceylon from 1929 as a Methodist Missionary attached to the Ceylon City Mission, and they lived in the Colombo Mission House. On 31st February 1951 he retired from B.M.S and settled down in his own bangalow named “ Rose Markie” at Dombawela Matale, with his wife Florie. Ms. Florie Pearce loved the orphanage and laboured for it. The

children of the orphanage went to Dombawela to sing carols after the Christmas party in 1952. Ms. Florie Pearce died after a brief illness on 7th January 1953. Her remains were interred at the Matale General Cemetery. The solitude of residing at Dombawela alone was so great that he married again in 1954 to Miss Dorris Bennet who too was a Methodist Missionary working in Matara from 1945-1954. They continued to live in Dombawela. Rev. Pearce lived in Sri Lanka for 54 years. He was called home on 29th October 1960. His remains were laid at Miss Armond's Principal's Bungalow at Matale. After a service of thanks giving for his life and service at the Matale Baptist Church, the remains were interred at the General Cemetery Matale.



Rev. Pearce

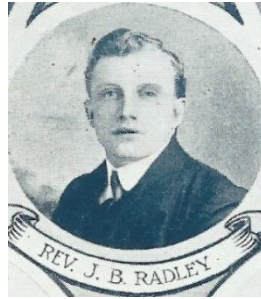
Dorris Pearce (Nee Benette)

Sources

Lanka the Resplendant Isle  
Past baptist messengers



## REV. JOHN BENJAMIN RADLEY & MS. FLORIE RADLEY 1912-1942



Rev. and Ms. J. B Radley came to this island in 1912. As the B.M.S was celebrating it's centenary in Ceylon that year they were in Colombo to help Rev. & Ms. Ewing to organize it, and for them to complete the language studies. In 1914 when Rev. H J Charter Principal of Carey College went on furlough. Rev. J B Radley acted as Principal. In 1915 Rev. and Ms. Radley were stationed at Ratnapura as the Area Missionaries. Having got to know that a Missionary couple was stationed in Ratnapura the affluent families of the area who had experienced Ms. Piggott's English classes in the Mission house in 1878 and Miss Elsie Balasuriya Pastor Rev. D B Lewis's daughter's classes in 1900 in the vestry room of the church, approached the Pastor Rev. Maldeniya and Rev. and Ms. Radley requesting them to start an English school for their children.

In 1917 Ms. Florie Radley started an English school in the vestry room of the church with four children which was the nucleus of the Ferguson High School Ratnapura. In 1918/19 Rev. Radley was elected as the President of the Ceylon Baptist Union ( B.U ), In 1921 Rev. and Ms. Radley came down to Colombo and Ms. Joyce Collier ( M.A ) took over the school.

From 1924 – 1933 Rev. Radley was appointed as the General Manager of the B.M.S School in Ceylon. In 1934 Rev. and Ms. Radley were posted to Matale as the Area Missionaries. During their stay in Matale their mode of transport was a Motorcycle with a side car attached to it. That made their travelling easy. The Pastor of the church was Rev. F A Peiris and the Principal of the B.M.S English School was Miss Gwen Clothier. The Missionary couple was much involved with the Matale orphanage started on 9th July 1932 by the B.M.S as an idea of the Missionary Miss. B.Thiedeman who came to Ceylon in 1926, died prematurely. Once Rev. and Ms. Radley brought an orphaned baby girl in a shoe box keeping it on her lap. This baby Muriel grew up in the orphanage and became the Junior Matron of Ferguson High School. At the same time Mary another orphan was the Junior Matron of B.M.S Matale and later married a Methodist gentleman. Another senior girl Seelawathi passed the Senior School Certificate in 1955 and was given an appointment to teach in the Ratnapura vernacular school. This orphanage existed till 1962.

In 1937 Rev. Radley became the President of the Ceylon Baptist Union for the second time. In 1939-1940 he was the Field Secretary of the B.M.S. He had been the Editor of the English section of the Baptist Messenger. After Rev. G H P Leembruggen returned to England in 1939, Rev. Radley Pastored the Cinnamon Gardens Church from 1940- 1942 along with the work of the Field Secretary of B.M.S. As the Field Secretary, he had to visit the local churches. In 1942 Radley was suddenly taken ill and died in a Colombo Hospital. After a service of thanks giving for his life and service the mortal remains were interred at the General Cemetery Borella.

## REV. TOM W. ALLAN & MS ALLAN 1950 – 1954 & 1964 – 1969

### The friendly simple Missionaries



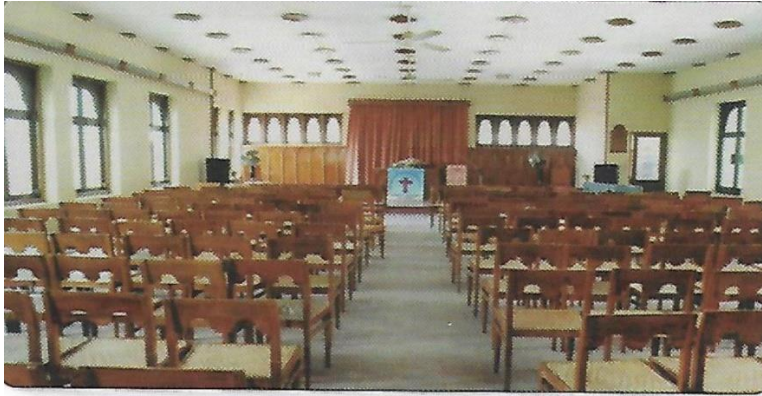
Rev. and Ms. Thomas Allan were English Missionaries in China, in the 1940's. After the communist rule came into power the Missionaries were expelled. Rev. Spillet came to Ceylon as his mission station was closed down in 1938. Others came as the Communist Government sent out all the Missionaries out of the country some being persecuted. Miss D J Curtis came in 1949. Rev. and Ms. Tom Allan came in 1950 and Rev. Sutton Smith who had gone back to England in 1950 came to Ceylon later in 1959

Rev. and Ms. Allan came to Ceylon with their son as the Field Secretary, succeeding Rev. S F Pearce in 1950 and settled down at No. 46, Kynsey Road, Colombo. They were a very affable couple who were very close to the local clergy. He visited all the local churches frequently. He had been the Moderator of the Nugegoda Baptist Church in 1953. He was the President of the Ceylon Baptist Union from 1953/1954. They had three children studying in England. One son and two daughters. After three and a half years of service, they left the Island due to their son's illness.



### **Rev. Allan's Family**

Rev. and Ms. Allan came back again to Ceylon in 1964 as the field secretary for yet another period from 1964-1969. On 13th October 1964 Rev. T. W Allan dedicated the chapel of Carey College after completing the second stage of the Carey building Programme.



*The college Chapel was dedicated on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1964 by Rev. T.W. Allen the field secretary of the B.M.S. in Ceylon. The Guest Preacher was Rev. Celestine Fernando, the Chaplain of the Ceylon Bible Society.*



### **The Hendala Manse**

On 13th July 1967, Rev. Allan conducted the 10th death anniversary of Rev. F. A Peiris who was a close friend of his at his residence in Hendala. On 4th February 1968 Rev. Allan declared open the Manse of the Hendala Baptist Church and dedicated it to the Glory of God. He was the Guest preacher at the 120th Anniversary service on the same day. Rev. Dr. W. G. Wickramasinghe and Resta were the Pastor & wife of The Hendala Baptist Church. Rev. and Ms. Allam after completing their five year period returned to England in 1969.

#### Sources

Carey College Centenary Souvenir Magazine.

Hendala Baptist Church-History Book

First hand information.

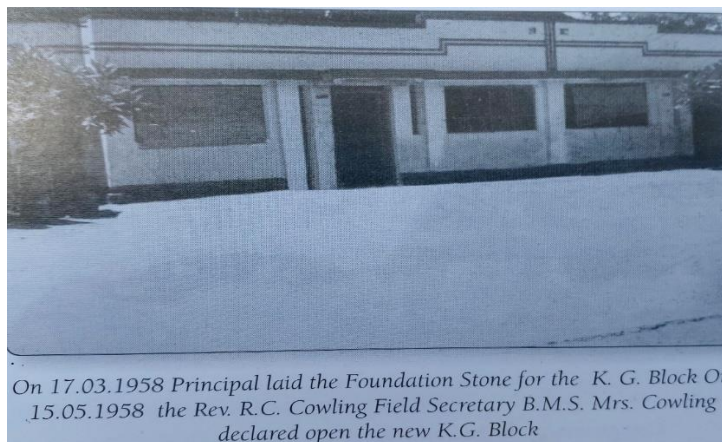
## **REV. R. C COWLING & MS. COWLING 1954- 1958**

### **THE LAST CHAIRMAN OF THE CEYLON BAPTIST COUNCIL**



Rev. and Ms. R. C Cowling came from England to succeed Rev. T. W Allan in 1954 as the Field Secretary of the B.M.S in Ceylon. During that period Ms. Cowling taught at Carey College which was close to the Mission House. In 1957 he had the sad experience of hearing the loss of two ofsenior colleagues within one month, and having to take the initiative to officiate at the two funerals as the Chairman of the Ceylon Baptist Council. They were Rev. W. M. P Jayathunga the former Principal of Carey College, Colombo who was also the Pastor of the Kotikawatte Baptist Church who died on 6th July 1957 and buried at the Kotikawatte Baptist Church Cemetery on 8th July. The other was Rev. F. A Peiris, who was the current president of the “Ceylon Baptist Union” presently known as the “Sri Lanka Baptist Sangamaya” and the Pastor of the Ratnapura Baptist Church who died after a surgery at the General Hospital, Colombo on the 13th July 1957. He was buried at the Hendala Baptist Church Cemetery on 15th July 1958.

Rev. R.C Cowling declared open the newly built Kindergarten Block of Carey College as the Field Secretary of the B.M.S on 15th July 1958.



He laid the foundation of the first stage of the Carey College building project. Rev. Cowling was also the Chairman of the Ceylon Baptist Council from 1955 – 1958 and was it’s last Chairman. The Ceylon Baptist Union and the Ceylon Baptist Council were incorporated and was named the Sri Lanka Baptist Sangamaya on 18th August 1958.



## **MISS WINIFRED GRACE TURNEY 1950-1956**

**THE ONLY LADY MISSIONARY TO BE A FIELD SECRETARY IN CEYLON**



Miss. W. G Turney was born in England on 23rd of December 1923. After her secondary education she joined the Royal Navy as a Wren, an officer in the intelligence unit, though her childhood dream was to become a Missionary. During the second world war she came to Ceylon in 1945 for two years to the Naval bases of Trincomalee and Colombo. During these two years she fell in love with the scenic beauty of the country and the affable people of Ceylon.

In 1947 after she returned to England, she had gone to the Baptist Missionary Society office in London, and offered her services to go to Ceylon as a Missionary. There after, she persued her studies in the Birmingham University and followed a four year Theological degree course at the Selly Oak, Carey Hall, Divinity College. She also did a three year course in Leadership training.

In August 1950 Miss Winifred Turney and Miss Vera May Armond arrived in Ceylon after a seventeen day ship voyage. Rev. and Ms. Tom Allan welcomed them very warmly at the Colombo harbour. Till they were posted to their destinations they lived with Rev. and Ms. Allan in the Mission House at Kynsey Road. After that they were sent to reside in the Kotikawatte Manse as it was vacant because the Pastor was residing in the Principal's bungalow at Carey College. The Kotikawatte Manse had no electricity, water service or drainage facilities. Both of them were there for two years during their Language studies. All the Missionaries had to pass two examinations which included Preaching in Sinhalese with reference notes written on a paper that was the size of a post card. If they failed they had to return to England. This applied to Miss Turney and Miss Armond too. While studying Sinhalese they had to assist the pastor with the pastrol duties. Their mode of transport was the push bicycle. After completing their probation period and the language studies they were posted to their various fields.

Miss. Armond went to the Matale B.M.S English School as the Vice Principal to Miss. Joy Blackerby and Miss. Turney went to Moratuwa Baptist Church as resident Pastrol Assistant to Rev. S J de S Weerasinghe in 1953. By this time Miss Turney was able to preach in Sinhalese. She had to take three Sinhalese services a month. Miss Turney was young and very pretty. When she was on the pulpit clad in white, with her fair complexion, she looked like an angel. She was lucky to have an elderly Appu to see to her needs. After five years she went on furlough to England

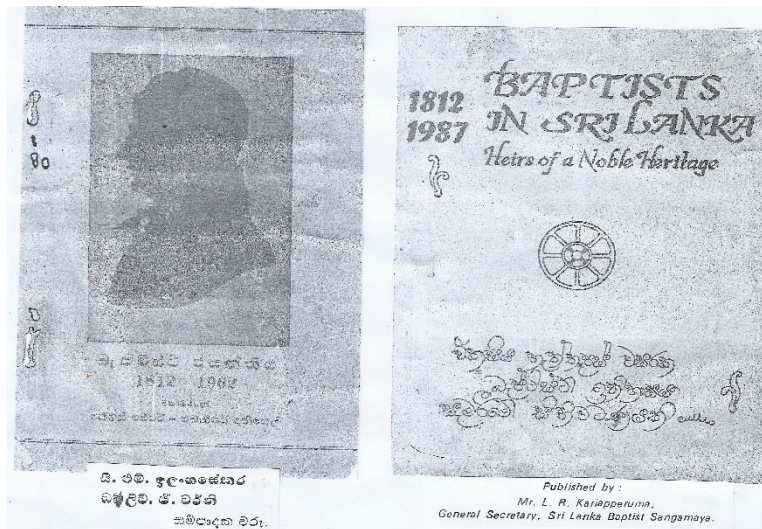
for one year. Though she was in England for one year, she only had three months for herself because she had to visit churches to observe them and gain more knowledge of church work.



On 19.08.1958 the Foundation Stone for the first Stage of the Building Programme was Laid by the Rev. R.C. Cowling, Field Secretary B.M.S.  
The New Building was dedicated on 13.01.1960

In 1958 when Rev. and Ms. R C Cowling, the Field Secretary left the island Miss. Turney was appointed as the Field Secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society and she came to reside at the Mission House in Colombo. On 13th January 1960 Miss Turney opened the first stage of the Carey College building programme as the Field Secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society in Ceylon. On 1st December 1960 when all the assisted schools of all the religions were taken over by the Government, all the Baptist Schools managed by the Baptist Missionary Society too were taken over with all their assets. Some of the schools became non fee levying Private Schools. A few schools were fee levying private schools from 1948. Carey College Colombo was in that category and was the only school left for the Baptists.

In 1962 Miss Turney along with Rev. C M Elangasekera published a booklet named “Baptist Jayanthiye” when the Baptists in Ceylon celebrated it’s Ter Jubilee ( 150 years) of Baptist Missionary work in Ceylon.



සී. එම්. ඉලංගසේකර  
සම්පාදකයා.  
සම්පාදකයා විසින්.

Published by :  
Mr. L. R. Karapperuma,  
General Secretary, Sri Lanka Baptist Sangamaya.

In 1963 she served in the inaugural committee of the “ Theological College of Lanka in Pilimatalwa”, and was the founder Secretary of it. At the inaugural service Rev. W.G. Wickramasinghe delivered the sermon as he had been an Old Boy and the Lecturer of the Greek

Language at the University of Serampo Calcutta.. As the Theological Collage Pilimatalawa was affiliated to the Serampo University. She represented the Baptists at the National Christian Council (NCC) for many years and served the NCC as it's Secretary too.

Miss W. G Turney was a very talented lady. A pianist, a chorister gifted with a lovely mezzo sporano voice. She sang and conducted the Cinnamon Gardens choir and was its Organist when regular organists were absent. She was a veteran lady driver, driving her own Baby Austin Car, which was not a common sight in that era. She had been a member of the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church from 1958. In 1966 she resigned from her post at the B.M.S to marry Mr. Lorenzo Kariapperuma who was a member of the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church. Their wedding was solemnized at the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church on 3rd November 1966 by Rev. Sutton Smith and Rev. T W Allan. Rev. George Lee gave away the bride.

Though she resigned from the B.M.S she continued to serve the Lord through the S.L.B.S the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church the National Christian Council ( N.C.C) and the Christian Literary Society ( C.L.S). She was the Secretary of the S.L.B.S from 1981 – 1984 and the Treasurer of the S. L. B.S from 1965 - 1969, 1972- 1973 and 1985 -2001. During that time she also trained the office staff to do their work methodically. She was on the Board of Governor's of Carey College at the beginning of the 1990's.

When the Baptists of Sri Lanka celebrated the 175th Anniversary of the B.M.S work in Sri Lanka, Mr. Kariapperuma was the Secretary of the S.L.B.S. Ms. Kariapperuma was a great asset to him to organize the celebrations. He published a booklet “ 1812 – 1817” Baptists in Sri Lanka Heirs of a Noble Heritage” with her help. He was also insrtumental in issuing a commemorative stamp by the Sri Lankan Postal Department on 19th August 1989, at the S.L.B.S Head Quarters at No. 46, Kynsey Road, Colombo.



While Ms. Kariapperuma was acitvely involved with the National Chritian Council she was made the Founder Secretary of the Christian Home Committee set up by the N.C.C in 1975 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Indrani Jayawardena whom Ms. Kariapperuma succeeded. At the beginning the counselling center was at the premises of the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist church. Later it was shifted to Station Road, Wellawatte and called “ Sanesuma Counselling Centre”.

She was the General Secretary of the Christian Literary Society ( C.L.S ) for many years, when it was situated in the Consistory Building, Pettah at the corner of the Front Street and Main Street, prior to the 1983 riots, before the building was burnt down. During her Secretaryship she was instrumental in opening a C L S Book Shop in Jaffna. She used to travel twice a month by train to supervise the work there. On one occasion the train had broken down on the way when she was



returning to Colombo. She had to walk eleven miles to Vavuniya to catch a bus to come down to Colombo.

Ms. Kariapperuma had been a member of the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church which she loved and served from 1958 and actively participating in all its activities. She had been the Secretary and the Treasurer many times. She was always a Deacon, stand by organist and the choir leader under whom many choristers had their training. She never had a bad word for anyone. Never criticized yet very firm when it came to official matters and stood for what she thought was right. She has taken part in organising many youth leadership programmes in the churches and in the B.Y.P.A.

In the year 2000 she was felicitated at a special service held in the church and presented with a plaque in recognition for her long dedicated service she rendered to the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church. To honour her as a former Field Secretary of the Baptist Mission in Sri Lanka she was invited to declare open the four storied Post Primary Building of Carey College on 6th February 2003.



After serving the Lord for fifty three ( 53) years in Sri Lanka at the age of 86 she entered eternal rest on 3rd August 2006. A thanks giving service for her life and service was held at Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church and the remains were interred at the General Cemetery, Borella.



#### Sources

Articles written by Nihal Perera published in the 16th Volume of the Baptist Messenger.

Article written by Herby Jayasuriya published in the 16th Volume of the Baptist Messenger

Article written by Ann Abeysekera, published in the Woman Magazine

**REV. ERIC SUTTON SMITH**  
**1959- 1977**

**HELD THE LONGEST PASTORATE AT THE CINNAMON GARDENS  
BAPTIST CHURCH**



Eric Sutton Smith, though an Englishman, was born in China, since his parents were Missionaries there. Rev. Herbert Smith & Ms. Ellen Smith his parents had established a hospital in Shantung, China. They had three sons and one daughter. Sydney died at a young age, Eric became a Missionary, Robert Christopher and Mary. Rev. Herbert died in 1916. Eric had his education at “Ethom College” in England. Later Eric himself went to China as a Missionary. While being a Missionary he had been teaching in a Chinese University which became very useful later in life. He never married.

When the Communist Government came to power in China in the late 1940’s, the Christians were persecuted. The Missionaries were sent out of the country. Eric himself had undergone many hardships including imprisonment for his Christian belief. By 1950 he was back in England without a job for a while. Then a vacancy had occurred at his old school for a Scripture teacher. As he had teaching experience in China he applied to his old school. He joined the Boarding House staff as the School Chaplain. As he was a bachelor he was able to devote his time to serve the school whole heartedly, without expecting any reward.

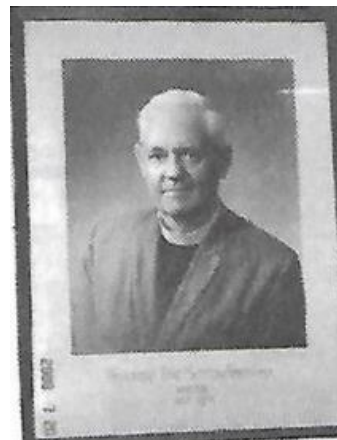
As Chaplain he contributed much to the Sunday and week day Chapel Services. As a preacher he was direct and forceful. His teaching in the class was also the same. He also guided the scout troop in organizing camps and excursion, and producing fresh ideas for more adventure. The School particularly the hostellers and scouts owe him a great debt of gratitude.

By 1959, he decided that the time has come for him to go back to the Baptist Missionary Society. In April 1959 Rev. Eric Sutton Smith accepted the call to the pastorate of the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church and arrived in Ceylon in November as a B. M. S. Missionary. He was an outstanding Pastor. Being a bachelor he was able to devote most of his time and energy to church activities. He was a blessing to the Church. The church unanimously invited him to serve them for

three terms. 1959-1964, 1966-1970 and 1971-1974. He held the longest pastorate in the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church in the twentieth century. He was greatly loved and respected by all those who came in contact with him. He was also a great evangelist taking the message to the people of the area through open air dramatic programmes not only in the church and its premises but also in rural churches, hospitals and prisons. He also introduced the Wayside Pulpit, sermons illustrated with his own drawings. A unique Harvest Service based on Mahaweli Development Project was held. Rev. George and Betsy Lee assisted him when he acted as the Field Secretary during 1962 – 1963 when Miss Turney went on furlough.

In 1974 Rev. Sutton Smith and Rev. George Lee the two Baptist Missionaries at that time were instrumental in handing over the ownership of the B.M.S assets in Sri Lanka to the Sri Lanka Baptist Sangamaya by the virtue of a deed. In the late 1975, Rev. Sutton Smith went to the Kandy Baptist Church as their Pastor. In 1976 he went to remote areas to spread the Gospel with the church Youth group and also with an action team that had come from the U. S.A who were here for a fortnight. He also visited the Pallekale Open Prison twice a week, to spread the good news. Mr. Denzil Jayamanne who was a divinity student at the Theological College in Pilimalawe gave his assistance when possible. Rev. Sutton Smith had gone to Kakirawe in his Ford Anglia with a team from the Kandy church to paint the church as one of the church projects. At the end of 1976 Rev. Sutton Smith produced a Nativity Play with a cast of twelve youth. The practices were held in his Manse. It took the form of a Musical Drama. The tunes were based on songs of Sunil Shantha and Chitra Somapala. This Nativity play was staged at the Bogambara Prison Pallekale Open Prison and at the Beligodapitiya Baptist Church. It was of a high standard being their first attempt.

In February 1977 Rev. Sutton Smith was critically ill and he returned to England. He passed away shortly ending his life long honourable service to the Lord. The Cinnamon Gardens Church converted the area utilized for the Pipe Organ which served the church from 1920's for more than 50 years, to an open Chapel and named it "Sutton Smith Memorial Chapel" on 3rd April 1983 and his photograph adorns the wall of the chapel.



Sources - The letter published by Dr.Kingsley A.de Alwis a member of the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church in the bi-centary Baptist Messenger Volume 24 in 2012.

An article published By Mr. Gamini Algama, a member of the Kandy Baptist Church, in the Baptist Messenger Volume 46, December 2019.

## REV. GEORGE ROBERTSON LEE & MS. BETSY LEE

1962 – 1975, 1986 – 1988, 1991 – 1997

THE LOVERS OF SRI LANKA



George was born in Morteth in North East England in 1932. After his secondary education in his home town he joined the “ Spurgen College” in London to do his Theological degree. Betsy was born in Monmouth in Wales. After her secondary education in her hometown, she joined the “ Reading University”. Rev. George and Betsy got married in 1961. In 1962 they set sail to Ceylon as a young Missionary couple.

They reached the Colombo harbour on a sunny morning in October. The BMS Missionaries and the S.L.B.S leaders were on the quay side to welcome them. They were installed in the Cinnamon Gardens Manse to work as Assistant to Rev. Sutton Smith, the pastor of the only English speaking church, was acting as the Field Secretary as Miss Turney was in England, on her furlough. While they were at the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church Manse, they were blessed with their elder son Richard who took much of their time and attention. Rev. and Ms. Lee came to Sri Lanka to fill the vacancies in local churches as Pastors, as there was a shortage of them. So they had to study the Sinhala language while at Cinnamon Gardens and later at the Theological College, Pilimathalawa which was started in 1963.

Soon after their Language studies were over they were located at the Gonawela Baptist Church from 1963 – 1965, to assist the Pastor Rev. W G Wickramasinghe who was residing at the Principal’s Bungalow at Carey College being it’s Principal. The Gonawela Church had a Sinhala congregation in a village setting. The members were quite patient with Rev. Lee’s sermons preached in Sinhalese. Of course the young ones had been quite amused with his accent. But they all rallied round him to work in their outreach churches of Welgama and Palahale. During this time their second son Stephen was born.

In 1966 they went to Kandy with the church set in the heart of the city and the congregation (members) living in the out skirts of the City far apart, which involved a lot of travelling, to visit them and conduct cottage meetings regularly. The members came to church on Sundays and for special programmes during week ends and holidays. The Lanka Theological College at Pilimathalawe and the Bible College Peradeniye were very supportive by sending their students to help in the work of the church. There was much unity among the Christian churches in Kandy .



including the Catholic church. In 1974 Rev. George Lee and Rev. Sutton Smith represented the B.M.S. by signing the transfer deeds of the B.M.S assets to the Sri Lanka Baptist Sangamaye. Rev. and Ms. Lee left the island in 1975.

#### Rev. Lee's Family



After returning to England he was the Pastor of the “ Raff-on-Y” Baptist church for nearly ten years from 1976 – 1985. During this period Betsy's mother who was with them for fourteen years died at the age of 92. In 1985 they retired. In 1986 – 1988 they came back to Sri Lanka and served in Kandy for a short period from 1989 – 1990. They enjoyed their retirement visiting places in their homeland. The boys had completed their secondary education and had left home. So they were free to do what ever they wanted to do. Then Rev. Dr. W. G Wickramasinghe who was the President of the S.L.B.S had invited them to come back to Sri Lanka.

In 1991 they came back to Sri Lanka which they loved so much as the Western Area Missionaries. They were based in the Hendala Baptist Manse as the Moderator of the Hendala Baptist Church, assisted by Rev. Willie Ranasinghe travelling from Mattakkuliya, and later by Brother Lucien Anthony travelling from his own house at Kelaniya. When Rev. and Ms. Lee came to reside in the Hendala Manse, the first wing of the Jayasinghe Retirement Home had already been completed. This was built in the premises of the Manse with the proceeds of the sale of Rev. and Ms. F V de A Jayasinghe's house at Mabile gifted to the S.L.B.S for a social service project.

Rev. and Ms. Lee took great pains to open the Home and with the donations of furniture and other equipment from the members and friends of the church it was opened by Rev. Dr. W G Wickramasinghe on 31st January 1993. Two elderly gents came to reside on that day and an elderly lady a few days later. Rev. and Ms. Lee were very enthusiastic about the project. They were able to get the money for the second wing from the B.M.S London quickly for which the church had

applied through the S.L.B.S. The foundation stone for the second wing was laid by Miss Joy Knapman the B.M.S regional Secretary for Asia on May 1994. It was declared open by Rev. David Martin, a Director of BMS during the tenure of Rev. George Lee as moderator on 4th April 1995.



**1991 Rev.& Mrs Lee With our teachers**



Jayasinghe Home front wing



West Shortwood House in Devon

Rev. Lee as the Western Area Missionary had the following churches under his care.

Madampe, Makewita, Hendala, Kandana and Mattakkuliye. The Kandana church then was almost non existing and the building in a dilapidated state. Rev. Lee went visiting the old members and formed a congregation. He renovated the church building. The church was re-started under the Hendala Baptist Church.

In 1997 they bade farewell to the Baptists in Sri Lanka and returned to England. They settled down in a lovely large thatched cottage with a tennis court and a large garden closer to the sea, for them to have regular swims and sea baths, in Budleigh Salterton Devon. They loved Sri Lanka so much that they visited our island twice in 1999 and 2002 . They had a peaceful retirement with both sons married and settled down. In 2019 they celebrated their 58th Wedding anniversary. After a short time on 8th August 2019 Ms. Lee was called home after a brief illness which was a great loss to Rev.Lee.

Source

From his own letter sent for the bi-centary Baptist Messenger  
Hendala History Book and first hand information



## B .M. S. Missionaries who served in Ceylon / Sri Lanka

1812 to 1999

Rev. James Chater 17yrs	1812 – 1829	Died at sea on Jan. 3rd 1829
Mrs. Ann Chater	1812 – 1820	Died at St. Helana June 5th 1820
Miss. Ann Deborah Chater	- -	Married Rev. Gogerly – Methodist Mission
Rev. Thomas Griffith	1816- 1817	Worked in Galle. Returned to England
Mrs. Griffith		-do-
Rev. Ebenezer Daniel	1830-1844	Died in Colombo June 2nd 1844
Mrs. Maria Daniel	1830-1835	Died at Sea Nov. 19th 1835
Rev. Joseph Harris	1839-1842	Returned to England
Mrs. Mary Ann Harris	“ “	Returned to England
Rev. Edward MacCarthy	1839-1846	Left Mission 1846
Rev. Charles Cornelius Dawson	1841-1850	Lost at sea - 1850
Ms. Susanna Dawson & children	1841-1850	Lost at sea – 1850
Rev. Owen Johnson Birt	- -1843	Died at sea March 15th 1843
Mrs. Margaret Birt	1843-1846	Returned to England
Rev. Jacob Davies	1844-1849	Died in Colombo Nov. 2nd
Mrs. Eliza Davies	1844-18..	Returned to England
Rev. Charles Bennet Lewis	1846-1847	Removed to Calcutta
Mrs. Marianne Lewis(Gould)	1846-1847	Removed to Calcutta
Rev. James Allen (40yrs)	1846-1866	Died in Colombo April 30th
Ms Jane Allen	1846-1866	Returned to England-died 1941
Rev. John Davies	1851-1855	Returned to England
Mrs. Davies	1851-1855	Returned to England
Rev. Charles Carter (26yrs)	1853-1881	Retired – Left to New Zealand
Mrs. Hannah Morton Carter	1853-1881	- do –
Rev. Henry Robert Piggot (29yrs)	1862-1891	Left for Australia
Mrs. Ellen Piggot	1862 -1891	-do-
Rev. Fred David Waldock (44yrs)	1863-1897	Retired, returned to England,died 5/101908
Ms. Maria C Waldock	1863-1897	-do- died 3/9/1909
Rev. Thomas Robert Stevenson	1874-1881	Returned to England later went to Shanghai
Rev. Henry Alfred Lapham (22)	1880-1902	Resigned and returned to England
Mrs. Lapham	1882-1902	-do-
Rev. Andrew Sims	1884-1886	Returned to England
Rev. George Gray	1886-1890	Returned to Scotland
Mrs. Gray	1886-1890	- do –
Rev. E. Durbin (GCBC)	1887-189.	Returned to England
Mrs. Durbin	1887-189.	-do-
Rev. Charles Carter	1888-1891	Again in Ceylon, returned to NZ
Mrs. Hannah Carter	1888-1891	- do –
Rev. Walter D Hankinson	1891-1900	Resigned and returned to England
Mrs. Hankinson	1897-1900	

Rev. Wiiliam Thomson	1893-1895	Returned to Scotland
Mrs. Thomson	1893-1895	- do -
Rev.& Ms T I Stockley (CGBC)	1893-1899	Returned to England
Rev.& Ms. J A McCallum M.A,B.	1894-1897	Returned to Scotland
Miss. Hellen J Moodie	1896-1905	Married Mr. Ernest Skeen & went to India
Rev. Bruce Etherington ( B. A )	1899-1907	Died in Colombo Oct.. 9th 1907
Rev. Annie M Etherington	1903-1907	Returned to England, married Rev. de Rusett
Rev. J C G Gregson(CGBC)	1899-1900	Went back to India.
Rev R J Ward ( CGBC)		
Rev. & Ms W R Peacock (CGBC)	1900-1910	Returned to England
Rev. Fred David Waldock	1901 & 1905	Returned twice temporary , Died 6/10/1908
Rev. John Alexander Ewing (32)	1902-1934	Returned to England died 7/6/1951
Mrs. Ewing	1904-1934	Retuned to England
Rev. G. T Wood	1903-1905	Returned to England
Miss Lily G. Robinson	1905-1909	Married Rev. Raw of B.M.S India
Rev. Stanley Fredrick Pearce	1906-1951	Retired & resided at Matala died 29/10/1960
Mrs. Pearce ( 54)	1908-1935	Died after a brief illness
Miss Ruth C. Lapham	1906-1912	Left to get married
Rev. Howard J. Charter (BABD)	1906-1945	Returned to England
Miss Agnes A Coleman (Mrs. Charter)	1907-1945	Married Rev. H J Charter retired in 1945
Miss Emily M. Collier	1907-1909	Married Rev. G W Ginn in India
Miss. Thirzo S R Collier	1908-1918	
Rev. Walter D. Hankinson	1908-1910	Again in Ceylon. Returned to England
Miss Jean N Thomson ( 14 yrs)	1909-1925	Married Mr. James Gibb
Miss. Kathleen Dunn	1910-1916	Returned to England due to ill health
Rev. & Ms R O Price (BABD, CGBC)	1910-1930	Retured to England
Miss. A M. Smurthwaib	1910	
Miss. Ethel W Evans ( 34)	1910-1944	Retired and went to NSW Australia
Miss. Elsie M. Evans ( 32)	1912-1944	“ “
Rev. John Benjamin Radley ( 30 )	1912-1942	Died in colombo in 291942
Mrs. Florence Radley	1912-1943	Went back to England
Rev. E B Woods ( CGBC)	1913- 191-	Returned to Scotland
Mrs. Woods	1913-191-	-do-
Miss Clara Krause	1913-1926	Went back to Germany
Miss. F. Roberts	1914	
Rev. Fred Bennet	1920-1930	Resigned
Mrs. Bennet	1920-1930	
Miss. Evlyn A. Allsop ( 29 )	1920-1949	Returned to England
Miss Joyce Collier M A	1920-1926	Left due to her marriage
Rev. Harold W. Spooner ( 17 )	1921-1938	Did not return after furlough due to ill health
Mrs. Spooner	1921-1938	-do-
Rev. Sydney Dant	1921	
Miss. Jessie Uttley	1924-1935	Went on furlough & died in 1936
Miss. B. Thiedeman	1926-1931	
Miss. Constance Mouncy	1926-1931	Returned to England due to ill health
Miss. Lily M. Reece	1928-1940	Returned to England

Miss. O G Hobday		
Miss. Winifred Gadge	1930	Married Mr. Saunders
Miss. Gwen Clothier	1930-1939	Married Mr. George Ambanpola went to England in 1960's
Miss. H D Horlick	1937-1944	
Rev. H W Spillett BA. BD.	1938-1944	Went to S. Africa to join his family
Mrs. Spillett	1938-1942	Went to S. Africa with the children
Miss F. Aurora Brook ( B.Sc ( 20 )	1940-1960	Returned to England after the take over
Miss. E. Pentelow	1941	
Miss. Barbara J Gadd ( B A )	1943-1954	Returned to England
Rev. Charles Bullock ( CGBC )	1947-1949	Returned to England due to Ill health
Mrs. Bullock ( CGBC)	1947-1949	-do-
Miss. Joy E. Blackerby	1948-1960	Returned to England after take over
Rev. Seth B. Stephens	1948-1953	Returned to England
Mrs. Jean Stephens	1948-1953	-do-
Miss Dorathy J. Curtis	1949-1953	-do-
Rev. Collin Weller ( CGBC )	1949-1954	-do-
Mrs. Mary Weller	1949-1954	-do-
Rev. Tom Allan	1950-1954	-do-
Mrs. Allan	1950-1954	-do-
Miss Vera May Armond	1950-1960	Resigned at take over, died in Ceylon 1975
Miss. Winifred Grace Turney ( 57)	1950-1966	Resigned to marry Mr. Lorenzo Kariapperuma
Miss. M. Celia Moon	1952-1969	Returned to England
Rev. R C Cowling	1954-1959	-do-
Mrs Cowling	1954-1959	-do-
Rev. Reginold C Crawshaw ( CGBC )	1955-1957	Resigned and returned to England
Mrs. Crawshaw	1955-1957	-do-
Rev. Collin A Grant	1956-1968	
Mrs. Grant	1956-1968	
Rev. Glyn V Prosser ( C G B C )	1957-1959	
Mrs. Kathleen Prosser ”	1957-1959	
Rev. Eric Sutton Smith (MA, CGBC)	1959-1976	Returned to England
Rev. George Robertson Lee	1962-1975	-do-
Mrs. Betsy Lee	1962-1975	-do-
Rev. A R Hughes	1963-1965	
Mrs. Huges	1963-1965	
Rev. Tom W. Allan	1964-1967	Came back for a short period
Mrs Allan	1964-1967	-do-
Rev. G E Oakes	1968-1976	
Mrs. Oakes	1968-1976	
Rev. H D T Clement	1969-1972	
Rev. M H Churchill	1970-1976	
Mrs. Churchill	1970-1976	
Rev. Alistair H Swanson ( CGBC )	1975- 1976	Returned to Scotland
Mrs. Wendy Swanson ”	1975-1976	-do-
Rev. Peter M. Goodall ( CGBC)	1979-1987	Returned to England

Rev. Margaret Goodall ”	1979-1987	-do-
Miss. E. Mc. Cubbin	1981-1984	
Rev. George Robertson Lee	1986-1988	Came back for a short period 2nd time
Mrs. Betsy Lee	1986-1988	-do-
Rev. Paul Henstock ( C G B C )	1988-1991	Returned to England
Mrs. Lynda Henstock	1988-1991	-do- (died in 2008)
Rev. George Robertson Lee (28)	1991-1998	Returned to England and settled in Devon
Mrs. Betsy Lee (3rd)	1991-1998	-do- (died 8/8/2019)
Rev. Peter M. Goodall ( C G B C )	1996-1998	Returned to England for good
Mrs. Margaret Goodall	1996-1998	-do-
Rev. David Jackson	1979-1999	
Mrs. Sonia Jackson	1979-1999	

---

**The B.M.S Colombo Missionaries**  
**Later known as the B.M.S Field Secretaries**

Rev. James Chater	1812 – 1829
Rev. Ebenezer Daniel	1830 – 1844
Rev. Jacob Davies	1845 – 1849
Rev. James Allan	1850 – 1866
Rev. Henry Robert Piggot	1867 – 1878
Rev. Fred David Waldock	1878 – 1896
Rev. Walter D. Hankinson	1897 – 1899
Rev. Bruce Etherington	1899 – 1907
Rev. John Alexander Ewing	1907 – 1934
Rev. Stanley Fredrick Pearce	1935 – 1950
Rev. John Benjamin Radley	1940 – 1942
Rev. Tom W. Allan	1950 – 1954
Rev. R. C. Cowling	1954 – 1959
Miss Winifred Grace Turney	1959 – 1966
Rev. Eric Sutton Smith	1962 – 1963
Rev. Tom W. Allan	1966 – 1969

**The BMS Missionaries who were the Presidents of the Ceylon Baptist Union  
Formed in 1895**

Rev. Fred David Waldock	1895 – 1897	1902 – 1903
Rev. Walter D. Hankinson	1898 – 1899	
Rev. Bruce Etherington	1903 – 1904	
Rev. John Alexander Ewing	1907 – 1908	1931 – 1932
Rev. Howard J. Charter	1913 – 1914	1933 – 1934
Rev. John Benjamin Radley	1918 – 1919	1937 – 1938
Rev. Stanley Fredrick Pearce	1921 – 1922	1927-1928 1935 – 1936 1944 - 1945
Rev. Fred Bennet	1924 – 1925	
Rev. Tom W. Allan	1953 – 1954	

---

**The BMS Missionaries who were the Presidents of the Ceylon Baptist Council  
(C.B.C)**

**Formed in 1932 February 22nd**

Rev. John Alexander Ewing	1932 – 1934
Rev. Harold W. Spooner	1934 – 1937
Rev. Stanley Fredrick Pearce	1938 - 1939 & 1948 – 1949
Rev. John Benjamin Radley	1939 – 1940
Rev. R C Cowling	1955 – 1958

---

**The Sri Lanka Baptist Sangamaya ( SLBS )  
Formed on 1958 August 18th**

The B.M.S assets were transfered to the S.L.S.B.S in 1974 by Rev Sutton Smith and  
Rev George Lee signing the legal documents representing the B.M.S

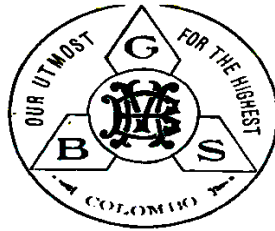
Missionary Ladies who worked with the Bible Teachers. women and children

Miss Ruth Lapham, Miss Smurthwait, Miss Ethal Evans, Miss B Thiedemen, Miss Lily Reece,  
Miss Celia Moon

## THE FOUR BMS ENGLISH SCHOOLS IN CEYLON

BMS Girls Boarding School Colombo

**Founded in 1846 Later known as Baptist Girl's College, Colombo Now known  
as Yasodara Balika Vidyalaya**



South field House

After 32 years of our pioneer Missionaries landing in Ceylon and his successor Ebenezer Daniels death in 1844, Rev. Jacob and Eliza Davies landed in Ceylon in 1844. In 1846 Ms. Eliza Davies with the help of Ms. Mariann Lewis wife of Rev. Bennett Lewis who arrived in Ceylon in 1846, commenced the first Sinhalese Boarding School in Colombo for girls. It was the oldest Sinhalese girl's boarding school in Ceylon. At the beginning it was run by the wives of the Colombo Missionaries. This new venture was funded by the ladies in England and regular donations from persons of high positions in Ceylon. In 1847 Ms. Lewis left for Calcutta with her husband.

During the first eighteen years of its existence eighty nine girls studied in the school. In addition to the 3 R's the girls were given a thorough training in domestic science to enable them to be good house wives or to join hospitals to be trained as nurses and to build up their Christian Character as useful citizens. In 1849 Ms. Eliza Davies had to leave the island, after her husband's death on November 2nd 1849. From 1850 Ms. Jane Allan wife of Rev. James Allan who were in the island



from 1846 took over the school, till 1866. Rev. Allan died on 30th April 1866 and Ms. Allan returned to England and lived upto 95 years and died in 1911. In 1866 Ms. Ellen Pigott guided the school with Ms. Mariah Waldock. In 1878 Ms. Piggot went to Ratnapura and Ms. Waldock continued to run the school till her health deteriorated and they returned to England in 1897. By 1872 they started to charge school fees.

From 1897 school ceased to be run by the wives of the Colombo Missionaries. In 1896 Miss Hellen J Moodie an educationist came to Ceylon as Ms. Waldock was leaving. She made a new era of the school. She started to teach in English and it became a bi-lingual school. Many of the daughters of the local Pastors, daughters of Head Masters of the vernaculars schools, and the daughters of the affluent families in the village churches were boarded in the Boarding School to get an English education. The numbers of the school steadily increased and the spiritual glow was maintained. In 1905 Miss. Hellen Moodie resigned to get married to Mr. Earnest Skeen son of Mr. G.J.A. Skeen Govt. Printer on January 11th 1905 and settled down in Simla India. Miss Lily R. Robinson succeeded her. She too left in 1909 to marry Rev. Raw a Missionary from Bengal. In 1906 Miss Ruth Lapham a Grand daughter of Rev. and Ms. Carter who were the great Sinhala scholars who compiled the English-Sinhala ( 1891 ) and the Sinhala & English (1914 ) dictionaries, came to Ceylon to work with women but was located at the Girls Boarding School with Mrs. Robinson. During these years a Teacher Training class was formed The number on roll rose to eighty. Ms. John Ferguson gifted the Principal's bungalow and a fine dormitory thus enlarging the buildings. They were in memory of her mother Ms. John James Smith of Watford and the bungalow was named after their own home " Southfield House ". Miss Ruth Lapham took over the school in 1909 and guided it till 1912. Miss Kathleen A. Dunn came to Ceylon in 1910 . After her language studies she took over the Boarding School in 1912. She introduced many activities such as physical training instructions in the morning and hymn singing before evening prayers in the Bungalow. The school crest was introduced and it was pasted in the Prize Books of the prize winners. Miss Lapham and Miss Ethel Evans who came in 1912 were set apart to do evangelistic work among women. She introduced many new things. To improve the health of the girls, physical training instructions were given to them every morning. Singing of hymns in the evening in the Principal's bungalow was introduced After Miss Dunn's untimely death in 1916, Miss Ellsie Evans who had been assisting Miss Dunn from 1912 took over the school in 1917.

The school has had many abled and devoted Principals and teachers right through the past years. By 1920 many of the girls who joined the school after making it a bi-lingual had completed the English School Leaving Certificate. ( E. S.L.C ) the teachers certificate.

Many of them started to teach in their alma mater. Others went to their own villages and taught in their village schools. Laura Jayathunga ( Nanayakkara) went to Ratnapura, Mabel Wickramasinghe went to her village Andiambalama. Others taught at the Girls boarding school at different periods. They were Winnie Ratnayake (Wijesinghe), Muriel Induruwa (Munasinghe), Jane Rupasinghe(Ratnayake), Stella Hettiarachchi (Amarathunga), Mabel Wickramasinghe Gunewardene (Peiris) who went to her village but came back to her Alma Mater and served there for nine years.



1931

During the war years in 1942 the school was closed down, and the children were taken to Yagoda to Rupesinghe's coconut land. After the war ended the children were brought back to No. 44, Kynsey Road premises. In 1944 Miss Elsie Evans retired and went to New South Wales, Australia, to settle down. Miss Barbara Gadd took over the school in 1944. In 1948 after Ceylon gained independence the school ceased to be a Bilingual Boarding School. Instead it was made a Senior Secondary day school with hostel accomadation. In 1949 when Miss Gadd went on furlough Miss Evlyn Alsop who was the Principal of Ferguson High School came as Principal before going back to England after her retirement. By this time the school was re-named Baptist Girl's College. In 1954 Miss. Gadd went back to England. Miss Joy Blackerby who was in Ceylon from 1948 and the Principal of BMS English School, Matale came as Principal. During her period the teachers quarters and a beautiful chapel on the upper floor was built. In 1959 two senior Baptist girls Elsie Wijesinghe and Monica Perera who had qualified the GCE O/L or SSC were sent to to Carey College HSC classes. The school had provision to teach upto GCE/OL\ or SSC only. Earlier many girls who were eligible for HSC joined other schools. In 1958 when Miss Blackerby went on furlough, Miss Celia Moon who had been acting Principal of Ferguson High School Ratnapura and BMS English School Matale came to Baptist Girls College, Colombo. Miss. Blackerby and Miss. Moon were there till 1960 December. Miss Roslin Costa, Miss Daisy Somawardena, Miss Malini Perera, Miss Irene Perera, Mrs. Winnie Ratnayake, Miss Miriam de Silva were some of Baptist teachers who were on the staff at that time. With the take over of schools Miss Blackerby returned to England but Miss. Moon continued to be a Missionary in Ceylon managing the Sunday Schools

## The Missionaries Who Led the Girls Boarding School Colombo



Mrs. Eliza Davis  
1846 - 1849



Mrs. Marianne Lewis  
1846-1847



Mrs. Jane Allan  
1852-1866



Mrs. Ellan Piggott  
1866 - 1868



Mrs. Maria Waldock  
1868 - 1897



Miss. Hellen Moodie  
1897 - 1905



Miss. Lily Robinson  
1905 - 1909



Miss. Ruth Lapham  
1909 - 1912



Miss. K.A Dunn  
1910 - 1916



Miss. Elsie W. Evans  
1916 - 1944



Miss. Barbara Gad  
1944 - 1951



Miss. Evlyn Alsop  
1949



Miss. Joy Blackerby  
1953 - 1960

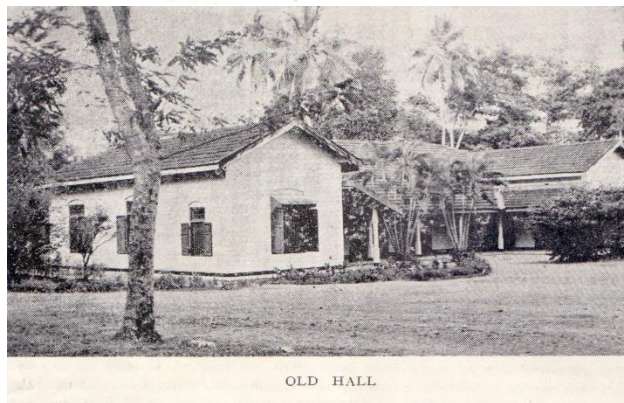


Miss. Celia Moon  
1957 - 1960

Sources- Lanka the Resplendent Isle

**BMS English School Matale – Founded in 1907**  
**EARLIER KNOWN AS GIRLS ENGLISH SCHOOL, MATALE**  
**NOW KNOWN AS SANGAMITTHA BALIKA VIDYALAYA**

291



Rev. J A Ewing who came to Ceylon in 1902 was the area Missionary living in Matale. Before 1907 Ms Ewing started to teach English to a few small children at her house. In 1906 Rev. Bruce Etherington the Missionary in Colombo and the founder of “ Forward Movement” to get down Missionaries to Ceylon went on furlough. When in England he visited the King’s Road Reading Baptist Church in search of suitable ladies to start a girls school in Matale. There he met Miss **Agnes Coleman** and **Miss Emily Collier**, two cousins who were much impressed about his idea and offered their services. In 1907 they came to Ceylon to open a girls school in Matale. In 1907 Rev. Bruce Etherington passed away suddenly in October. Rev. and Ms. Ewing had to fill the vacancy in Colombo. Miss. Coleman and Miss Collier while carrying on their language studies opened a school behind the “ Barron Hall” with twelve girls including Mrs. Ewings “little pupils”. when Rev. & Ms. Ewing left Matale, the two joint Principals went to live in the Mission House. The Missionary couple leaving Matale was a great blow to them. They were in a new environment, a new life style

Miss. Coleman and Miss Collier while carrying on their language studies opened a school behind the “ Barron Hall” with twelve girls including Mrs. Ewings little pupils when Rev. & Ms. Ewing left Matale, the two joint Principals went to live in the Mission House. The Missionary couple leaving Matale was a great blow to them. They were in a new environment , a new life style among unknown people with little knowledge of Sinhalese. In 1908 Miss.Coleman married, Rev. H J Charter who had come to Ceylon in 1906 and doing his language study with Rev. S F Pearce in Matale. In 1908 Rev. Charter became the area Missionary of Matale and Rev. S F Pearce went to Ratnapura as the area Missionary and later H J Charter was the founder Principal of Carey College, Colombo. As Miss Emily Collier was single handed, her sisters **Miss. Thirzo S R Collier** joined her in 1908 to help her. The Collier sisters had a Missionary brother in North India and the two sisters went there for a vacation where they met Rev. J W Ginn. Miss Emily Collier got engaged to him, in India. Later she went back to India and married him. Miss Thirzo continued her services till 1918.

In 1909 Miss. Jean A. Thomson an educationist from Scotland came to Ceylon and in 1910 she came as the Principal to Matale, with Miss Elsie Evans who had just arrived in Ceylon came as her assistant. After they came they re-organised the education system. They sent the pupils for the Junior Cambridge Examination. They were able to purchase a building with the Athington Fund of the BMS. On 12th April 1912 the boarding school was started. The first boarders were Alfred Silva and Ada Peiris children of two Baptist Pastor. Ms. Cecelia Abeykoon and Miss Agnes Peiris were in charge of the boarding school. On June 15th 1913 Miss Clara Krause came from Germany to assist Miss. Thomson. Miss. Krause lived in “ Hampdon Court” adjoining the present church, with the some teachers. In 1934 it was converted to be the Orphanage and in 1963 it was used as an Elders Home named “ Jayanthi Niwasa”. In 2004 it became a retreat centre. Still the school was a Private School. In 1915 it became a grant in-aid school. They started many fund raising projects, to expand the school. Miss Krause taught music to collect funds. Children were sent for music exams. Under Miss Thomson the school flourished. Adeline Thambiraja and Augusta Perera passed the Junior Cambridge exam. In 1920 Miss. Joyce Collier joined the school. She guided the school when Miss Thomson went on furlough. Miss Thomson was a mother to the children more than a Principal. She was loved by all her associates in Matale. Her birthday was on June 17th. The school started to celebrate the school Birthday too on that day. The school Crest and the Motto “ Ever ready and willing to serve” was introduced during that period. In 1924 Miss Jessie Uttley came to Ceylon and worked under Miss Thomson. In 1925 the number on roll was one hundred and fifty three ( 153) and fifty three (53) were boarders. In 1926 a seven acre block of land belonging to a Mohammeden family just behind the Principals bungalow was purchased with the proceeds of the sale of land in Grandpass by the B.M.S.

In 1926 Miss Jean Thomson who served the school from 1910 – 1926 left to get married to Mr. James Gibb of the Friends Mission. Miss Clara Krause too left in 1926 for Germany. Miss Jessie Uttley became the Principal in 1926. In 1927 the House System was introduced with three houses named Leela, Maya and Nightingale. During this period Miss. Lily and Miss. Rose Perera, Miss Elsie Balasuriye and Miss Augusta Perera were some of the Baptist teachers who laboured to build up the school. Miss Lettie Belleth and Miss Muriel Perera two English trained teachers joined the school. In 1928 the number on roll rose to one hundred and eighty (180). In 1930 the hall with six class rooms were declared open for the glory of God. Miss. Uttley went on furlough in 1930. Miss



Constance Mouncey who came to Ceylon that same year acted for Miss. Uttley. She left in 1931, as soon as Miss Uttley returned due to ill health. In 1931 the school won the Prize awarded by the Urban Council for the best kept school which was a great honour. In 1935 Miss Gwen Clothier joined the staff. Guiding, Cubbing and Brownies were re-started by Miss Lily M. Reece. In 1933 the Senior School Classes ( S S C ) were formed. By 1934 the Ranger Company was formed. In 1935 the house craft room was set up. In 1936 Miss Uttley went on furlough. While on furlough in England for everyones sorrow she passed away. It was a great loss for the school. In 1937 Miss. Lettie Belleth and Miss Muriel Perera were sent to Selly Oak in Birmingham University in England to follow a course in Missionary work.

In 1936, Miss Gwen Clothier took over the reigns of the school. A retreat for the children called the “Children’s Week End” was introduced. In 1939 Miss Gwen Clothier left the school to marry Mr George Ambanpola who was a member of the Matale Church. Miss Muriel Perera joined the staff as Vice Principal. Miss. H D Horlick was the Principal form 1939- 1944. In 1941 a Parent’s Teacher’s Association ( PTA ) was formed. In 1944 Miss. Horlick left and Miss Muriel Perera was appointed as the Principal. Miss Barbara Gadd was the Vice Principal from 1943 – 1944. She was transferred to B M S Girls School Colombo 8 as Principal. In 1946 a Prize Giving was held after twelve years. In 1949 Miss. M A Perera was transferred to Ratnapura Ferguson High School as Miss Brook went on furlough from 1950 – 1951. Miss Dorothy J Curtis who came from China was the Principal.

In 1952 Miss Joy E. Blackerby and Miss Vera May Armond were Principal and Vice Principal, respectively. In 1954 Miss Blackerby was transferred to the Baptist Girls College, Colombo as Principal. Miss Veera May Armond was made the Principal of the BMS English School Matale.

Under Miss Armond the school progressed rapidly. By 1956 the number on roll was 327. In 1957 the school celebrated the 50th Anniversary. The Golden Jubilee Magazine was the first magazine to be published. The school excelled in studies and sports. Acadamically the SSC results were good. In sports Athletics, Hockey and Net ball was their forte. The children were involved in many extra curricular activities. Christian children were sent for the Sunday School examination held by the Ceylon Sunday School Union. They attended the Junior camps held at Carey College. Senior girls were taken on educational tours regularly.



1955 Children's Weekend at Galaha



The new Hall

In 1956 a New Hall was built and opened for the glory of God which could accommodate 600 children. During this period teachers who served the school were Mrs. P Somawardena, Miss Laura Wickramasinghe, Mrs Charmion de Silva, Mrs. Tekla Ranaweera, Mrs. Mabel Fernando, Miss Lucille Jurienz, Miss. Kusum Wijesinghe. In 1957 Miss Laura Wickramasinghe was sent to Birmingham University for a Post Graduate course. In 1960 1st December when all the schools were taken over by the government Miss Armond too joined as a Government teacher saying good bye to the BMS Mission. She got the citizenship and continued to be the Principal for 15 more years. She passed away after going through a terminal illness on 2nd August 1975.

## **THE MISSIONARIES WHO SERVED THE BMS ENGLISH SCHOOL**

### **FOUNDERS**



Ms. Ewing



Rev. B. Etherington

## PRINCIPALS



Miss. Agnes Coleman  
1907 – 1908



Miss. Emily Collier  
1907 - 1909



Miss. Thirzo Collier  
1908 – 1918



Miss Jean Thomson  
1910 - 1926



Miss. Elsie W. Evans  
1910 – 1912



Miss Clara Krouse  
1913 – 1926



Miss Joyce Collier  
1920 – 1926



Miss Jessie Utley  
1926 – 1936



Miss Gwen Clothier  
1936 – 1939



Miss H D Holick  
1939 – 1944



Miss Murial A Perera  
1944 – 1949



Miss Babara Gadd  
1943 – 1944



Miss Dorothy J Curtis  
1950 - 1951



Miss. Joy Blackerby  
1952 – 1954



Miss Vera M Armond  
1952 – 1960 / 1975



Miss Celia Moon  
1956 - 1957

Sources

50th Souvenir Magazine of the School

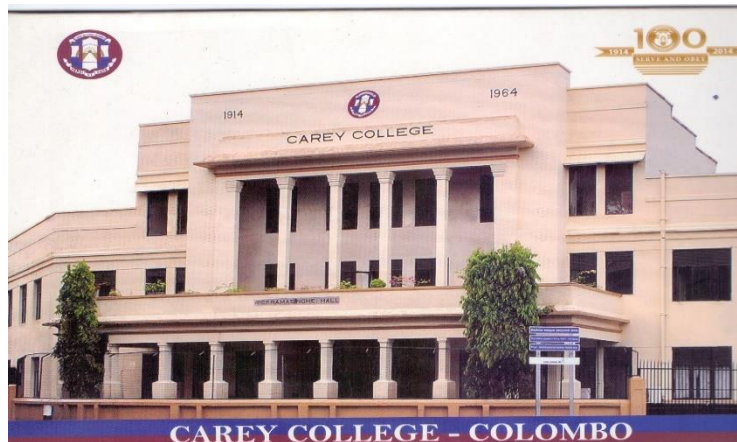
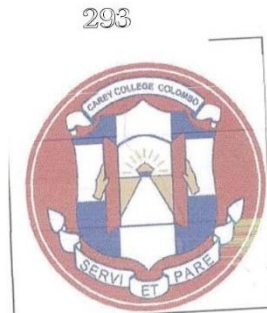
# CAREY COLLEGE COLOMBO

FOUNDED ON 12TH JANUARY 1914

**Originally named B M S Boy's School**

**Re-named Carey Baptist College in 1925**

**Now known as Carey College, Colombo**



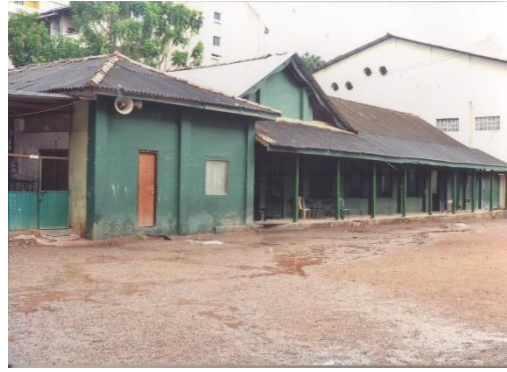
When the Baptist Missionary Society in London planned to celebrate the hundredth year or centenary of their work in Ceylon now known as Sri Lanka, B M S decided to establish a Theological Seminary, and a boys hostel in Colombo. Then the Baptists in our island seized the opportunity of inaugurating a centenary fund to establish an Educational Institute for the Baptist Boys as there were two girls schools already established in Colombo and Matale.

In 1911 the present site was purchased with the help of the “ Arthington Fund ” in England ( Mr. Robert Arthington in Leeds had donated a large sum of money to start a new missionary ventures) With that money they also built the Principal’s Bungalow named “ Rawdon”, and the boys hostel and lodgings for the Theological students and and Baptist students studying at Royal College, Medical College and the Law College etc.,





“Rawdons” Principal’s Bungalow



“Arthington” Boy’s Hostel

The first bell summoning the boys to the first assembly rang on the 12th January 1914, when two boys and three masters met the Principal, Rev. Howard J. Charter (B. A., B. D.). At the end of the term the number on roll was forty(40). The Principal committed fully to improve the school.

On July 18th 1913 a foundation stone was laid by the wife of the eldest son of Rev. F.D. Waldock. for a Hall. Rev. Fred David Waldock who had served the country for nearly 40 years was a great architect and builder and the Pastor of the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church. The family and the friends of Rev. Waldock volunteered to build the hall with moneys donated by them. The Centenary Hall was built and named the “Waldock Memorial Hall. It was formerly opened on July 3rd 1914, by the Mayor of Colombo R W Byrde Esq. The school was named B M S Boys High School.



“CENTENARY HIGH SCHOOL & WALDOCK MEMORIAL HALL.”

Rev. Charter went on furlough. Rev. J B Radley was appointed as the acting Principal. The first Head Master Mr. Selwood left for India. Mr. P W Fonseka was appointed as the Head Master. Rev. Charter returned in 1915. By the end of 1915 there were six teachers, classes from the Baby Class to Standard VIII. The first Prize Giving was held in the Waldock Memorial Hall. In 1916 the number on roll was one hundred and sixty. The school was approved by the Government as B M S Boys High School. In 1918 the 12th Colombo Scout Troop was formed under Mr. C W F Pereira. In 1919 the first Athletic Sports Meet was held and the Champion Athlete was Lionel Jayasuriya. The Volley Ball team participated in the All Ceylon Volleyball League matches. Rev. Charter introduced the school Motto “Serve and Obey”. The College choir was formed and took part in Singing Competitions.

In 1921 Rev. Harold Spooner B D London arrived in the island on 22nd March and took over from Rev. Mr Charter. He had been the Pastor of the Glidersome Baptist Church in Yorkshire. Ms. Spooner was involved with the boarders. In 1921 Mr. E M Fonseka who was the Head Master since 1916 left and Mr. D W Jayasinghe a Baptist first class Trained Baptist was appointed as the Head Master. In July 1924 the House system with three houses namely Carey, Waldock and Athington was introduced by Rev. Spooner. In 1925 the school was re-named “ Carey Baptist College”, in honour of the pioneer Baptist Missionary to the East, Rev. Dr. William Carey who founded the Serampore College in Calcutta. The first magazine was edited by Alfred Jayatunga. In 1926 the Old Boys Union and the Teachers Guild were formed. A science laboratory was set up. In 1932 Rev. Spooner left on furlough and Rev. S F Pearce acted as Principal. Rev. Spooner had been the secretary of the Colombo Education Committee of all religions including Roman Catholic representatives. This was formed to face opposition from the Government on matters of Policy. Rev. Spooner frequently battled with ill health. He was down with Malaria in 1935 during the Malaria Epidemic. In 1937 Rev. Spooner went on furlough and Rev H W Spillett (BA, B D ) who came from China acted as Principal. Rev. Spooner was advised not to return to the island on medical grounds. Rev. Spillett took over the school in 1938. In 1939 the Prefect system was introduced. He re-organized many extra curricular activities giving them a new lease. The students took part in many inter school competitions and won some of them.

In 1939 the school celebrated its “ Silver Jubilee” with a Thanksgiving service at the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist church. Other activities were the Jubilee Sports Meet, a public meeting, OBU meeting and the Jubilee dinner. Earlier Matriculation Classes were commenced in 1935 and in 1939 students were prepared for the London Chamber of Commerce Examination.

In 1942 April the 2nd World War was started . The Primary department was shifted to Ferguson High School, Ratnapura. In 1942 the College premises had to be shared with Wesley College and St. Mathews College, Dematagoda. Mrs Spillett and the children were sent to South Africa because of the war. In 1942 the Board of Governors was set up. In 1944 Rev. H W Spillett went to South Africa to join the family.



Rev. H. J Charter BA,BD,  
1914-1921,  
Principal

Rev. J.B. Radley  
1914-1915  
Acting Principal

Rev. Henry Spooner  
1921-1938  
Principal

Rev. S. F. Pearce  
1933 – 1934  
Acting Principal

Rev. H. W. Spillet BA, BD  
1938 – 1944  
Principal

In 1945 the first Ceylonese Principal Rev. W M P Jayathunga (B.D) was appointed. He introduced the new Crest for the College in consultation with the staff and with an expert in Heraldry in England. It appeared for the first time on the cover page of the 1948 College Magazine. After Ceylon gained independence in 1948 the free education system was introduced. Till then many of the English schools were grant-in aid schools. With the new reforms the Grade I schools were given the option to be Fully Private with fee levying facility or to join the free education system.



The Principal took a bold step to stay a Fee Levying Private School. In 1946 Mr. D W Jayasinghe was appointed as the first Vice Principal. Mr. J Davis and Mr. Lionel Jayasuriya were appointed as Head Masters of Upper School and Lower School respectively. Mrs. Belle Jayathunga, was the Kindergarten Head Mistress with her special training in Kindergarten work. A Junior Cadet Platoon was formed under Mr Burder. In 1947 the Andrew Brace Memorial Bell was erected. In 1949 the Lower School Head Master left and Mr. K C Cheriyan was appointed. In 1951 Mr. D W. Jayasinghe retired and Mr. F S D L Karunartne was appointed as Vice Principal. In 1952 they added another House named “ Spooner House” to the existing Houses. The school swelled in numbers and the number on roll was one thousand (1000). After completing ten years of hard work, Rev. W M P Jayathunga who was a strict disciplinarian left the College at the end of 1954. Mr. D W Jayasinghe was called back to act for one term.

From May 1955 Rev. W G Wickramasinghe ( M A Oxon, BD) was appointed as the Principal who came from Serampore University. It was a honour to the College as he was an Old Boy of the College. In 1955 Mr. M G P Fernando joined as the Primary Head Master. The demand for new admissions was growing. The existing buildings were not capable in handling ever growing numbers. In 1956 the College started fund raising projects to start a new building programme. On 17.3.1958 a foundation stone was laid for semi permanent kindergarten block which was declared open on 15.5.1958 by Rev. and Ms. R C Cowling the Field Secretary of the BMS. The Principal by then had got a Master Plan drawn by Mr. Wilson Peiris and Miss Priyani Peiris the two architects connected to the Moratuwa Baptist Church. The foundation stone for the first stage of the building plan was laid on 19.08. 1958 by Rev. R C Cowling the Field Secretary of the BMS in Ceylon. In 1959 the College song was introduced In 1960 01. 13 the new building was dedicated and opened by Miss W G Turnery the field Secretary of B.M.S in Ceylon. It consisted of six class rooms, a Science laboratory and the staff room. In 1962 the staff staged a Nativity Play named “ Pahan Tharuwa” produced by Mr. Milton Illanganthileke a staff member of Carey College staged at the Lumbini Hall. In 1963 Miss Bell Jayathunga re-joined the staff as the Headmistress of the kindergartenn after her retirement. The second stage of the building plan which was under construction was dedicated and opened on 13th October 1964 with the main entrance to the intended hall, college office rooms, chapel on the top floor and six class rooms by Rev. T W Allan the Field Secretary of the B M S.

In 1963 Rev. & Ms. Spilett visited the College. The Principal was conferred the Hon. Degree of Doctor of Divinity (D D ) from the Northern Baptist Seminary.

In 1964 the College celebrated its Golden Jubilee with many events. The jubilee Sportsmeet, Thanks giving service at the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist church on July 19th. Art and Craft exhibition, a Drill display, Variety entertainment by Radio Artists some being parents of the school on our open air stage. The Jubilee dinner at the Galle Face Hotel and a Public meeting and a garden party at the Colombo Municipal Grounds and a fire works display in the night. Sinhala play directed by a staff member Mr D U Wickreme staged at the Y M B A Hall, Borella and a “ Flag day in Colombo” in aid of the building fund.

The College organized many more fund raising projects to start on the 3rd stage of the building programme. The Baptist Sangamaye gave Rs. 50,000/- towards it by giving the proceeds from the sale of the Mission house at Ratnapura. In 1968 the scouts celebrated their Golden Jubilee by

making a camp site in the school premises. In 1969 the traffic Police trained safety patrol squads in five school and one was Carey College. Mr. C I Kulasekera took the initiative to start it . The first Western Band trained by Miss Iranganie Hettiarachchi led the March Past at the Annual sports meet. Ms. Belle Jayathunga left the school to go abroad to join her children.

November 10th 1969 was a “ black day “ for the College as Ms. Resta Wickramasinghe wife of the Principal ,who was the live wire of the College in all the non-academical programmes, passed away after a brief illness. She left a void in many spheres specially in the fund raising projects of the building programme, in the Student Christian Movement ( S.C.M ) and in the hostel. Ms. Malini Wijesinghe was the Kindergarten Headmistress in 1968 and left the College after a short period. Ms. Barbera Nicholas joined the staff as the Kindergarten Head Mistress in 1971.

Islamic Day or Muslim Majlis was organised from 1971. In 1972 Kindergarten had their first concert at the Y M B A Hall, Borella which became an annual feature in the college calendar. On 23rd May 1973 the New Hall was ceremonially opened by Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranayake the Honourable Minister of Justice. The new hall was later named the “ Wickramasinghe Hall”. In 1975 a school bank affiliated to the National Savings Bank was opened. An “ Interact Club” was formed. The Principal completed twenty years of service in the College. The O B U celebrated it’s Golden Jubilee in April 1976. The Principal retired after rendering twenty one years of service to the school. He declared open the two storeyed Primary block. The Vice Principal Mr. Vernon Weerasinghe succeeded him. In 1980 the Primary Head Master Mr. Geoffrey Fernando retired. Ms. Chitra Samarasinghe who had twenty years of service in the school succeeded him. In 1981 Mr. Vernon Weerasinghe retired after serving the college for 24 years. Mr. D W W Jayawardena a Methodist was appointed as Principal. The second stage of the Primary building was built and opened on 19th October 1983.

In 1984 the College went through a stressful period. The Principal, the Vice Principal and the Kindergarten Head Mistress left the College. Mr. Felix Premawardena being the acting Principal and Mr. Bernard Premawardena as the Competant Authority guided the school and brought back the normalcy after the gloomy period she experienced . Rev. Thomas Gunasekera was appointed as the first Chaplain. At the end of 1984 the English stream which was being eliminated from 1972 ended. With it the standard of English in the College diminished.

In 1985, Mr. Kenneth de Lanerolle was appointed the Principal. He was an Anglican. The Kindergarten was brought under the Primary Head Mistress. The Nursery class was closed down. Mr. M D A Kuweju a Catholic was appointed as Vice Principal. Mr. Lanerolle left the College in 1986. Mr. Dunstan Fernando a Methodist came as Principal.

On 12th January 1989 the College celebrated the 75th Jubilee. A Thnaks giving service was held at the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church and the Guest Preacher was Rev. D E Weerasinghe the President of the S L B S. Birthday celebrations were held at class level. A general assembly and a public meeting with the Old Boys, members of the Governing Board and Baptist clergy was held in the College hall. The foundation stones for the four storeyed Library block and for the Gymnasium was laid by Rev. D E Weerasinghe ( President of the SLBS) and Mr. C M Vasa ((President of the OBU) respectively. An OBU branch was started in Melbourne by Mr. Melville Jayasinghe. Mr. Dunstan Fernando left the school. Mr D B Welikala who was an Anglican was

appointed as Principal. The four storeyed building which was under construction was opened by Rev. W G Wickramasinghe President of the S L B S. The staff “ identity cards were issued on 1st January 1990. In 1992 Cadeting was re-introduced after a lapse of 35 years. In 1993 a Monogram of the College Crest was introduced to the Primary Uniform. The 75th Jubilee of the Scout Troop was celebrated with a camp site and a camp fire in the college premises.

In 1994 Mr. E W Wijesinghe a Baptist was appointed as Principal after a lapse of nine years. On 27th June 1995 the Gymnasium which was under construction was dedicated and declared open by Rev. Paul Koralage the President of the SLBS. The foundation stone for a four storeyed Lower Primary Class room block was laid on 11th August 1995 and declared open on fifth December 1996 by Rev. Dr. W G Wickramasinghe the President of the SLBS.

In 1997 the College bade farewell to the first Chaplain Rev. Thomas Gunasekera . Rev. Sunil de Silva succeeded him.

The Principal introduced a smaller version of the Primary Monogramme to the Upper School uniform. Christmas parties too were introduced to the Upper school. In 1998 Mrs. Nalini Henderling was appointed as Co-Head mistress of the Primary Section. 20th Anniversary of the Buddhist Association was celebrated. With the funds raised by the Interact Club and the OBU a “School Van” was purchased.

In 1999 the College celebrated its 85th Birthday. After a lapse of 15 years the College 85th Souvenir Magazine which was compiled by Ms. Chitra Samarasinghe ( Head Mistress Primary Section) was published. In 2000 the OBU donated computers and a computer lab was opened.. At the end of the year Ms. Chitra Samarasinghe, the Primary Head Mistress left the College after serving for 40 years and 20 years as the Head Mistress. Ms. Nalini Henderling stepped into the vacant post in 2001. The chaplain too left and Rev. Heshan de Silva an Old Boy succeeded him. The OBU held the Carey Night 2001 at the Vihare Maha Devi Open Air Theatre. A brass band was formed under Mrs. Shanthi Vanderbona the Western Music teacher. Our Sports teams, Choirs, Bands and Dance troops now has achieved high standards. It is happy to note that they were gaining places at the Inter School Zonal, District and All Island competitions.

In 2001, seven students of the Kandyan Dancing Troop performed the ritual of Ves Paladanawa at the Kelaniya Raja Maha Viharaye. In 2002 the Scout troop celebrated their 85th Anniversary and Mr. D Somasiri Hettiarachchi was awarded the Veteran Scout Leader award. In 2003 the second four storeyed class room block parallel to the Hall was declared open by Mrs. Winifred Kariapperuma (nee Miss Turnery) who was the field secretary of the B.M.S in the 1960’s. On 12. 01. 2004 the foundation stone for the Upper Primary Class room block was laid by Ms. Chitra Samarasinghe the former Primary Head Mistress. In 2004 a Commerce Day was celebrated with about 600 children under the theme E Learning. Many schools participated. Elocution classes were re- introduced to the Lower Primary Classes in 1905. A new staff identity cards were issued. A new P A System to cover the entire school was installed. The time checking machine was fixed at the entrance. In 2006 Carey Walk was started. On 25.09.2007 the Upper Primary for storeyed building with the Rev. W M P Jayathunga Memorial Chapel on the top floor was opened by Rev. Kingsley Perera the President of the SLBS. In 2008 “ Careyite Com Brio ” a brass band concert was held at the BMICH Auditorium. In 2009 Mr. E W Wijenghe who did much to the school left

after 16 years of valuable service. Mr. M D A Kuweju the Vice Principal who served the school for 24 long years too left the school. The hostel which had been there from the inception was closed down.

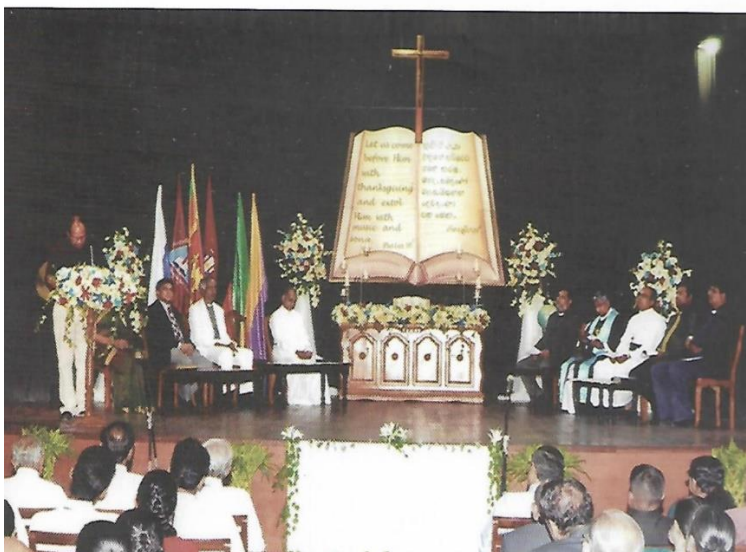
In 2010 Dr. Heshan Aponso Wickramasuriya ( M Ed, PH D) came as the Principal. Rev. Heshan de Silva was appointed as Vice Principal Administraton and Mr. Sumith Ranasingje as Vice Principal Academic. Rev. Priyantha Wijegoonewardena our Chaplain was inducted as SLBS President. Rev. William Wijekoon came as the Chaplain. Dr. Heshan Wickramasuriya who stepped into fill the vacuum left the post of Principal. Mrs. Mala Bibile ( M.A, B Ed, Dip in T O S L ) the first lady to hold the post came as the Principal in 2011.

The Oriental Musical Group organised the “ Carey Super Star” programme in the College Hall on 22.06.2012. The Senior Dance Troop was placed first at the Zonal and second at the Provincial competitions. The Primary Dance Troups were the winners at the All Island dancing competition organized by the Ministry of Education for the fifth consecutive year. The College Magazine was published after a lapse of thirteen years in 2012. From 2012 the Lower Primary Sports Meet was called the Activity Day. From January the English Medium Classes were resumed from Grade I. In 2013 the hostel building which was built by the BMS with the Arthington Fund in 1913 was demolished making room for the Centenary building.

At the end of 2013 Rev. Heshan de Silva who served as the Chaplain for 9 years and as the Vice Principal for 3 years left the school.

2014 was the College Centenary year. Many programmes were planned by the Centenary Committee in view of it. On 12th January 2014 the Centenary Thanksgiving Service was held in the College Hall. The unique feature was all who took part in the service were Old Boys who were ordained clergy of the Baptist Church and in other denominations. Rev. Asiri Perera Chairman of the Central District of the Methodist Church was the Guest Preacher.

## Centenary Thanksgiving Service 12.01.2014



On 29th May 2014 the Sri Lanka Philatelic Bureau coming under the purview of the Department of Postal Services, issued the new Centenary stamp with the Hon. Minister of Postal Services Mr. Jeevan Kumarathunga a distinguished Old Boy of the College. M H Riza a Grade 13 Commerce student designed the original stamp. On the same day the College Website [www.careydu.lk](http://www.careydu.lk) was launched. The Centenary Exhibition with the past history was held in the College premises the Centenary Sportsmeet held on twenty sixth February 2014 at Wesley Grounds, Mr. Salinda Watapuluwa an OBU President came all the way from Australia to grace the occasion as the Chief Guest. Another OBU past President Mr. B M D Rizvi was the Chief guest at the Lower Primary Activity Day. On 29th June 2014 the centenary prize giving was held in the College hall with Rev. Priyantha Wijegoonewardena President of the SLBS as Chief Guest. The Carey Awards night was held in the College Auditorium on 13th September 2014 to felicitate the past and present members of the staff including the support staff who had completed twenty five years of service to the College and the old boys who were achievers of excellence academically or professionally. On the same day the OBU organized the Centenary get together at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, Colombo 7. The Senior Brass Band held the “Conbrio 3”

at the BMICH Auditorium, with the O B U President DIG Rohan Wijewardena as the Chief guest on 17th June 2014. On 8th November 2014 the foundation stone was laid for the centenary building by the President of the S L B S, the Principal, a representative of the OBU and the Head Prefect. On 28th November 2014 the Award Ceremony for the subject Prize Winners in the Primary Section was held in the College Hall for the first time. Ms. Chitra Samarasinghe the former Head Mistress of the Primary School was the Chief Guest. The Centenary celebrations ended with the Carol Service with Rev. Shriyan Jayamanne as the Guest Preacher. The Souvenir Magazine compiled by Ms. Chitra Samarasinghe assisted by Ms. Nalini Henderling was launched on 23rd October 2015.

The Centenary Cricket match, Old Boys Vs. Present Boys was played at Colts Cricket Grounds to enjoy good cricket and to have fellowship. Mr. Jerry Wouterz Manager Sri Lanka Cricket Team and an Old Boy of Carey College was a Chief Guest.

In 2015 the Drama Competitions were held after a lapse of many years. The Lower Primary Activity day was held in the College premises. The first Award Ceremony was held in the College Hall. The Primary Concert “ Magic Kids” in action was brought on stage. “ Conbrio 4” was held at the BMICH Auditorium after ten years a swimming meet was held in the Ananda College swimming pool with Mr. Julien Bowling as the Chief Guest. Naveen Dulanjan was placed first in the 100 metres and 200 metres in the Colombo District and in the All Island John Tarbatt Athletic Meets.

In 2017 Annual Prize Giving, Mr. Musthafa Hussein one of the distinguished Old Boys was the Chief Guest. He was the Minister of Health from 1978 to 1983 and at present the Permanent Representative to the United Nations for Maldives.

On July 10th 2017 the three storeyed “ Centenary Building for the Middle School was dedicated and declared open by Rev. Dr. Neville George Callam the General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance.



The Centenari Building



At the end of 2019 Mrs Nalini Henderling retired from the section after serving the College after 44years, and 22 years as the Primary Head Mistress. Mrs. Rasika Perera with 26 years of service to the College was appointed as the Head Mistress from January 2020.

In 2020 due to the Corona Virus Pandemic all schools were locked in, including Carey College. Lessons were conducted on Line.

### The Sri Lankan Principals who served the College



Rev W. M. P. Jayathunge  
(B.D)  
1945 - 1954



Rev. Dr. W. G. Wickramasinghe  
(M. A. Oxon, B.D, Dip Ed)  
1955 - 1976



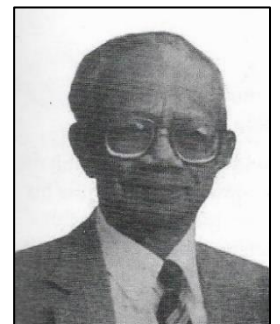
Mr. J. V Weerasinghe  
B.A., Dip Ed, (Cey)  
1976 - 1981



Mr. D. W. W. Jayawardana  
B.A., Dip Ed, (Cey)  
1981 - 1984



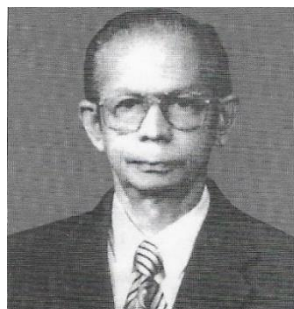
Mr. Kenneth de Lanerolle  
M.A, A.I.E, Dip Ed Cert Bir  
1985 - 1986



Mr. Dunstan Fernando  
B.A., Dip Ed  
1986 - 1989



Mr. D. B. Welikela  
B.A, Dip Ed, (Cey)  
1990 - 1993



Mr. E. W. Wijesinghe  
SLES2, Eng. Trained, Dip. Sch. Mgt  
1994 - 2009

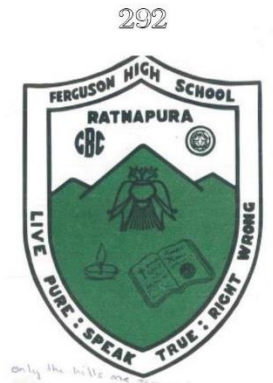


Dr. Heshan A. Wickramasuriya  
M. Edu., PhD Penn  
2010 - 2011



Mrs. Hemamali Bibile  
M.A, B.Ed, Dip TESOL Lon  
2011 -

**FERGUSON HIGH SCHOOL RATNAPURA – FOUNDED IN 1917**  
**ORIGINALLY NAMED AS BMS GIRLS SCHOOL RATNAPURA**  
**RE-NAMED IN 1928 AS FERGUSON HIGH SCHOOL**



In 1878 Ms. Ellen Piggott had started a school in her Mission House but when she came down to Colombo in 1886 it was closed down. In 1900 Miss Elsie Balasuriya the daughter of Rev. D B Lewis who was the Pastor of the Ratnapura Church built in 1882 had a school in the Vestry room of the church. These schools had been the nucleus of the Ferguson High founded in 1917.

In 1912 Rev. Radley set foot to Ceylon and in 1915 he was posted to Ratnapura as the Area Missionary. Then many of the distinguished families of the area who remembered Ms. Piggott's and Miss Elsie Balasuriya's schools, approached the Missionary and the Pastor of the church Rev. S R P Maldeniye to request them to start an English School for their children. So they put their heads together and planned to start the present school.

In January 1917 Mrs. Florie Radley started the school with four children in the Vestry of the church. The first teacher was Miss Elizabeth Maldeniya daughter of the Pastor. After a few months she vacated the post as she took appointment at Newstead High School Negombo. Her sister Margret took over it. In June that year, Miss. Casie Chetti was appointed to assist Miss. Magaret. The numbers grew and the school expanded to the church proper. In 1918 they started a

building fund. At the end of the year a Fancy Bazaar was held to swell it. They also received funds from the “John Ferguson Memorial fund” in the same year. The work of the new building was started near the Mission House in the Ferguson Hill. The new building was declared open on 10th March 1919 by Mrs. Foucer (nee Piggott) a daughter of Rev. & Mrs Henry Piggott the fore runners of the school. The school was shifted to the new building with 36 students and classes upto standard four. The school was named B M S Girls School, Ratnapura.

In 1920 January Miss Wijesinghe and in October Miss Nesta Vander Starten joined the staff. Later Miss Fernando was appointed as Head Teacher. At the middle of the year the school was registered for examinations. In 1921 Mrs. Radley came down to Colombo. Miss Joyce Collier ( MA) who was at Matale with Miss Krause was appointed as the Principal. The number on roll was 50 and all were day scholars. During this time there was no Missionary for Miss Collier’s support but Miss. Ethel Evans who was in-charge of the Bible Teachers was a great help to her. The first prize giving was held at “Wace Hall”. The school was registered a Grant-in-Aid School. A Sunday School was started. The first inspection was held in 1922. Miss Joyce Collier left the school to marry Mr. Carey E M Durbin.

Miss Evelyn Allsop who had arrived in Ceylon in 1920 was appointed as Principal to fill the post in 1922. Now the school was performing well at public examinations. In 1923 Elsie Abeygunasekera and in 1924 Concy Gunasekera were successful at the ( E S L C) examination (English School leaving Certificate) In 1924 the Hostel was started in the school Lodge in Hellings Road. In March that year the New Mission House along D J’ s Road was built which was later used as the Principals Bungalow.

In October “1st Ratnapura” Girl Guide Company was started by Miss Allsop. With Miss Claribel Balasuriya as the Captain and Miss Allsop herself as the Lieutenant to all Rangers, Guides and Brownies. The Brownie owl was Miss Roslin de Mel who joined the staff in 1923.

As the school was expanding a kindergarten block was built and was declared open by Muhandiram C.W.P Wanigatunge a former president of the Baptist Union and a member of the Kandy Baptist Church. In 1924 Miss Bell Barbett (later Mrs W.M.P Jayathunge) a Kindergarten Trained Teacher joined the staff in 1926 Miss Allsop went on furlough and Miss Constance Mouncey was the acting principal.

In 1928 January the school was renamed “Ferguson High School” in honour of Mr John Ferguson C.M.G Proprietor Editor of the Ceylon Observer, the oldest journal in Asia. He was a member of the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church. He had also been instrumental in setting up the small railway to Ratnapura and has been present at the inaugural service of the Ratnapura Baptist Church in 1882. To begin the building of the school, funds were received from the “John Ferguson Memorial Fund” in 1929 the Senior Hostel was built and declared open. The number on roll was 118 and the staff being 9.

In 1931 when Rev D.W. Abeyratne vacated the Mission House the Principal shifted to the Mission House and the Ethemington House was made the Junior hostel. In 1932 Miss Allsop went on Furlough and Miss Winifred Gadge acted for her. She introduced the House system namely Esther-Red, Lydia-Blue and Dorcas –Orange. Later the Biblical names were replaced with the names of gems. Ruby – Red , Sapphire – Blue , Garnet – Yellow and Amethyst – Purple as Ratnapura was famous for gems. In 1933 the Past Pupils Association was formed. In 1934 Augusta Perera and in

1936 Miriam Perera were successful at the S.S.C examination (daughters of Rev. K.A. Perera and sisters of Miss. Pearl Perera) Mrs Lilian Thambiah was the first pupil to pass the Senior Domestic Science examination at the J.S.C examination and the Junior Domestic Science Examination. Many obtained distinctions. In 1941 the number on roll was 194. The Ferguson Highschool Sunday School won the All round cup at the Sunday School Rally held in Colombo.

In 1942 after the Japanese raid on Easter day, some of the Primary and Junior boys from Carey College were transferred to Ferguson High School and the number on roll increased to 230. In August that year the school celebrated its Silver Jubilee with a Thanksgiving service, a Public meeting, a Variety entertainment and a Country dance display. In 1944 the new assembly hall was dedicated to the Glory of God and opened by Lady Moor, wife of H.E. the Governor of Ceylon. Number on roll was 312. Miss Venetia Stembo wrote the College Song, and it was set to music by Mrs Concy Jayesekera. Miss Allsop who was fondly called mother of Ferguson celebrated her Silver Jubilee as the Principal of Ferguson High School.

With the major floods in 1947 the Ratnapura Hospital by the side of the Kalu Gange went under water and the hospital was evacuated and the patients were shifted to our school hall. At the end of the year the First Ferguson Fair was held in the school premises. In 1949 the school bade farewell to Miss Allsop who went to Colombo B.M.S before leaving the island after retiring.

In 1949 Miss F Aurora Brook who was the Vice Principal from 1940 became the Principal in 1950. Miss Muriel A Perera joined her as co-principal. She was Principal of the B.M.S Matale before coming to Ratnapura. She left Ratnapura in 1950.

In 1951 the two storeyed Home Science block was declared open by Dr. H W Houes the Director of Education. The number on roll was 413. Mrs. J C Stembo was appointed as the Primary Headmistress. In 1952 Miss Brook went on furlough and Miss. Dorothy I Curtis who was the Principal of BMS English School Matale came as Principal for an year before leaving the island for good. In 1953 Miss M. Celia Moon came as Vice Principal and stayed on till end of 1955. The school crest was drawn in 1953 by Miss Nalini Gunasekera the Art teacher of the school. In 1955 another two storeyed building with the Library and the Science Laboratory was declared open. In 1956 January Miss Pearl Perera an old girl of the school with seventeen years of teaching experience at Methodist College Colombo 3, joined the staff as the Upper School Head Mistress. At the end of the year Mrs. R M Fernando (nee de Mel) retired after a long service but continued to stay on in the school as the Senior Matron in the Hostel.

In 1957 March the school celebrated its Fortieth Jubilee. The celebrations started with a Thanks Giving Service held in the Hall with Rev. R C Cowling the field secretary of the BMS as the Guest Preacher. The cutting of the Birthday cake at a Special assembly. A public Meeting was held in the hall. The Jubilee Prize giving was held in the school Hall with Mrs. Sirimavo Bandandaranaike the first lady of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) as the Chief Guest. It was a great honour to the school as she had been an Old Girl during her Primary school days. P. P. A. celebrations too were held on a grand scale with many old girls participating. The first Magazine to be published was the 40th Souvenir Magazine. In August 1957 two Baptist teachers Miss Viola Algama(BA) from Ferguson High School and Miss. Laura Wickramasinghe (B.Sc) from the English School, Matale were sent on scholarship to the Birmingham University to do a Post Graduate course to take over the

Principleship when the need arises. In 1957 a Foundation stone was laid for the Principal's Bungalow and a Chapel on the Upper floor. It was dedicated to the Glory of God on 28th March 1958 by Rev. H S L B Welegedera the Manager of the Baptist Schools. In June Miss. Brook came back in 1959 but with the implementing of the schools take over in December 1960, Miss Brook left the island after serving the school for twenty years. Miss Pearl Perera became the Principal under Government Administration.

Sources -40th Souvenir Magazine of the School

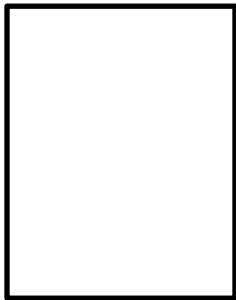
**THE MISSIONERIES WHO SERVED FERGUSON HIGH SCHOOL RATNAPURA**



Mrs Ellen Pigott  
1878 - 1879



J. Ferguson CMG



Mrs Florie Radley  
1917 - 1921



Miss Joyce Collier  
1921 - 1922



Miss Evlyn Allsop  
1922 - 1948



Miss A. D Horlick  
1937 - 1939



Miss F Aurora  
Brook  
1940 - 1960



Miss Muriel A  
Perera  
1949 - 1950



Miss Dorothy J  
Curtis  
1952



Miss Celia Moon  
1953 - 1955



## THE VERNACULAR B M S SCHOOLS AND THE HEADMASTERS (TAKEN OVER BY THE GOVERNMENT) ON 1st December 1960

1. Kuda Buthgamuwa, Angoda -**Mr David Jayasinghe**
2. Hulangamuwa, Matale -**Mr P Mahaarachchi**
3. Wellampitiya, Wellampitiya -**Mr T J Senanayake**
4. Dombawela, Mahawela -**Mr K D Samarakone**
5. Gonawela, Kelaniya -**Mr D W P Suraweera**
6. Elwala, Matale -**Mr K H F Stephen**
7. Biyanwila, Kadawata -**Mr D B Kalugampitiya**
8. Neluwakana , Matale -**Mr R M Wijerathne**
9. Karagahamuna, Kadawatha -**Mr D B Hittihamu**
10. Paldeniya, Mahawela -**Mr K B Elangesekera**
11. Orutota, Gampaha -**Mr K P Perera**
12. Weragama, Matale -**Mr W N Darmarathne**
13. Uggalgoda, Udugampola -**Mr L H P Jayamanne**
14. Udasgiriya, Matale -**Mr D W Perera**
15. Halugama, Mirigama -**Mr D B Rathnayake**
16. Rathtota, Raththota -**Mr K N Perera**
17. Warakapola, Warakapola -**Mrs Jannet Jayasuriya**
18. Kekirawa, Kekirawa -**Mr N K Tikiribanda/ Mr T Thiyagaraja (Tamil Section)**
19. Beligodapitiya, Rambukana -**Mr M O B Dhanapala**
20. Hiripitiyagama, Kekirawa -**Mr A Godakumbura**
21. Kandy, Kandy -**Mrs Mebel Welegedera**
22. Galapitagala, Palugaswewa -**Mr D B Bandaranayake**
23. Katugastota, Katugastota -**Mr S U B Hittihamu**
24. Manawa, Ipalogama -**Mr Roland Somawardena**
25. Ambatenna, Katugastota -**Mr D W Peter Algama**
26. Mugunuwatawana, Madape -**Mr V Jayasinghe**
27. Harankhawa, Galagedera -**Mr D C Edirisinghe**
28. Peekkulama, Madampe -**Mr D E S Wijesinghe**
29. Madagama, Galagedera -**Mr A G K Banda**
30. Nankadawara, Panirendawa -**Mr P A Fernando**
31. Malandeniya, Mawathagama -**Mr D H Aaron**
32. Ratnapua, Ratnapura -**Mr H M Herath**
33. Udumatta, Eheligoda -**Mr H P Jayakody**
34. Batugedera, Ratnapura -**Mr A T B Rajaguru**
35. Talawitiya, Eheliyagoda -**Mr Walter B E Wijesinghe**
36. Pelmadulla, Pelmadulla -**Mr D W Wanigasuriya**

### Source

1812 – 1987 Baptists in Sri Lanka Heirs of a noble heritage and Records from the SLBS Archives.

---

## **REV. WALTER STANLEY SENIOR 1906 – 1925**

**The Anglican Missionary who wrote the Hymn for Ceylon**



Mr. Walter Stanley was born in England on 10th May 1876 to Rev. Walter Senior an Anglican clergyman and Mrs. Senior. He had his Primary education at Sheffield Royal Grammar School where his uncle, Edward Senior was the Head Master. After completing his Primary education he joined the Marlborough Secondary School from 1888 – 1891 where he won a scholarship to Balliol College of the Oxford University.

He had a flair for writing from his childhood. When he was at Marlborough Secondary School his ability to write progressed. He started to write many prose passages and poems mainly about the school which he was deeply attached. His greatest achievement was to receive the Triennial Prize for his poem titled “Pisgah or The Choice” from the University of Oxford on a sacred Subject. At the Intermediate examination in the University he obtained a First Class in English Classics, and a Second Class in Philosophy.

In 1906 Rev. W S Senior came to Ceylon as an Anglican Missionary to Trinity College Kandy, to be the Vice-Principal under Rev. A G Frazer the Principal. With the appointment of Rev. Senior to Trinity College, it emerged as a school with a scholastic reputation. His pupils adorned various walks in the island. Rev. Senior was at Trinity College from 1906 – 1915. There he deputized the Principal at many occasions being the Vice Principal. The pulpit of the Trinity College was dedicated to his name. A portrait of Rev. Senior was painted by David Painter the renowned artist and an Old Boy of Trinity College, adorned the wall of the College Library.

In 1907 Rev. Senior married Miss Ethel Poole, the daughter of Bishop Poole the first CMS (Church Missionary Society) Bishop of Japan under the Church Missionary Society. They were blessed with two sons and two daughters. One son became a member of the African Civil Service.

1916 Rev. Senior left Trinity College and assumed duties as Vicar of the Christ Church, Galle Face until 1919. His spirituality, countenance and the beauty of his voice made him a great Preacher. He was one of the pioneer slum workers in Slave island. In 1919 Rev. Senior accepted the post of Registrar and the lecturer of Classics at the newly formed University College along Thursten Road. The material aspects and the security of the office had no appeal to a man of his calibre. While teaching in the University he became the personal tutor of James P. Obeyesekere and lived with the family in Reid Avenue.

He was a renowned writer both in Prose and Verse. He wrote the Trinity College Hymn “Where river lake and mountains meet” and the College Hymn of St. John’s College, Jaffna. The “Hymn for Ceylon” which we now sing was written by him as a poem.

Rev. W. S. Senior happened to tutor Devar Suriya Sena, a christian lyric writer and musician. One day Rev. Senior gave the words of Hymn for Ceylon to him and said, “Berti, you are going to write a tune for this hymn.” Later as Devar Suriya Sena was contemplating on it, in a flash the thought came that the much loved melody of Dhamma Budunge could be adapted to fit the meter of this hymn. So he married the words to the tune, harmonising the melody in four parts.

“Ode to the Sacred City” or “Dhamma Budunge” sung by Hubert Rajapakse, John de Silva’s drama “Siri Sanga Bo” and the tune composed by Pundit Vishwanath Lauji, an Indian musician, was introduced. The music notations were printed and published by the Christian Literary Society (CLS) with the initiative of Ignatium Lonsdown. In 1948 when Ceylon gained its Independence on 4th February 1948, ten years after Rev. W S Senior’s death this Hymn “Jehovah Thou has Promised” was chosen to be the Hymn for Ceylon which is sung by all the Non Roman Catholic Christian Churches and schools when celebrating the Independence Day now known as National Day. The C. L. S. published the 3rd Edition of the Hymn for the Independence Day in 1948. The Sinhala translation was done by Rev. H de S Wickramaratne. The Tamil translation is printed in the “New Song” book but the translator’s name is not mentioned.

### Hymn for Ceylon



Jehovah, Thou hast promised  
The isles shall wait for thee;  
The joyous isles of Ocean,  
The jewels of the sea;  
Lo! we, this island's watchmen,  
Would give and take no rest,  
For thus hast Thou commanded,  
Till our dear land be blessed.

Then bless her, mighty Father,  
With blessing needed most,  
In every verdant village,  
By every palmy coast;  
On every soaring mountain  
O'er every spreading plain,  
May all her sons and daughters  
Thy righteousness attain

Give peace within her borders,  
'Twixt man and man good-will,  
The love all unsuspecting,  
The love that works no ill;  
In loyal lowly service  
Let each from other learn,  
The guardian and the guarded,  
Till Christ Himself return.

To Him our land shall listen,  
To Him our land shall kneel,  
All rule be on His shoulder,  
All wrong beneath His heel;  
Oh consummation glorious,  
Which now by faith we sing;  
Come, cast us up the highway  
That brings us back the King.

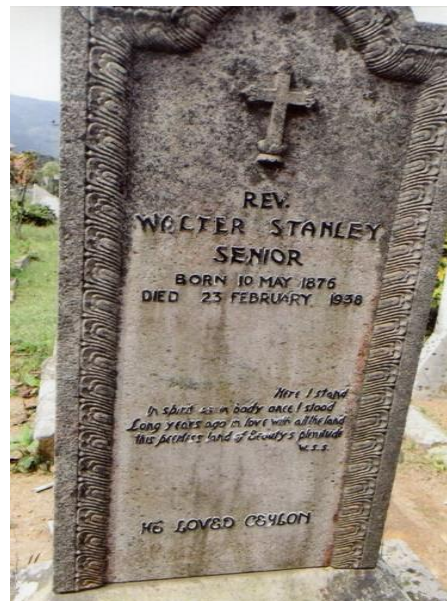
(Rev.) W. S. SENIOR,  
(obit 23, 4, 38.)

Rev.Senior's best-known work was epic titled " The call of Lanka " written about Sri Lanka. In 1960 his writing about Sri Lanka was printed and published by the Trinity College Press under the title of "Lanka Ceylon in prose and verse".

Having spent greater part of his life in Ceylon now known as Sri Lanka, its tropical climate made him weak and his health deteriorated. In 1925 or so he retired and went back to his motherland. His great love for Ceylon did not diminish. He visited the Island in 1936 to see the wondrous beauty of it again and to meet his numerous friends in the country. He was popularly known as the " Bard of Lanka", as he was a poet and an author.

At the age of 61 years on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1938 he was called home by his heavenly Father. According to his last wishes he was cremated in England, and the ashes were sent to Ceylon to be interred at the St. Andrews church, Haputale. Where he had admired the beauty of Ceylon many a time when living in Ceylon. On his tomb stone is engraved the opening lines of his poem" Lanka from Piduruthalagala."

"Here I stand in spirit as in body once I stood,  
Long years ago, in love with all the land  
This fearless land of beauty's plentitude.



Sources:

- Music Leaflet printed by the CLS in 1948
- Article written to the Sunday Times, 12.02.2007 by Mrs. Indrani Kannangara

## A word about the Compiler.....



This history book was compiled for the Glory of God by Ms. Chitra Samarasinghe ( nee Peiris Wettasinghe ) who served CareyCollege for 40 years, 20 years as the Primary Head Misstress . She is the wife of Mr. Gamini Samarasinghe, who was a Banker. He was the Treasurer of the Sri Lanka Baptist Sangamaya from 2016 to2019. They are blessed with a son Gihan and daughter Shehanika who are all members of the Hendala Baptist Church. Chitra is the eldest daughter of Rev. F A Peiris and Mabel Peiris. She is a Grand Daughter of Rev. W A Peiris. The compilers family and the previous generations has had many close connections with the BMS Missionaries.

The compiler also had her education at Princess of Wales College Moratuwa, Girls High School Kandy, **BMS English School Matale**, **Ferguson High School, Ratnapura** and C. M.S Ladies College Colombo.

For further inquiries please contact +9411 293 1082/ [jayagaminis@yahoo.com](mailto:jayagaminis@yahoo.com)



## Acknowledgements

The compiler of this History Book wishes to express her gratitude and grateful thanks to

Ms. Dora Wijesinghe for giving access to the past history which she has gathered from past magazines and documents from 1812.

Ms. Anula Rupesinghe for type setting the articles, Amasha, Amashki, Ameesha Samarasinghe and Shenuk Wijesinghe for helping their Grand Mother to check the articles on the computer and proof reading. Shenuk Wijesinghe for editing the document. Mr. Trevor de Silva of Image Graphics of Colombo 10, for checking the final document.

