

# CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, MARTHANDAM

*On the beginning*

## THE BLESSED TWENTY



**CHRISTIAN COLLEGE,  
MARTHANDAM**

*On the beginning*

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### Specifications

- Name : **Christian College Marthandam in the begining**
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### **COMMENDATION**

**Rt. Rev. G. Devakadasham, M.A., B.D., M.Th.,  
BISHOP,**

*Church of South India,  
Kanyakumari Diocese,*

*C.S.I. Diocesan Office, 71-A, Dennis Street, Nagercoil - 629001, South India*



I, as an old student of the Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam, am pleased and proud to write a few words about the booklet titled "Christian College, Marthandam, in the begining - The Blessed Twenty". This book highlights the commendable efforts of the early team of the staff, who sacrificed their time and energy for the establishment of a first grade college in a short time.

With limited facilities in those days, the founders, we the students and our parents, unmindfully strove hard to establish the college and study over there, which has today enabled the college to be one of the outstanding institutions in this district.

The book provides inspiring reading to the present staff, the students and the public, which I am sure, would motivate them to strive for further development of the college.

I heartily congradulate the compilers, who are the retired stalwarts of the institution, for their sincere effort to publish the same.

A stylized signature in dark ink, featuring a large initial 'D' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal stroke.

Bishop





## **FORE WORD**

**Prof. Arthur. J. Harris, M.Sc.,**  
*Former Principal  
President, Retired Teachers' Fellowship  
of N.M.C. College, Marthandam.*

As one brought up in Marthandam from 1929, I recollect those happy days spent in our home in the present pastors lane off Emlyn street, with my parents Rev. N.H. Harris and Mrs. Annammal Harris and brothers Justin N. harris and George H. Harris and George H. Harris. During my father's ministry as pastor of the Martandam church (1929 - 1945) Vigorous evangelisation results in the growth in the number of Christians, a fact justified by the following remark of Sir. C.P. Ramaswamy Iyyer, the then Dewan of Travancore; Martandam is a place of aggressive Christianity." The elegant church built and dedicated by Rev. R. Sinclair in 1933 was the hub of all christian activities.

In those days there were in the Mission Compound only the L.M.S. Boys and Girls schools which were Vernacular schools up to VII class, Rev. Sinclairs Bungalow, girls boarding home, a parsonage, L.M.S. primary school and later a training school; which were all tiled buildings. To the south of the mission compound on the other side of the main road there were some private buildings.

I did my primary education in the L.M.S. primary school. The same building served as the church before the new church was dedicated. In those days the Govt. High School, Martandam which was co.educational was the only High School in Vilavancode Taluk. Pupils from Vilavancode and parts of Kanyakulam Taluk had to come to Marthandam for high school education. Since there was little transport facilities students had to walk several miles to go to school. Some used bicycles. The number of women students in the high school was very small compared to boys. The pioneer Motor service operated some small buses on the main road. Therefore large areas remained educationally backward.

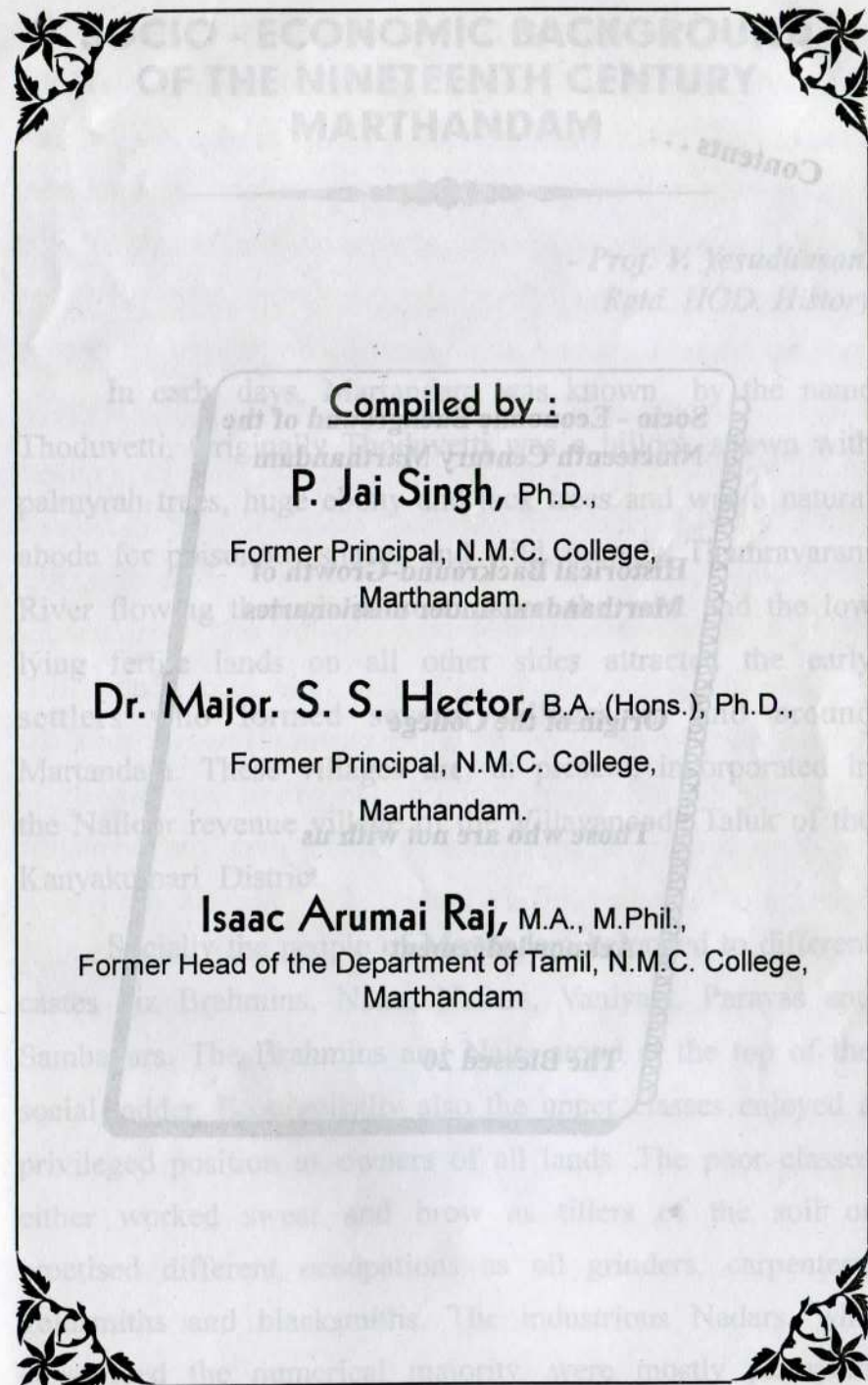
During 1940s and 1950s the situation gradually improved. The vernacular schools in the mission compound, marthandam became High schools. More high schools were started in this Taluk. But to continue education at the collegiate level one had to go to Nagercoil, Trivandrum or Palayankottai. Staying in a hostel and studying in the college was expensive. many students had to discontinue education at high school level and seek jobs.

Development advance all around generated among the people of marthandam the desire for a college and C.S.I., Kanyakumari Diocese gave the green signal to the people to put forth their efforts for starting a college at Marthandam in 1964. With the opening of the Christian College at Marthandam many



students from the western parts of Kanyakumari District could avail university education nearer their homes. With the greatly improved public transport a large number of students could go to college, marthandam the untiring efforts of the first batch of the college staff was quite crucial and of historic importance.

As one of the former principals pf the College (1974 -1981). Iam extremely happy that the Retired Teachers Fellowship of the College has decided to bringout a booklet on the first batch of teaching and nonteaching staff of the college who left no stones unturned to build up the college with donations from the public and the parents of the students. I heartly congradulate the compliers or this brouchure and all the members of the Retired Teachers Fellowship for paying their homage to the pioneer staff of the present Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Mathandam.





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## **SOCIO - ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY MARTHANDAM**

**- Prof. V. Yesudhason,  
Retd. HOD. History**

In early days, Martandam was known by the name Thoduvetti. Originally Thoduvetti was a hillock strewn with palmyrah trees, huge ebony and jack trees and was a natural abode for poisonous snakes and wild animals. Thamravarani River flowing through its suburbs on the west and the low lying fertile lands on all other sides attracted the early settlers who formed several villages in and around Martandam. These villages are, at present, incorporated in the Nalloor revenue village of the Villavancode Taluk of the Kanyakumari District.

Socially the people of Martandam belonged to different castes viz Brahmins, Nairs, Nadars, Vaniyars, Parayas and Sambavars. The Brahmins and Nairs stood at the top of the social ladder. Economically also the upper classes enjoyed a privileged position as owners of all lands. The poor classes either worked sweat and brow as tillers of the soil or practised different occupations as oil grinders, carpenters, goldsmiths and blacksmiths. The industrious Nadars, who constituted the numerical majority, were mostly palmyrah

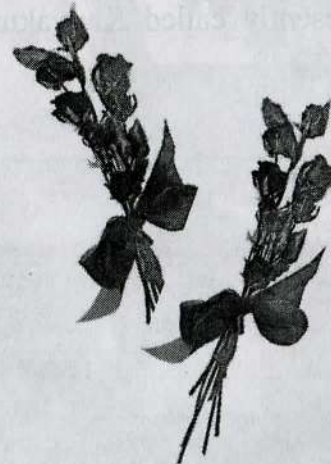


climbers and agricultural labourers and they eked out their living by indulging in large scale production of jaggery. Consequently Martandam became a fertile market for jaggery. The economy of the place, being a purely land-oriented one, the tillers of the soil were always at the mercy of the monsoons. Occasional floods in the Tamravarani River as well as drought coupled with annual outbreak of epidemics like cholera and smallpox made life miserable, particularly to the poor classes. None of these maladies had proper remedies. Rice produced was solely consumed by the privileged section of the society and tapioca was the staple food for the underprivileged.

In the caste ridden society of Travancore, education remained a monopoly of the upper castes. However with the advent of the missionaries of London Missionary Society in the 19th century a great change came over the economic conditions of the lower castes. Rev. James Emlyn, a missionary stalwart, erected schools at Martandam. Still, higher education was not available for the children of the place. Only in 1873 the Scott Christian College was established. Yet the poorer sections could not afford to meet the cost of higher education in far off places like Nagercoil and Trivandrum. Even after attainment of Indian Independence children of Vilavancode and Kalkulam Taluks had to go to Trivandrum or Nagercoil for collegiate education. Those who attended college at Nagercoil practised

pedestrianism to reach the college and return. In short, evils of slavery servitude, illiteracy, insanitation, poverty, traditions and superstition enjoyed a free play in the society.

It was at this state of affairs of 19th century Martandam the L.M.S. Missionary James Emlyn selected the hillock to protract his missionary activities at Martandam. Undaunted, Emlyn, while challenging the existing order, stood uncompromising to achieve his goal throughout. A hearsay of the place "If I am Emlyn, then the road to market is certain" bears testimony to his boldness in doing things towards the materialization of the mission promoting education to the downtrodden and underprivileged.

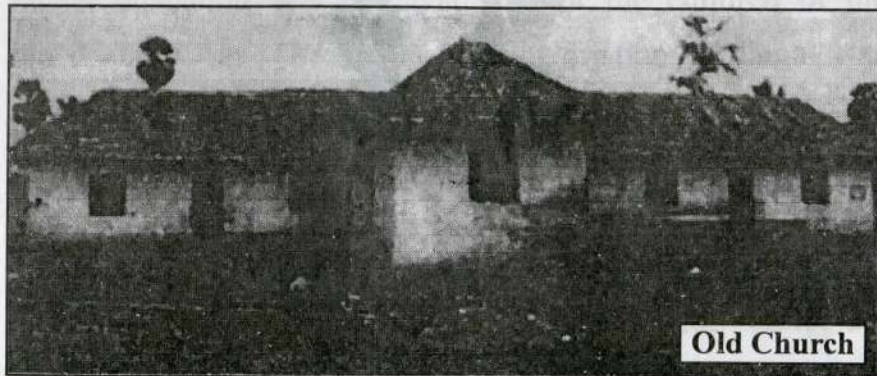




## **PREFACE**

### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND - GROWTH OF MARTANDAM UNDER MISSIONARIES**

Martandam, known in earlier days as Martandavarmapuram and later as Martandapuram, derived its name from the name of His Highness Maharajah Marthandavarma, the founder of Modern Travancore, who visited this place in the year 1729. Until 1836 Martandam was a small village. Some human habitations were found around Thoduvetti and major portion of Martandam remained a jungle. However with the advent of the missionaries of London Missionary Society it began to develop and their efforts, in course of time, transformed this village into a developed area and now this is the second largest town in South Travancore, presently called Kanyakumari District of Tamilnadu.



**Old Church**

The development of Martandam was initiated by missionaries Rev. Charles Mead (1818-1853) and Rev. John Abbs (1830-1860) under whom evangelical work was extended from Neyyoor, to the region on the north west. In the year 1839 they built a church at Martandam on a small piece of land acquired by Charles Miller in 1836 on the western side of the present magnificent C.S.I. Church. The church built first was only a thatched shed. Rev. G.O. Newport (1863-1867) purchased some more land and converted the thatched shed in to a larger church, presently serves as the Govt. Primary School.



**First Church, Present Govt. Primary School**

The arrival of Rev. James Emlyn (1869 - 1917) as the resident missionary of Parachalai Mission District opened a shining page in the history of Martandam. He wanted to purchase more land for the mission in pursuance of the decision of the Mission Council to develop Martandam into



a Mission Centre with a resident missionary. More land could not be purchased as major part of land at this place was owned by a wealthy Hindu family which did not like to sell the land to missionaries. However after twelve years of persuasion and patient waiting Emlyn succeeded in purchasing the land stretching from the present day North Street to YMCA premises, encompassing the sites of the present church, L.M.S. Boys and Girls School, college premises, and the Mission Hospital covering an area of more than 100 acres of which major portion was sold out or donated to first generation Christian settlers. Emlyn donated 10 acres of land to the Martandam YMCA finally leaving only 38 acres of land in the hands of the Mission.

Anxious to develop the mission compound into a major mission centre Rev. Emlyn worked hard and established two boys schools with 332 pupils, one girls school with 33 pupils and a dispensary. His efforts also led to the opening of a post and telegraphic office at Martandam.

After sufficient land was acquired the Travancore Mission Council decided in 1904 to appoint a resident missionary at Martandam and I.H. Hacker of the Neyyoor Mission was entrusted with the task of constructing a mission Bungalow for his stay. Hacker built the down stairs of the missionary Bungalow, the present Administrative Block of the college and stayed there from 1909. Adjacent

to this building another tiled building was constructed to house the sewing centre, run by Mrs. Hacker (present canteen and staff room of the college)

On the retirement of Rev. I.H. Hacker in June 1919, Rev. Robert Sinclair took charge of the Neyyoor Mission. He constructed the portico and first floor of the Marthandam Bungalow and stayed here from 1920 to 1939. The substantial rectangular tiled building built by him for housing the Boarding home for girls at the rear end of the Bungalow compound which later became the Chemistry Laboratory of the college. Training School building at the eastern end became the Botany Department of the college later. The Vernacular Middle School is now L.M.S. Boys Higher Secondary School. Girls Vernacular Middle School, is now converted as the L.M.S. Girls Higher Secondary School. Above all, the magnificent Church he built in stone speaks volumes of the skill of Rev. Sinclair in architectural designing.

After establishing schools for boys and girls, he wanted to put into action his lofty ideal of establishing a college. As a first step he convened a meeting of the enlightened citizens of Martandam for consultations in the year 1937. But he could not carry forward his scheme owing to his wife's ill health. Mrs. Sinclair went home on furlough on 13.06.1937 and Sinclair followed suit in June



1939. Sinclairs were not able to return because of the outbreak of World War II in 1939.

After the departure of Sinclair, the campus was left uncared for, and the growth of bushes and forest trees made the campus look like a jungle. This continued for about twenty five years.

### **OPENING OF CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, MARTANDAM**

The flame of literacy lit by Sinclair continued to enthuse the growing population in and around Martandam. Their fervent desire to open a college at Martandam

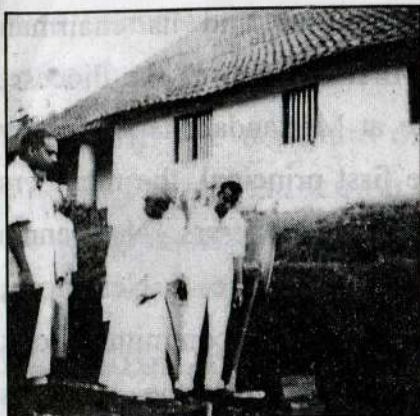


culminated in the historic decision of the Executive Committee of the Kanyakumari Diocese C.S.I. to start a second college under its management in the year 1964. The Executive Committee requested Prof. J.M. Arthur, the Vice Principal and Head of the Physics Dept. of Scott Christian

College to go over to Marthandam and take initial steps for opening a college here. As he was unwilling the next senior most professor Dr. John D.K. Sunder Singh, Head of the Department of History and Economics was offered the opportunity to take up the task. Accepting the wishes of the Executive Committee, Dr. Sunder Singh took up his residence at Martandam in a small tiled building which stood on the left of the entrance leading to the present main college building, which was later demolished to give place for a garden.

Besides the Executive Committee and its chairman Rt. Rev. I.R.H. Gnanthason the first Bishop of the diocese, the credit for starting the college at Martandam is shared by Dr. John D.K. Sunder Singh, the first principal, the members of an ad-hoc committee consisting of Messrs. N. Dennis M.P. (Convener), W. Fletcher, G.A. Ambrose, J. Nesamony, P.S. Wilson and D.S. Raj. The ad-hoc committee took Himalayan efforts to collect donations from the generous public amounting to Rs. 50,000 and deposited the same with the Madras University for obtaining affiliation for the college. Land endowment was also provided by the Diocese. Satisfactory fulfillment of the preconditions laid down by the University led to the appointment of an inspection commission by the Honorable Vice Chancellor Dr. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar of Madras University. Fr. Mathias, S.J. who was the then principal of St. Joseph's College, Trichy as a One Man Commission visited the campus earmarked for the college and was deeply impressed by the sincere and modest efforts made by the Massachusetts educated, highly qualified principal, staff, management and public as well as the minimum facilities available in the campus for starting a junior college. On the basis of the recommendations of the commission affiliation was accorded by the Madras University for a Junior Mens College with only 2 pre-university classes, one each for Arts, and Science, with a total strength of 170 students. Thus the dream of a college at Martandam became a reality.





Shri. A. Nesamony coming to the college to cut first sod for a building

as “Christian College, Martandam” (Later renamed as Nesamony Memorial Christian College in June, 1984.)

The Institution of higher education thus started at Martandam, had miles to go. Left with no income from the land given as endowment and with only 20 acres of land where Sinclair’s Bungalow and three old buildings built by missionaries stood, four class rooms were added with money and material donated by the public. The principal and the staff had to struggle through for finding funds for purchasing equipment for the laboratories, making furniture and paying the staff. Most of the funds came from philanthropists and well wishers.



R.R. Kaithan, Sarvodaya leader visiting the college

The College was inaugurated on the 6th of August 1964 by the Rt. Rev. I.R.H. Gnanadhasan in the presence of a distinguished gathering. As per the suggestion of the Principal, the college was named

Fighting against all odds the principal ably assisted by Rev. Sonny Yesudian, the Bursar and the staff devotedly worked for the growth of the college with the result that it rose to the level of a degree college in the very second year of its existence. Therefore it is befitting that the pioneers who left no stone unturned for raising funds, guarding the campus, erecting buildings and above all for enhancing the standard of higher education in the campus, are remembered and honoured.

The Retired Teachers Fellowship of the Nesamony Memorial Christian College took the decision that a brochure be brought out in recognition of their services in the earlier days of the history of the college.

The pioneers, thirteen teaching and seven non teaching staff some of whom are no more in our midst and a few of them are still alive joyfully witnessing the rapid growth of the college with research facilities and a beautiful campus have to be duly remembered and honoured and hence this booklet.



A German Couple Visited the College



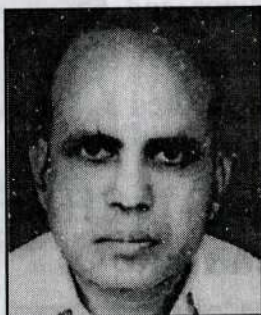
- By Compilers



Excerpts from Article  
**"ORIGIN OF THE COLLEGE"**

by Ad. hoc. Committee convener Mr. N. Dennis M.P.

It was the desire of the people of this place to start a college for a long time. Many attempts did not yield results. Finally taken to start the 1963-64. The people was Bishop Rt. Rev. Gnanadhasan. Yet into the initial



Mr. N. Dennis

new efforts were college during ambition of the conveyed to the I . R . H . a committee to go work was not



Mr. J. Nesamony

could start a college in 1964. After hearing that the executive committee was going to be convened on 4.01.1964, I, alongwith W. Flecher, A.Ambrose, Wilson, J. Nesamony and D.S. Raj met the Bishop and explained to him the need to start the college and assured him that we will collect the needed funds. The executive committee held on 4.01.1964 formed a committee consisting of the same people who met the Bishop. Yet the big question looming large was whether the college could be started in 1964 itself and how to procure the required funds.

In the mean time it was felt that an expert opinion should be sought and so I met Prof. Vethasiromony the then Principal of St. John's College, Palaymakotai and he gave good counselling and encouraged me, to go ahead with the venture.



Mr. W. Fletcher

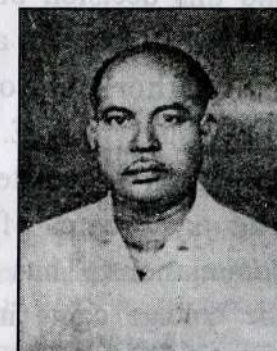
On 3.02.64 a meeting was conducted at Martandam Mission Compound under the chairmanship of the Bishop and it was attended by many people irrespective of caste, creed or political differences and all gave enthusiastic support.



Mr. A. Ambrose

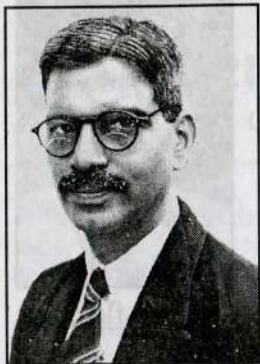
So we started collecting donations from 8.02.1964. It was very difficult to make the people believe that the college would be started in that year itself, and more so it became difficult to collect donations for an institution which had not come into being. Yet people donated liberally without any caste or religious distinction and the first instalment of Rs. 10,000/- was deposited in the diocesan office.

As the Bishop had to leave for London during March he entrusted the



Mr. P. S. Wilson





**Mr. C.E. Yesudian**

job of initial work of starting the college to Mr. C.E. Yesudian the then corporate manager and to Dr. M. Mathias. From Mr.C.E. Yesudian's words we understood, it was not quite easy to start the college and so we met Dr. M. Mathias who spoke encouraging words.

Then we met Bishop's commissary Rev. Edward Sam and requested him to convene an urgent meeting of the executive committee. Rev. Edward Sam met Mr.Gunamony, the Secretary for this purpose and Gunamony was not inclined to convene the meeting. Myself and Mr.J. Nesamony went to Trivandrum and met Gunamony and after a lengthy discussion he agreed to convene an urgent meeting. We gave an assurance in writing that Rs. 50,000/- will be deposited in the diocesan office. In the meeting of the executive committee held on 7.04.1964 a resolution was passed and this decision of the executive was personally carried and handed over to the authorities of "The Madras University" by C.E. Yesudian, the same day when syndicate meeting was held. The syndicate of Madras University then sent two commissions. Thus after many a slip it was a miracle that the college came into being in 1964 itself



**Dr. Mathias**

*(Translated from the Tamil article in the  
1966-67 College Magazine.)*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The compilers wish to thank the members of the Retired Teachers Fellowship of the Nesamony Memorial Christian College for their co-operation and encouragement in bringing out this booklet. But for the ready response to our request for the biodata of the earliest team of staff, this work would not have been completed. Hence we thank everyone of the following persons in a special way. We express our gratitude to Prof. Arther J. Harris, former principal for writing the foreword to the booklet

1. **Mrs. Irene Sundersingh,**  
Wife of late Dr. Sundersingh
2. **Mr. R. Suresh,**  
Son of late Prof. R.S. Ramachandran
3. **Mrs. Suseela Jayaprakash,**  
Wife of late Prof. Fred Jeyaprakash.  
Mrs. J.P. Smitha Winston and Mrs. J.P. Sheeja Prabhakaran,  
the daughters of late Prof. Jeyaprakash.
4. **Mrs. Nalini,**  
Wife of late Prof. M.R. Raman Nampoothiri.
5. **Mr. G. D. Biji**  
Son of late Prof. G. Devathason
6. **Rev. R. Sonny Yesudian.**
7. **Major M. Francis**
8. **Mr. Lionel Thomas**
9. **Dr. D. Peter**
10. **Mrs. Starlet Denson**
11. **Dr. (Mrs.) Flora David Raj.**
12. **Mrs. Grace Sulochana,**  
Daughter of late Mr. A. YesuBakthen
13. **Mr. Retnaswamy**

Besides the above persons our thanks are due to Mr. Paul Raj, the present Office Superintendent who supplied service details of Mr. Chellappan, Sundram, Thanga Nadar, Yesuretnam and P. Abraham. Some photographs of events during 1964 supplied by Dr. D. Peter are gratefully acknowledged.



## THOSE WHO ARE NOT WITH US NOW



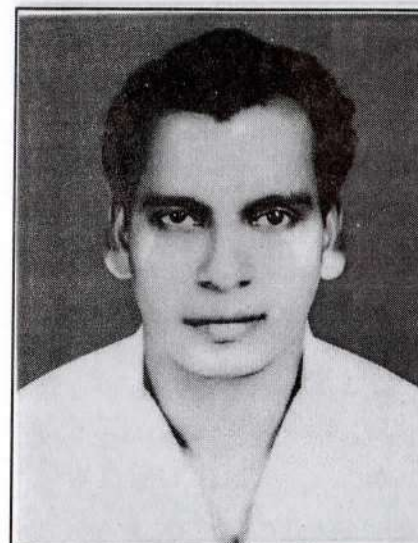
**Dr. John D.K. Sunder Singh**  
(Founder Principal)  
(1922-1985) 63 years.



**Prof. R.S. Ramachandran**  
(19.06.1928 - 26.06.2006) 78 years  
(Prof. and Head of the Dept.  
of Physics)

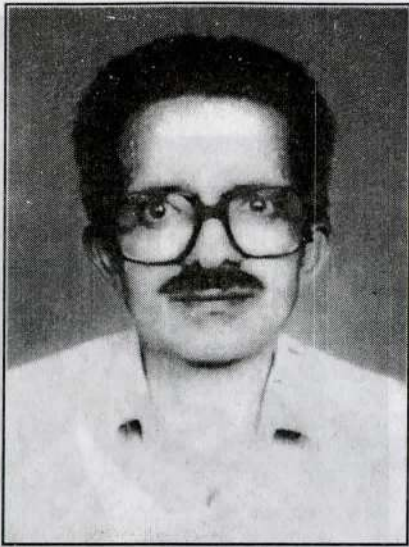


**Prof. C. Fred Jeyaprakash**  
(3.05.1933 - 15.10.1994) 61 years  
(Prof. and Head of the Dept. of  
English)



**Prof. G. Devathason**  
(30.04.1932 - 30.07.1982) 49 Years  
(Prof. and Head of the Dept. of Tamil)





**Prof. M.R. Raman Nampoothiri**  
(3.12.1938 - 10.08.1996) 58 years  
(Prof. and Head of the Dept. Malayalam)



**Mr. Y. Bakthan**  
(6.01.1924 - 10.05.1997) 73 years  
(Office Superintendent)



**Mr. P. Abraham**  
(9.04.1940 - 25.04.1994) 54 years.  
Library Assistant



**Mr. D. Sundaram**  
23.07.1930 - 1996 (66 years)  
(Assistant, Bursar Office)





**Dr. John. D.K.Sunder Singh,** credited as the architect of Christian College, Marthandam, deserves due respect in the educational field, especially for his desire to uplift an educationally backward rural community. People at that time thought starting a college at Marthandam was an ill conceived pursuit. Yet with his usual zest “if there is a will there is a way” accepted the challenge with vision and missionary zeal. A tall man with fair complexion, piercing eyes and majestic looks, often considered by the staff and students as a task master and disciplinarian, he led a simple life in a very small tiled building inside the college campus with minimum amenities, leaving aside much of his comforts at home in Nagercoil. Bestowed with managerial skills, he had the real spirit of venturing out into new fields. With a good command in English he had the rare quality of captivating the audience with his oratorical talent and listeners never went away unsatisfied. Such a personality, taking over the task of building up a college proved to be a boon and majority of the public gave unflinching support.

Born on 3rd December 1922 in a very religious and pious family he was brought up in an environment of discipline and moral code at home. His father, Mr. D.M. Jesudhas was an assistant pastor in Home Church, Nagercoil. His mother

was Mrs. Grace Jesudhas. He had three brothers and a sister and he was the last among the children of the Jesudhases. His brother Dhayasingh and Bala Singh being 92 and 90 years respectively are the survivors

in the family now. Mr. Dhaya Singh is a retired officer, Malaria Control Programme of Indian Army and Prof. Bala Singh is a retired Zoology professor of Pachyappa College, Madras. His sister was Nancy Bright, wife of Rev. Bright.

Dr. John. D.K. Sunder Singh married Irene, daughter of Mr. Sathiadhas Moses, Retd. Sessions Judge. They have a son Dr. Moses, a doctor who worked in Catherine Booth Hospital, Nagercoil.

Dr. Sunder Singh had his early schooling in Scott Christian High School and stood first and won Government merit scholarship up to school final. With very good grades he entered Scott Christian College for his undergraduate studies in the year 1938. After a meritorious pass he pursued his post graduate studies in the University College, Trivandrum and got an M.A. degree in the year 1944 with History and Economics as major subjects. A post graduate degree especially from the Travancore University in those days brought with it a promise of a job.





His job career was as follows :

1. He joined as an Instructor in Scott Christian College Nagercoil and worked from 1944 to 1951.
2. Promoted as professor in the year 1951 and became the head of the Dept. and worked in that capacity up to 1955 in the same college.
3. Taught social studies and education for a year in the world reputed Columbia University Teachers College, New York from 1955 to 1956.
4. Worked as teaching fellow in the University of Massachusetts during 1957-58.
5. Took an assignment as instructor of Economics in the same Massachusetts department of Economics in the year 1959 to 1960.
6. Returned to India and became Professor and head of department of Economics at Scott Christian College from 1960 onwards.

#### **Research Fellow**

Along with his teaching work in the Massachusetts he got a masters degree by research in the year 1956-58 from this University. The title of his dissertation was "Prospects and proposals for capital formation in private industries in India." His crowning glory was getting a Ph.D., in Economics

from the University of Massachusetts in the year 1960. His thesis "Community development and economic growth in India with special reference to Kanyakumari District in Madras State" was widely acclaimed. His name was listed among other eminent personalities in the following publications, "Who is Who in Education in India" and Distinguished Teachers of India", published by the Central Government of India.

#### **Publications of Dr. John. D.K. Sunder Singh**

1. "A book on Progress of Education in Free India"
2. A research paper on Community Development and Five Year Plans" which was published by the Government of Madras.
3. A research paper 'Agriculture and Village Development" published by the Department of Economics, Annamalai University.
4. He presented the results of his studies on "Development of Kanyakumari District" at the Society of International Development Seminar, NewDelhi.
5. "The Third Five Year Plan and Objectives" this research paper was published by Scott Christian College.
6. "Agro Industries in Kanyakumari District" another research paper was published by the Government of Madras. Several other articles and papers were published in Newspapers and journals.



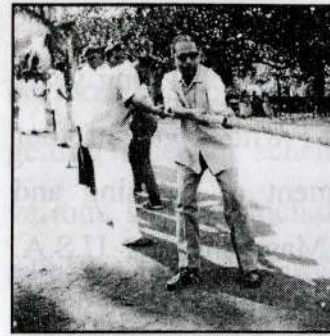
*Since he was an educationalist of great standing, he worked as member in planning bodies of many colleges and other educational institutions. Some of them are :*

1. Member of Governing Board of Madras Christian College, Madras.
2. Member of Governing Board of American College, Madurai.
3. University representative of Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College, Sivakasi.
4. Member of the governing board of United theological seminary(U.T.I) Bangalore.
5. Member of Board of Studies and Academic Council of Madurai University.
6. Worked as Chairman of National Rural Work Committee of YMCA.
7. Convener of National Board of Christian Higher Education (IACHE) of Madurai University area.

The afore said account provides a glimpse of his gifts and talents as a great personality . Perhaps only a few in the society are bestowed with such a blend of academic brilliance and administrative acumen and no wonder people reposed great confidence in him to start an academic institution from mere scratch.

#### **Principalship - Marthandam**

As has been pointed out in the historical account only a bare minimum requisites were provided to start a college at Marthandam. Yet he took it as a challenge and opportunity



**Principal Dr. Sundersingh participating in College Day Sports at C.C., Marthandam**

and vigorously plunged into action, getting affiliation, building class rooms, selecting right staff, creating an atmosphere for teaching and learning, maintaining healthy public relations, building bridges between management and institution etc. These actions yielded good results in the first year itself. Mr.P.W. Nelson of Scott Christian College gave initial support. He took initiatives for upgrading the college to degree level in the second year and succeeded in bringing Mathematics, Economics and History as major subjects. He took efforts to register the college as a Christian Minority Institution and made it eligible to receive grant in aid from the Government. In the two years he worked as founder principal, the college made a mark among colleges of Tamilnadu and confidence among the public soared.

He had been kind to every employee and at the same time, he frowned at inefficiency and non performance. His friends and critics looked at him with awe and respect. The words "Faith, Endeavour, and Power" found in the college emblem were his own choice which stand as motto of the college.

As the Principal's post of Scott Christian College fell vacant in the year 1966 on the retirement of Prof. B. Arumai Raj, Dr. Sundar Singh was appointed to that post.



Scott Christian College was not new to him as it was his almamater and he already worked there for 20 long years from 1944 to 1964 in various capacities with a gap of four years when he was doing his assignment of teaching and research at Columbia University and Massachusetts U.S.A. But a daunting task before him when he took up the new job was shifting the Scott Christian College which was functioning where the Womens Christian College stands today, to the new campus at K.P. Road, Nagercoil. This he had to do immediately as the Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar Commission of Madras University which visited the college in the year 1957 after the merger of this district with Tamilnadu, strictly instructed the shifting of the college to a wider campus of minimum 40 acres, in a phased manner. For a builder of a new college at Marthandam, this was not a big task. He secured the help of Er. Kovilpillai, Chief Engineer in charge of Tuticorin Port and he prepared a master plan for the buildings at the new site which now stands as a testimony to his efforts. During his tenure as principal he obtained affiliation for new subjects and research facilities especially M.A. English literature. He laid down the office as principal on 17.12.1976 when he took up the assignment of Head and Coordinator of the School of Economics at Madurai University.

Dr. John. D.K. Sunder Singh as Head and Co-ordinator,  
School of Economics :

At the university he ably handled the research performance of the scholars and he was instrumental in getting research schemes approved with financial aid from various sources including foreign funds. After a distinctive stint at the university he retired from service, in the year 1983.

### **Last days**

After his retirement, Dr. John. D.K. Sunder Singh settled down in his home town Nagercoil. He wanted to continue his research work. As he was proceeding to Cochin in connection with his project work, he developed chest pain, and returned to Nagercoil, but died later due to massive heart attack on 14th June 1985 at the age of 63 years. Thus the glorious and performing life of a great man came to an end.

At his funeral service, attended by distinguished personalities, Rt. Rev. Christudhas, Bishop of kanyakumari Diocese, C.S.I. showered praises saying "here lies a man who established two colleges."





Rev. R. Sonny Yesudian will be remembered for all his good deeds done during his tenure as the Bursar of Christian College, Martandam. Besides teaching he took keen interest in the development of infrastructure for



the college and at the same time acted as the spiritual custodian of students. A tall impressive person and a man of integrity, commanded respect from all quarters by his pleasing manners and intellectual approach. He stood shoulder to shoulder with the Principal in all endeavours which ensured the smooth running of the institution at the initial stage itself. An institution solely depending on charity for its existence needed a capable and honest person for proper accounting and skillful execution of jobs and

in Rev. Sonny Yesudian all these qualities were seen.

Judicious spending of the meagre funds was the need of the hour in the earlier years and every thing was planned in such a way as to avoid extravagances and

at the same time all that was of extreme necessity such as class rooms, basic amenities, books and equipments were provided.

The impressive main building now standing at the entrance of the campus was designed by the first principal and the work was carefully executed by Rev. Sonny Yesudian, the Bursar. This building changed the entire face of the campus and gave a magnificent look to the college which hitherto had only tiled buildings.

Though outstretched due to enormous work load, he spared some of his precious time to be in the play field along with staff and students in the evening hours. He gave importance to moral teaching and a syllabus was framed for all students irrespective of religion and this enormously improved the moral standards. Moral teaching was brought within class hours and examinations were conducted under his supervision. Regular prayer fellowship and counselling were arranged for students. Retreats for staff was a special feature during his tenure.

The neat and well designed teak furniture and work tables found now in the college, especially in staff rooms were made under his supervision. He taught psychology and logic for pre university students, until 1973 in which year he left the college and took charge as Director of Mission Institute and Professor of Religion and Philosophy in the Tamilnadu Theological Seminary, Arasaradi.

He is a person of varied interests. His biodata reveals his involvement in various fields such as humanism, religious harmony, counselling, and care of the old and orphans.

### **A Resume**

Rev. Sonny Yesudian was born at Neyyoor on 25.05.1932. His parents lived in a tea estate in Peermedu in Central Kerala. His only sister who worked in Tamilnadu Agriculture University, Coimbatore is settled at Coimbatore.

He did his schooling up to S.S.L.C. from 1940 to 1947 at Scott Christian High School, Nagercoil. After his intermediate course at Scott Christian College, Nagercoil from 1947 to 1949, he joined B.A. Hons at Madras Christian College, Tambaram in the year 1949 and passed out in 1952.

He taught Psychology in Scott Christian College from



1952 to 1953. He studied B.D. in Bishop's College, Calcutta from 1953 to 1956.

### **Pastoral Service**

He was ordained as a pastor and served as a Pastor in the Peermedu Pastorate Church from 1956 to 1961. From 1961 to 1962 he did his M.Th in the Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, U.S.A. After completing M.Th he returned to India and in 1962 he became the Bursar and Chaplain of Scott Christian College, Nagercoil which post he held for two years.

He was appointed as psychology lecturer in Christian College, Martandam in the year 1964. Besides this job, in order to help the first Principal J.D.K. Sundar Singh, Rev. Sonny Yesudian was appointed as the first Bursar of the college and he became the first chaplain too. He held all the three posts till 1973. While he was working at

Martandam he was the Secretary of H.M.S. of Kanyakumari Diocese. He also served as the senior Secretary and later the Chairman of South Tamilnadu S.C.M. The main building of the college was constructed during his tenure of office as Bursar.

He served as Bursar of T.T.S for three years along with Dr. Samuel Amirtham, the then Principal of T.T.S. During his tenure in T.T.S many of the students of Christian college, Martandam got the benefit of admissions in T.T.S and some of them are serving as ordained pastors of Churches of Kanyakumari Diocese now. He served T.T.S. in other capacities as well totalling 24 years and retired from T.T.S in May 1997.

### **Other Pursuits :-**

While he was in T.T.S he conducted a crash course in counselling in Christian Counselling Centre, Vellore. Also he was a research scholar in the Mission Institute of Aarhus University, Denmark.

For three months he served as visiting professor in the theology department of Goethingen University, Germany. While at Madurai he served as Secretary, Grace Kenneth foundation Hospital for 10 years. He did two of his sabbaticals in England and during this time he worked as assistant pastor (Curate) of a parish in London and as one of the Chaplains of Lancaster University.

He has attended conference in W.C.C, Geneva and taught at Selly, Oak Collegee in Birmingham, U.K. as a tutor for a short period.

Some of his articles have appeared in "Aikhya" of the S.C.M. Books on "Religion and Missions" which included his articles on Hindu - Christian relationships and mission enterprises.

The above resume indicates his multifarious interests, his contributions in religious studies not only in India but world over.

After retirement from T.T.C. Madurai in 1977 he served as professor of Hindustan Bible Institute in Chennai for four and half years. He used to preach in Churches whenever invited.

He married Leela the eldest daughter of Dr. Christudhas, formerly Medical Officer of Leprosy Hospital Udayarvilai, Colachel and have three daughters and one son. One of his daughters died while at Madurai and one daughter now lives at Vietnam working in the Vietnam branch of the World Vision. The other daughter is a social worker.

After a brilliant career of teaching in both arts and science colleges and theological colleges and performing pastoral and administrative duties he completed his societal obligations which extended to 55 years. He now lives at Chennai with his wife and son.



## **Prof. R.S. Ramachandran, M.A.,**



**C**hristian College, Martandam, though started newly, had brilliant experienced and quality teachers in the first year itself. Besides the Principal, a learned and respected professor was R.S. Ramachandran of Physics Department. Usually experienced and able teachers opt for well established institutions to further their career. The very fact that he chose a newly started college showed his confidence in the management and in the Principal. He resolved to work for the betterment of the college which was established in an economically and educationally backward area. Mellowed and committed to his task he was a man of few words but he was full of action. His skill of communication was deemed to be the best even to an average student. He was a man who knew the subject thoroughly. A torch bearer of higher education and an idealist he is remembered by his students for his innovative techniques in physics teaching.

Setting up of a new Physics Laboratory involves skill and planning that too with limited resources. With the meagre funds available, he could set up a Physics Laboratory on the eastern wing of the original Girls Boarding home constructed by Rev. Sinclair which served as the base for further development of the department into an undergraduate and later a post graduate centre of excellence.

His brilliant academic performance as a student and impressive teaching career can be understood from his biodata. He was instrumental in getting affiliation for a B.Sc., course in 1967. Within a period of three years of its existence the college started B.Sc., Physics in 1967 itself, an achievement for a newly started college. Prof. J.M. Arthur, the then principal, provided all the infrastructure including a new building. He himself being a Physics teacher, sanctioned all that was needed to set up the best possible Laboratory for starting B.Sc., physics. It is not plain boasting when one says that this department stands one among the best in the study of physics among the colleges of the district. It became a post graduate centre of physics in the year 1980.

Born at Nagercoil to parents Mr. R. Subramaniam and Mrs. Parvathy Subramaniam on 19.06.1928 Prof. Ramachandran had his early education at Nagercoil.

### **School and College Education**

School - SMRV-High School, Nagercoil up to S.S.L.C,  
College-Intermediate - Scott Christian College, Nagercoil,  
University College, Trivandrum - B.A

St. Joseph's College, Trichy, M.A. first class (getting first class in those days was very rare)

### **Job career**

**First Appointment** Demonstrator; Scott Christian College, Nagercoil -1957

**Second Appointment** Demonstrator - S.M. College Quilon, Kerala

**Third Appointment** Professor and Head of the Department of Physics, Christian College, Martandam 1964 - 1971 - 7 years.



**Fourth Appointment** Principal, Pioneer Kumaraswamy College, Nagercoil, from 1971 -1974.

**Fifth Appointment** S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil, from 1974 -1986.

Retired from regular service from S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil in the year 1986.

**Sixth Appointment** After retirement he worked as lecturer in Arulmigu Kalasilingam College of Engineering at Sri.Villiputhoor for 10 years from 1986 to 1996.

#### Books Published

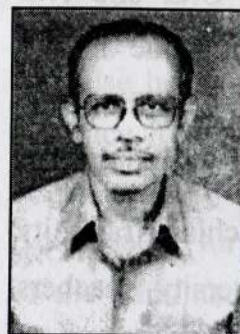
1. Practical guide for B.Sc., Ancillary Physics
2. Practical guide for B.Sc. Degree. These were very useful books used even today in some colleges.

He married Miss. Gnanambal and begot three sons and a daughter. One son Mr. R. Suresh, is a Higher Secondary School teacher and other sons and daughter are well placed in life.

After a glorious and excellent academic career spanning nearly 40 years he breathed his last on 26.06.2006, at the age of 78.

When contacted for obtaining the biodata of Prof. Ramachandran his son Suresh stated that his father used to say, his most satisfying period of life and service was when he worked at Christian College, Martandam and such a statement about a veteran educationalist is really a great tribute to a newly started institution.

### **Prof. C. Fred Jeyaprakash**, M.A.M.Phil, B.T. P.G.D. *in Marxian Thought and Journalism*



**Prof. Fred Jeyaprakash** was one among those pioneers, who served devotedly in the N.M.C. College from its very inception down to his retirement. Born in Martandam on 3.5.1933 as the third child of Mr. G. Chelliah, Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies and Mrs. Joyce Chelliah, grand daughter of Rev. William Fletcher, Assistant Missionary, he had his school education in the Travancore State and in the Madras State. He graduated in Zoology from the Madras Christian College, Tambaram and obtained his postgraduate degree in English literature from the Banaras Hindu University in 1963.

Prof. Jeyaprakash, popularly known and dearly called J.P. was ever active and exuberantly vibrant and was always championing the cause of higher education. Before going for his post graduate study J.P. served as a school teacher in the D.V.D High School from 1958 to 1960 and under the Government of Kerala from 1961 to 1962. St. Xaviers College, Palayamkottai prepared him well to teach college classes (1963-1964). On 13.06.1964 he joined as a pioneer staff of the Christian college, Martandam as lecturer in English where he proved his mettle not only as an excellent teacher but also as professor and head of the Department from 1983. J.P. also championed the cause of the upliftment of the academic community for 27 years. His services are an integral part of growth and development of N.M. Christian College.



In the herculean task of building up the college from mere scrap J.P. played a significant role in raising funds, securing affiliation for new courses at both U.G. and P.G. level. He was very keen in maintaining discipline in the campus. So the spontaneous and obvious choice was invariably J.P. to probe into complaints about the misconduct of students.

As a defender of the cause of the teaching fraternity J.P.'s role in the formation of Madurai University Teachers Association (MUTA) and its well organized agitations for winning favourable conditions of service is well known to all. He was the founder treasurer of the MUTA, first district secretary, editor of the MUTA Journal as well as convener of the joint action council for two years, a driving force behind the teachers movement all over Tamilnadu.

J.P. had the honour of serving as the staff representative on the Governing Board of the College during two triennia. He made the voice of teachers reverberate in the policy making forums without fear or favour. He served with a rare distinction, integrity and absolute objectivity as a member of the senate of M.K. University for a period of 9 years. He was instrumental for the introduction of B.Ed through correspondence and part-time research facilities for college teachers. In 1991 he was elected as a member of the Senate of the M.S. University.

The versatility of J.P. is visible in his meritorious service in National Cadet Corps for several years from 1967 onwards. At the time of his leaving this largest national youth organization of the country he held the rank of captain. He was also hectically involved in the noble cause of eradicating illiteracy from the face of the country and he had the honour of serving all India Literacy Science Forum as Literacy Ambassador for the southern districts and the vice president of the Tamilnadu Science Forum. In short he converted the Total Literacy Campaign into a people's movement, he himself acting as the foremost volunteer even at the cost of his health, motivating tens of thousands of educated unemployed youth to offer their mite for the noble national cause. The literacy movement he started and nurtured made Kanyakumari district as the best literacy District.

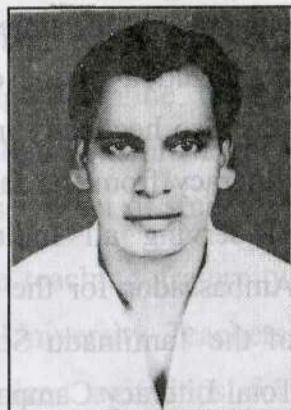
After registering a very impressive and permanent record of many-sided fruitful activities J.P. retired on 31.05.1991. As fate would have it, incessant hard work began to tell upon his health and he breathed his last on 15.10.1994 leaving his sorrowing wife Mrs. Suseela Jeyaprakash and two daughters Mrs. J.P. Sunitha Winston, Lecturer in Computer Science, W.C.C. Nagercoil and Mrs. J.P. Sheeja Prabha.





## **Prof. G. DEVATHASON, M.A**

In close association with the founders of the college Prof. G. Devadhason strived hard for the establishment of the college. Though his name did not find a place in the ad-hoc committee entrusted to establish the college he was very much a part of it. Along with committee Chairman Mr. N. Dennis, M.P. he started collecting money by way of donations from well wishers, businessmen of the town and near by places for creating the endowment fund to be deposited in the University. His name was synonymous with local identity and therefore whenever he approached the well to do they liberally contributed for the good cause. More over in the initial stages he vehemently argued for setting up a college in educationally backward Vilavancode Taluk which paid good dividends in later years when students of this college occupied good positions in Government and private enterprises including foreign assignments.



As one who led an orderly life he expected the same from others including students and teaching fraternity, and sincerely worked for the good of the institution. A good share of his income was spent to help students in need, especially those who could not pay university examination fee and other college dues. This he did quietly without publicity.

He gave great importance to traditional values and decorum in public life. A dependable counsellor forthright in pointing out mistakes, resolute in action, he kept the welfare of the students in mind while solving problems facing the college. He had the firm belief and conviction that rallying around the administration alone would help establish order in the campus vis-a vis student unrest. Yet as one who had played a significant role in starting the college, sometimes grieved at the state of affairs prevailing in the campus and expressed his righteous indignation. But his life did not last long to see for himself the achievements and stunning growth of the college in later years in the form of new buildings, beautiful campus and new subjects of study.

### **A resume of Prof. G. Devadhason**

Born at Arasakulam Village near Thengapattinum to parents, Mr. A. Gurupatham Nadar and Gnanasundari the sister of Marshal. A Nesamony M.P., on 30.04.1932, he had his schooling up to S.S.L.C at Amsi and L.M.S. Boys High School, Martandam. He completed his undergraduate course in Scott Christian College and post graduation in Tamil at S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil. He joined as a staff member of Christian College, Martandam on 13.06.1964. and served as the head of the Department of Tamil for 18 years. He married D. Stella Florence M.A., M.Ed. who worked in Govt Higher Secondary School, Ammandivilai, Kanyakumari Dist. He has a son and a daughter. His son Prof. G.D. Biji is now working as a Senior Lecturer of Zoology in this college. His only daughter is G.D. Preetha B.E.

During his career as the head of the Department of Tamil he showed keen interest in all developmental activities of the college and introduced Tamil Literature as one of the main subjects.



## Other Activities.

He did not confine his activities to teaching alone. As the nephew of Mr A Nesamony, he had the inherent quality of fighting for any just cause. He actively participated in many of the agitations demanding the merger of Tamil speaking area of South Travancore with Tamilnadu. His political association brought him closer to leaders like Mr. N. Dennis, Ponnappa Nadar, Kunjan Nadar, Rasak, P. Ramasamy Pillai, A. James, Swamydhas and others who were the then political activists championing the cause of merger of this district with Tamilnadu. He used to convey to his friends his cherished goal of entering into politics after retirement.

He engaged himself in church activities and in the diocese too held many positions. He was the secretary of Arasakulam, church for many years and the school he started at Araskulam, stands as testimony to his social commitment. As a member of the executive committee of the diocese he served in many committees and carried out selfless service.

His association with Nadar Mahajanasangam was well known to all. He started branches of the sangam in Kalkulam and Vilavancode Taluks and became the Vice President of the sangam of these two taluks. He did not see it as an ornamental post, instead he followed the dictum "Service to humanity is service to God". He sought the assistance of the Sangam to help poor students in the form of financial assistance and Scholarship and for getting appointments for some deserving students.

Amidst all these social activities he could allot some of his precious time for research in Tamil Literature. He was preparing a comparative study of Malayalam poet Vasudevan's poetry with the famous Tamil luminary Akilan in the form of a thesis for the award of P.h.d. Degree. It could not be realized though he completed two thirds of the thesis work due to his unexpected demise.

After rendering splendid service to the college society and to the church his life was snatched away at the very early age of 49 years on 30-7-1982. It is not important how many years a man lived but how he lived. His contributions are still afresh in the mind of builders of this college, his students and the public at large.

If one sings in praise of prof. G. Devathason it ought to be in line with the song of Tamil poet Bharathi which reads as follows

*"A good teacher*

*A good friend*

*A minister*

*A servant and*

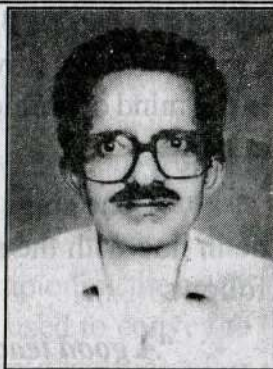
*Righteousness like deity*

Moreover on the demise of his beloved professor one of his students of Tamil literature of that year wrote a poem as a tribute to him in 10 stanzas which was published in the college annual of 1982. One of his colleagues too wrote a poem of 15 stanzas as a glowing tribute. Students even wanted to install his statue in the campus in his memory.

In recognition of his great service, the western wing of the Main college building has been named as "Devathason Block" and a plaque to this effect was fixed on the wall. It was opened by Dr. Balamohan Thambi the Vice Chancellor of Kerala University on 25.01.1988. More over a memorial prize in his name was instituted by the teachers of Tamil Department from the year 1988. The whole teaching fraternity, citizens of Martandam and the diocese are indebted to Prof. G. Devathason for taking initiative to start the college which now stands in the name of his uncle Sri. A. Nesamony.



43 years ago when this college was started about 45% of the students were Malayalam speaking and their first language also was Malayalam. In Vilavancode and Kalkulam Taluks of Kanyakumari Dist Malayalam speaking population also resided and hence most of the schools of these Taluks offered Malayalam as the second language.



Colleges of the district too offered Malayalam as language study equivalent to Tamil and so a college situated at the Malayalam belt such as Christian College, Martandam had a prestigious Malayalam department and its head Prof. Raman Nampoothiri, led the way in formulating Malayalam studies in the whole of the district and the university. Selected solely on merit, Prof. N.R.R. Nampoothiri was a revered person among the staff. Friend of all and foe to none, his conduct with other staff members was exemplary. He had a working knowledge of Tamil too.

Started as a one man department in the beginning, the number of Malayalam staff rose to 5 in the subsequent years but owing to decline in Malayalam student population, number of staff fell from 5 to 2 and now back to one. Prof. Nampoothiri along with Dr. A.M. Vasudevan Pillai adorning the Malayalam department added multilingual background to the college. Prof. Nampoothiri could keep his students spell bound with his literary presentation and accent. Each year a noticeable number of pages were allotted for Malayalam in the college magazine and the department of Malayalam staged a melodrama depicting the ills

of the society, which formed part of college day programme and appreciated by all students and staff irrespective of their language. His valuable suggestion during crisis and his humane approach to student problems were commendable. There were days when many of the rank holders of Malayalam language in the university examinations belonged to this college, and this elegantly exhibited the ability of Malayalam teachers like Prof. Nampoothiri and Prof. Vasudevan Pillai, Prof. R. Nampoothiri served in many of the University Bodies representing Malayalam language such as Board of Studies, Syllabus Setting Board and Chairman of University examination of Madras University, M.K. University and M.S. University. He selected the best books on Malayalam literature to enrich the Malayalam section of the library.. Fatherly affection showed by him to his students developed in their minds a sense of extraordinary respect for the language.

### **Biodata**

Born at Ramangalam, Moovattupuzha of Ernakulam District, Kerala to parents Mr. M.P. Raman Nampoothiri, a landlord and Mrs. Kali Amtherjanam Nampoothiri on 03.12.1938, Prof. Nampoothiri had his schooling up to S.S.L.C at Edappally, Govt High School. He had six brothers and 3 sisters. One of his brothers Mr. Vasudevan Nampoothiri is the Principal of Government Ayurvetha College, Trivandrum. He had his collegiate education up to intermediate at Maharajas college, Ernakulam and did his post graduation at University college, Trivandrum.

He got his M.Phil degree from Kerala University, Trivandrum in the year 1980 under F.I.P. of U.G.C.



Before joining the staff of Christian College, Prof. Nampoothiri worked as High School Assistant at Ramamangalam 1960 -1961 and Bench clerk, High court of Kerala 1961- 1964. From 1964 to 1996 he rendered very fruitful service as Lecturer in Malayalam, Christian college Martandam for 32 years.

He married P.N.Nalini who worked as an Assistant Commissioner of Commercial Taxes Trivandrum, and retired as Assistant Commissioner of Commercial Taxes of the Kerala Government. They have two daughters. One R. Sreekala is working as senior project manager, Net Asset Vazhuthacaud, Trivandrum and the other. R. Sreela is an Ayurvedha Medical Officer in Kerala Govt Service, now doing her M.D. Course at J.S.S College, Mysore.

### **His contribution to Malayalam Literature**

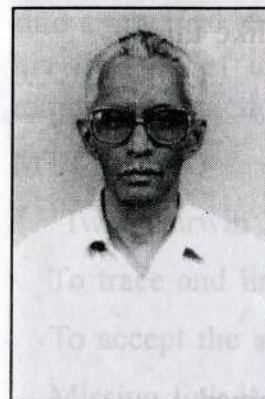
Prof. Nampoothiri published articles in the popular and widely read Malayalam dailies like Malayalam Manorama and Navajeevan. Also he published articles in the monthly journal, Chilampoly. He profusely wrote poems on modern subjects and They were published by his wife Nalini as a book titled "Nithunam" in the year 1997 after his demise in the year 1996.

### **Other Social Activities**

Besides his academic pursuits Prof. Nampoothiri worked as a member of the Yogakshema Sabha State Committee, a committee organized for the welfare of Nampoothiri Community. He also held the post of the Secretary of Malayala Samajam of Kanyakumari.

Prof. Nampoothiri proclaimed the literary heritage and pristine beauty of Malayalam language and spoke the lingua franca in its original style. He passed away while in service in the Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Martandam on 10.09.1996 after putting in 32 years in this college at the age of 58.

## **Prof. LIONEL J. THOMAS, M.Sc., M.Phil.,**



Often affectionately called gentleman lecturer by students and staff alike, Prof. L.J. Thomas was one of the esteemed pioneers of the college. Being a six footer he was easily recognized owing to his height. Bestowed with pleasing manners and polite ways he commanded respect without reservation.

Such a well mannered personality was an asset to the team of staff who shaped the destiny of the college. He brought charm to the staff often with his good humour and laughter.

Gifted with a talent for music, the way he played instruments such as the guitar or the accordion was praiseworthy. Be it a college day, a Christian staff retreat or a staff dinner, the day will not pass without his musical performances. The room where he stayed at Martandam reverberated with the "Sound of Music". His presence in the team of early staff was a blessing.

Though he was a Botanist he also taught zoology during the first two years. He designed the biology laboratory of the college in the first year. The work table and other equipments designed by him 42 years back are still in use in the B.Sc Laboratory. Some of the equipments he purchased are still the best in the Laboratories.

He is a person with a passion for music, the driving force in his life. It made him a writer and composer of music. A few songs that he wrote during the first year in college, amply demonstrate his ability in writing, composing and



singing. One of the songs he wrote and sang during the staff dinner in December 1964 was titled "Menu" because it was about the menu of the day. The song goes like this.

### MENU

On this very important venue,  
we place before you this menu.  
In good tradition, this dinner we start,  
Drinking SOUP, while it is hot.  
BAROTTA and MUTTON thoroughly mixed,  
(A mincing knife had it fixed)  
Between bites take a pause,  
There's also TOMATO SAUCE.  
Ah: this, we reckon,  
Was once a CHICKEN  
CHAPPATHE and GRAVY go so well,  
And with chicken, it is so swell.  
If you wonder about this dish  
It's just a CUTLET of FISH  
VEGETABLE SALAD is there to spread,  
Between the two slices of BREAD.  
Dessert is FRUIT SALAD mixed with CREAM,  
BOURNEVITA'S sure to give a nice, little dream,  
The quality of this dinner naturally rests  
On the verdict of our honoured guests.

Another song he wrote "Much Ado" written in 1965 was published in the 1965 college magazine. Here again we find a practical expression of a vexatious Darwin's theory and his firm belief in God's will. It exhibits how deep is his religious conviction. The song goes like this.

### MUCH ADO

'Twas Darwin I think who started it all,  
To trace and link man from creatures so small,  
To accept the ape as my dear, dear cousin;  
Missing link is what they clamour for,  
So they dig and dig, Oh! near and far,  
I bet they're set to get very soon,  
To start their digging up on the moon!  
Few pieces of bone is all they want,  
To reconstruct a reptile, they say did haunt,  
Its' time an appeal is made to save,  
These poor bones that lie in their grave.  
O'er Lamarak Darwin and Wiesmann too,  
They fight like devils, they certainly do,  
No rhyme or reason, they're just on a spree,  
"Much ado about nothing", You'll agree.  
Confusion fills my head as I read,  
Evidence, arguments, nowhere they lead;  
Survival of the fittest? I think I know,  
Arrival of the fittest? To God I'll go.  
'One Baffled'



Many of the present day staff and students see a song printed in the hand book and calendar of the college, under the caption "college song". But many may not know the writer and composer of this song. It is none other than Prof. L.J. Thomas himself. A few of the lines are here under.

"We love this college, We love her true

This Christian College of Martandam

We are proud of her name and proud of her fame

So join together and praise her name

For we are one with the college

That stands high, that stands high

We are one with the college that stands high

That stands high for wisdom and purity.

With faith in God we look ahead

His grace will bless all our endeavour

In wisdom and power we are sure to grow

God's mercy is great and this we know.

The last stanza speaks about the college Motto "Faith Endeavour Power" This is more than a proof of his ingenuity. There were days when the college day programme started with the singing of this college song. In later years this practise was given up probably none could sing this song as was done by Prof. L.J. Thomas.

## His Biodata

Lionel. J. Thomas was born at Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli District on 14th November 1935. His father, Late Mr. Hentry Thomas, held a high post as Deputy Superintendent of Police. His mother Mrs. Ivy Thomas was a housewife.

He had his school education in Concardia High School, Ambur, in Vellore and did his intermediate in Voorhees College, Vellore. He had his graduation and post graduation in Madras Christian College, Tambaram.

His first appointment as lecturer in Botany was at St. Johns College, Palayamkottai. His second appointment was at Christian College, Martandam in the year 1964, the year this college was started. He taught Zoology also for the P.U.C. students during the two years he worked in this college. Once again he accepted the offer of lectureship at St. John's College Palayamkottai in June 1966. He had continuous teaching experience of about 28 years in that college from 1966 to 1994 and retired from service in May 1994.

He married Sobha, a B.T. Assistant and has one daughter Henritta Dhamayanthi, a journalist who has written 100 short stories, a rare feat indeed.

Prof. L.J. Thomas had been a member of leading Musical Associations and choirs in both Chennai and Palayamkottai. Even during his retired life he is very much associated with musical performances in churches and social gatherings. God has blessed him with peaceful and contented life.



## Prof. M. VEDAMUTHU

A gifted and talented mathematician Prof. M. Vedomuthu served this institution from its very inception till his retirement. From among the pioneers only three teaching staff members namely Prof. M. Vedomuthu Prof. Jeyaprakash and Major. Francis, have the distinction of completing their entire period of service in this college.



A person of integrity and uniqueness, he loved teaching mathematics. He moulded up students of less calibre by adopting simple methods. His way of teaching mathematics earned him an unenviable position among his fellow teachers and he was greatly admired by his students. His heart and soul was in teaching mathematics and students marvelled at his knowledge and effective method of teaching. Calm and composed, Prof. M. Vedomuthu was a man of few words, yet he drove home the ideas he intended to convey. Such rare combination of knowledge and communication skill are to be found only in a selected few.

Born at S.T. Mankad on 22.12.1937 he had his school education at St. Francis Middle School, Vavarai and Govt High School, Munchirai. He had his graduation from Mar Evanios, Trivandrum and obtained post graduate degree from Farook Mohammed College, Calicut. He got the M.Phil degree under F.I.P. From Madurai University.

## Appointments:

His first appointment was as tutor in mathematics in Scott Christian College, Nagercoil in 1963. He was later transferred to Christian college, Martandam, when this college was started in 1964. He served this college devotedly for a long period of 31 years. During his service he attended several conferences on mathematics at the university level and kept himself abreast with latest developments in the field of mathematics and faithfully conveyed the acquired knowledge to his students. After performing a glorious service he retired from service on 1.5.1995.

After retirement he became the principal of Annai Velankanni College, Tholayavattam and served for a year.

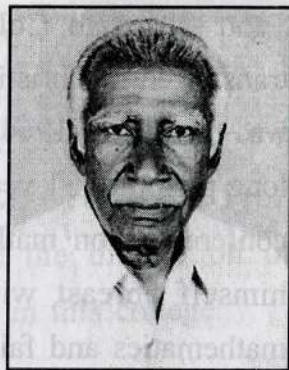
He has a son and a daughter. His son Capt. Manual V. John Frederic is a pilot, a rare vocation. His daughter Sheeba Agnes is a mathematics professor in Annamalai University and married to a professor in the same University.

Satisfied with his career and a family of brilliant children he now lives at his native village in S.T. Mankand.





Another pioneer staff of Christian college, Martandam, Dr. Peter, is a writer of many books and currently a journalist. Though he worked for only one year during 1964-65 he contributed his mite to the development of the college in various ways such as supervising the building work, collection of donations, gathering building materials from the public and well wishers. Four class rooms required for conducting Pre-university classes were constructed under his direct supervision.



**Dr. D. Peter**

Born at Marankonam on 23.09.1939 a place from where Marshal Nesamonys mother hails, he belongs to a family of traditions. His father Dhaveethu Peruvettar had sizable land holdings. His mother was known among the village folks as Puthenveetu Vethapoo. His brother Lazar peruvettar was a freedom fighter and was an activist in the struggle for the merger of Kanyakumari District with Tamilnadu. Dr. Peter had his early schooling in R.C. School, Manalikai and Govt school, Marankonam and the High school at Kattathurai. He completed his P.U.C. and graduation at Scott Christian College and did his post graduation at Thamparam, Madras. His first job after post graduation was Tutor in Economics in Christian College, Martandam in the year 1964. Though the designation

was Tutor in Economics he acted as Tutor in English also. As it was the work of every staff member to collect donations he collected a sizable amount for the college.

As a post of lecturer fell vacant at Scott Christian College, he discontinued his job in Christian college Martandam and joined Scott Christian College, Nagercoil as lecturer in the department of Economics in the year 1965. Besides teaching Economics he took up the job of NCC officer and continued as officer up to 1977. In the meantime he took two prestigious research degrees M.Lit and Ph.D. He was awarded Ph.D for his pioneering work of "Cropping pattern in Kanyakumari Dist" by Madurai University. He was elevated as Head of the Dept. in 1977. He became the principal for a year during 1985.

He wrote 3 books on subjects related to Economics. He was instrumental in bringing out a journal named Economic Annual.

He upgraded the Economics department as a research centre with the approval of the University and it paved the way for scholars to pursue research without going to University departments as in the past. The credit of turning out 3 Ph.D holders through this centre goes to him. Moreover many M.Phil degree holders came out successfully.

His wife, Dr. Ivy Peter, Reader in History of Women's Christian College, gave boost to his research and journalist work. She has written a wonderful book "The path trodden by Christianity" Dr. Peter has published 24 research papers in reputed journals.



Dr. Peter's insatiable quest for knowledge, concern for society, and fight against ignorance and superstition prompted him to take up sociological problems, and work for establishing a just society. He is a college professor with a difference. Unlike other retired teachers who want a quiet, calm non-indulgent life away from problems, he would voluntarily associate himself with problems of the society; be it at the diocesan level, religious political level or at community level, he will be at the forefront.

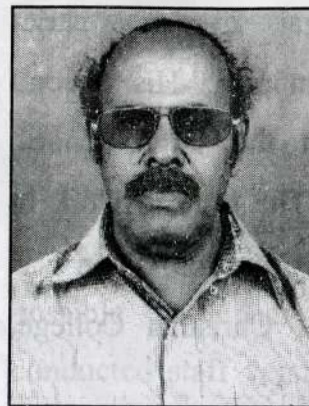
He is presently a journalist who highlights social problems through a monthly journal "Samuthaya Chinthanai (social thinking) creating awareness on multifarious problems haunting the society. Also he created a study centre "Kanyakumari Institute of Development studies" (KIDS) through which he efficiently puts forth his arguments and analysis, in his own way on current subjects such as politics, religion, history and literary movements based on primary sources of information.

He has published 2 books co-authored by his wife Dr. Ivy Peter, and through his institute many other books have been published. The two important books he published are

- 1 Samayathondarkulam Samuthaya Marumalarchiyum (Missionaries and their impact on social awakening).
2. Malayali Aathikiyamum, Thamilar Viduthalayum, (Liberation of Tamils from rule of Malayalees).

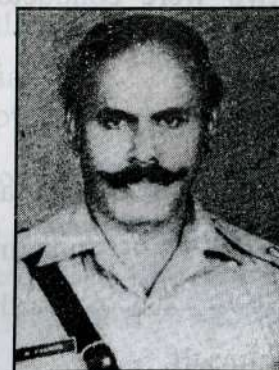
He is writing articles every month in his journal and champions the cause of the Tamils.

## MAJOR M. FRANCIS, B.A., Dip. in Phi Ed.



Another Pioneer Mr. M. Francis contributed much of his time and efforts to the college by doing odd jobs as Tutor in English, Physical director and Librarian in the first year of the establishment of the college. He himself being a football player brought laurels to the college, winning shields and trophies, cups and commendations at the University and district level.

Born to parents Mr. G.M. Puthali and Maria Selvi at Ramanputhooor, Nagercoil on 8th April 1938, he had his early schooling at Little Flower Convent Ramanputhooor and high school education at Carmel High School, Nagercoil and joined Scott Christian College for his graduation. As he was a good football player he found a place in the college team. During the four years of his study he captained the college team. His brother Mr. N. Prakasam was in the Kerala State Football Team. Due to his aptitude for sports, after getting a B.A. degree Mr. Francis decided to join the YMCA College of Physical Education, Madras and got the diploma in physical education from that prestigious institution.





His first appointment was as physical instructor in Kurathirai High School near Kadukarai, Kumari District which post he held only for four months. His second appointment as physical instructor in the High school, Kulasekaram lasted for only 8 months. The urge to work in a college drove him to discard these jobs and his vision was fulfilled when he joined as a staff of Christian College, Martandam in the year 1964.

He was particularly interested in NCC and hence underwent training at Puranthar, Maharashtra and was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant in the year 1966. Subsequently by his meritorious performance he was elevated as lieutenant, captain and above all to the coveted rank of Major. In all his total period of service in NCC was 24 years. He attended 7 NCC regional camps involving NCC cadets of colleges of Madurai University region out of which two were conducted in the College Campus itself. It was marvellous to see cadets from various parts of Tamilnadu marching on the roads of Martandam and in the campus.

He served as the commanding officer in charge of TNBN for sometime and received the best officer award from Lt. Col. Carthick, a rare honour to the college and for himself.

In the early days of the college, when the campus was in a bad shape, he took great pains to lay the courts and playfields. The vast play fields and courts that we see in the campus today are the outcome of his efforts especially laying of a beautiful Tennis Court.

Another milestone in his career was arranging the best possible sports facilities for staff and students. He regularly conducted staff versus student matches every now and then. Providing uniforms for both staff and students in the play field and refreshments to players made the campus bustling with sports activities which included indoor games for the staff. In uniform he himself used to be in the play fields with the students and participate in the indoor games with the staff.

The college day sports used to be a great event in the college life both for students and for staff. Competitions for staff would be held well in advance in all the sports items such as games, field and track and indoor events. Students cherish it as unforgettable moment in their life, receiving cups, shields, certificates, and special prizes. Public participation was a special feature with events for school boys and willing participants from the people of Martandam. Usually physical instructors of the schools around Martandam were invited as special referees. This added to the prestige of the institution not only in the academic arena but in sports field too.



Sports day celebrations culminated in selecting the best body builder as "Mr. Christian College".

Regular coaching was imparted to the students and for this purpose district coaches were invited to instil confidence in the minds of student sportsmen.

Another praiseworthy contribution to the college life was his effective handling of the silver jubilee celebrations of the college in the year 1989. The celebrations lasting for a week of fun and frolic needed an effective managerial skill which he rendered with the thrust it needed and all appreciated his commitment and execution of the job with military precision. He planted a hedge around the main building with casuarina sapling and other flower bearing plants on a beautification campaign planned by the college.

All his sons numbering five are all well placed in life and one of his son is a practising dentist.

His glorious service from the very inception till his retirement in the year 1997, spanning 33 years was commendable.

After his retirement Major Francis resides in his native home at Ramanputhoor with his family.

## Mrs. STARLET DENSON

In the earlier years the Christian College, Martandam was purely a men's college. But John D.K. SunderSingh the first Principal who had full freedom to select competent staff, selected three ladies in his team of staff in the first year itself. Mrs. Starlet Denson was one among them. She was appointed as lecturerships in Chemistry. As she had worked earlier in reputed Colleges, the principal thought it appropriate to select such an experienced person. Starlet Denson proved her mettle in producing good results in her subjects in the first year of the College which encouraged the public to send their wards to the newly started college.



Appointing ladies as staff in a men's college, that too, at the very inception, was a bold decision and it added Prestige and colour to the institution. As a new laboratory had to be set up, paucity of funds drove her to resort to minimum running expenditure and infrastructure, yet a modern Chemistry Laboratory was set up with all amenities in the tiled building used previously as Girls Boarding Home by Rev. Robert Sinclair. (This building was demolished to give way for the construction of the present Vethamanickam Block.) Students were provided with all



chemistry practical such as glasswares, chemicals, work tables, water connection and even gas burners. A furnace oil burnt gas plant was installed to generate gas for the burners at the fartherst northern end of the campus.

Born to parents Mr. Packia Raj and Mrs. Gemimma Packia Raj at Nagercoil, she had her school education at Duthie School, Nagercoil and joined Scott Christian college Nagercoil for collegiate education in the year 1956. Hers was the first batch of pre university students when the Madras University dispensed with the earlier system of two years intermediate course after schooling. Her graduation studies also continued in the same college in the subject Chemistry and she meritoriously passed out in the year 1961.

### Appointments

1. First appointment - Demonstrator - Lady Doak college, Madurai from 1961-1963.
2. Second appointment - Demonstrator - Scott Christian College, Nagercoil, 1963-- one year.
3. Third appointment, Lecturer, Christian College, Marthandam, 1964-1967, 3 years.

She married Mr. Denson of Kulasekaram and settled down there and gave up teaching after putting in 3 years of service in Christian College, Martandam.

Densons have two sons and two daughters; both the sons and one daughter are engineers. One daughter, an old student of N.M. Christian college, Martandam, is an advocate. One of their sons Mr. Satheesh, worked as consultant engineer of the college for sometime.



## Dr. Y. Flora Christobel

Dr. Y. Flora Christobel was appointed Demonstrator in Natural Science on 22.06.1964. As an energetic young lady she worked with all sincerity for a year only. She was a source of inspiration to the students of the Pre University class both in the practical classes. She used to move briskly from table to table giving necessary instruction to every practicals correctly within the allotted time. She left the



zoology and botany college on 15.6.1965

to take up a better assignment as lecturer in biology in the Christian College, Kattakada, Trivandrum where she served for two years and thereafter joined the staff of the Lakshmiipuram College of Arts and Science, Neyyoor. On 12.8.1975 she attained a higher position as Professor and Head of the Zoology Department of Sree Ayyappa College for Women and retired from service on 31-5-1999. She lives at Neyyoor with her husband Dr. V. S. David Raj, retired reader in Zoology, Scott Christian College.

Dr. Flora Christobel was born on 23.3.1941 at Mukkadu in the Painkulam village as the eldest child of late M.P. Yovan, sub-registrar and Mrs.D. C. Mary. She had her early education in the primary school at Painkulam and the High

Schools at Amsi and Kattathurai. On completion of her degree classes at Scott Christian College she secured admission to M.Sc Zoology and completed her post graduate study in the University College, Trivandram in 1944 securing a first class in the M.sc Degree Examination. She chose a career of teaching and the Christian College, Martandam served as a stepping stone for her bright and successful academic career extending over a period of 35 years during which period she kept herself abreast of the development in her selected field of study and improved her qualification by securing M.Phil Degree (First class) in 1982 and Ph.D in 1996.



## Mrs. R. Sundara Celia

Being one of Celia worked as chemistry. The chemistry was lady staff, yet both Sundara Celia ably of the Department of out good results in the first year itself. She worked actively and ably guided the students who came for chemistry practicals.



the pioneers, Sundara demonstrator in department of manned entirety by Starlet Denson and managed the affairs Chemistry and turned

Besides working as demonstrator of chemistry her services were utilized as demonstrator of physics too.

She was born at Poovancodu to parents Mr. Retchathas and Kamalams a school teacher. Her father was a much respected person in his village. Celia had her schooling at Poovancodu and joined Scott Christian College for Pre-university during 1958 and selected chemistry for her graduation in the same college. She was appointed in Christian College, Martandam in July 1964. After working for three years she had to leave the college as the Madras University rule at that time allowed a demonstrator holding a B.SC degree to work for only three years. She left the college in the year 1967. Married to Mr. Winfred of Nagercoil who is an officer of the Central Government, she is now a resident of New Delhi.

## NON TEACHING STAFF

*The seven non teaching staff appointed in the first year of the college played their role significantly in the development and administration especially in running the office, laboratories, and keeping watch and ward over the college campus and other duties.*



## **MR. A.Y. BAKTHAN**

**Office Superintendent**



The college staff to manage the of typing and Bakthan fulfilled this experience in office

needed experienced office with knowledge shorthand and Mr. as he had 16 years management in Ceylon

before he joined the college. In him the principal and others reposed full faith as he was a conscientious hard working person. He trained the other Office Assistants and effectively managed financial dealings.

Mr. Bakthan was born at Nagercoil on 6.1.1917 to parents Mr. Abraham and Kannymarial. He completed his primary school education at Home Church Primary School, Nagercoil and High school education at Scott Christian High School. After completing schooling he learned typewriting, short hand and book keeping and went to Ceylon to work in the Kew Estate, Hatton. After serving for 16 years in the estate he was appointed as office superintendent in Christian College, Martandam in the year 1964.

He married Dhavamoni and had three sons and one daughter. His son B. Abraham, an alumnus of this college during the year 1965-66, was the Assistant Director of Agriculture in the Tamilnadu government service. His other

sons Mr. Raveendran is working in the Punjab National bank and Mr. Christoper is an engineer in Kuwait. His only daughter Mrs. Grace Sulochana is the Head mistress of Government Higher Secondary School, Poothapandi.

Mr. Bakthan worked as office superintendent of the college from 1964 to 1977 and retired after a service of 13 years. After retirement he worked in the office of a salt pan at Puthalam for some time and moved to Home Church, Nagercoil as a clerical assistant. After a long period of service in various concerns spanning 45 years, he expired in the year 1996 at the age of 79.



## Mr. M. D. YESURETANAM



Born at Santhapuram on 20/10/1938. Mr. Yesuretnam had his schooling at Dr. Samuel High School, Santhapuram up to S.S.L.C. After learning type writing and short hand, he joined as an office assistant in Christian College Martandam in the year 1964. He displayed his talents in maintaining office records and drafting communications to the University and the Government. He was promoted as office superintendent after the retirement of Mr. A. Y. Bakthan. He retired after serving for 32 long years from 1964 to 1996.

After retirement too he worked as office superintendent of the Mallangara Catholic College. Mariagiri and at present he is the office superintendent of Arts and Science B.Ed college Malayadi.

## Mr. K. CHELLAPPAN



A self made man Mr. K. Chellappan hails from Kannakodu, a suburb of Martandam. Born to Kochukutti Nadar and Kanniammal on 30.11.1929, Mr. Chellappan had very humble beginnings. second senior most non-teaching staff next A.Y. Bakthan. Due him by all owing to his years old when he joined Chellappan was the person among the to superintendent Mr. respect was shown to age as he was 35 as a non teaching staff member of the college on 1.08.1964. More over being the only person among the nonteaching staff belonging to Martandam he knew very well the problems faced by the college. With a smiling face he willingly discharged the duties assigned to him. In the early stages of the college, the campus was without proper compound walls and was vulnerable to intrusions by outsiders. Mr. Chellappan as a heroic warrior challenged them and drove them out. As the first principal was pleased with his duty consciousness, commendable performance and hard work, promoted him as an office assistant during his tenure itself.

In his younger days, Chellappan started his career by running a refreshment stall at Vettuvanni, Martandam. Those were days when Travancore Tamilnadu Congress, was carrying on agitations demanding merger of Tamil speaking areas of South Travancore with the erstwhile State of Madras. Mr.Chellappan actively participated in the Dharnas and agitations and consequently he was arrested and imprisoned on



August 11, 1953, when firing was resorted to by Travancore police at Marthandam. He was in jail for 3½ months and hence he is hailed as Mozhipore Thiyaagi.

After his release from prison he worked in the Palmgur Society of Marthandam as an assistant and then joined as a non teaching staff of the college in 1964. He served the institution faithfully till his retirement on 30-11-1987

Initially he worked as an office assistant and later promoted as Laboratory Assistant of Physics Department. His total period of service was 23 years in this institution.

After retirement his service was utilised by William Children's Hospital, Martandam for a period of 20 long years. The enthusiasm he showed while working in the college could be noticed in the Hospital work too.

After rendering valuable service to the college and society, he now resides at his home at Kannakodu.

## Mr. P. ABRAHAM



Born at Pandarakonam, Mulagumoodu to parents Mr. A. Paramanandam and Mrs. Thangamma Paramanandam on 9.04.1940, Mr. Abraham had his schooling up to S.S.L.C in the High School at Kattathurai. He joined as a non-teaching member of the staff of Christian College, Martandam in July 1964. Promoted as laboratory attender in the year 1966, he also worked as office assistant and library assistant, the last post he held till his death on 25.04.1994 at the age of 54 while he was in service. His total service to this college was for a period 30 years.

He married Amirtham and had three sons and a daughter. One of his sons Isace Jeya Singh is working as a non teaching staff member in this college since 1994.





**Mr. G. RETNASWAMY**

Mr. G. Retnaswamy was born at Kattuvilai S.T. Mankad on 26.03.1940. His parents were Mr. N. Gnanamani and Mrs. Gnanammal Gnanamani. He had his early school education near his native place at L.M.L.P.s Kannavilai and St. Francis H.S.S., Vavarai. He had his high school education at Govt. High School, Munchirai.

He joined as a non teaching staff member of Christian College, Martandam on 1.08.1964 as attender. He held the posts of selection grade library attender, and junior and senior grade office assistant.

He retired on 31.03.1998 after putting in 34 years of service in this college.

He married Tmt. Leelavatthi Nesam and has four sons and a daughter.

**Mr. A. THANGA NADAR**



Born on 17.01.1936 at Keezhkulam near Thengapattinam, Mr. Thanga nadar had his schooling at his native place. During his younger days he too participated in the agitations of the Travancore Tamilnadu Congress.. He was appointed as a non teaching staff in the year 1964. He was very much involved in the construction work in the campus. For many years he served as a selection grade office assistant in the Bursar's Office. He was promoted and posted as a laboratory assistant and herbarium keeper in the Botany department. He was instrumental in building up a splendid herbarium of local plants. He retired on 31.01.1994 after serving for 30 years in this institution. He now lives at Vettuvanni, Martandam.



## Mr. D. SUNDARAM

Mr. D. Sundaram belonged to Maruthancode. Born on 23.07.1930, he had his schooling at Maruthancode. He joined as a non teaching staff member when he was 34 years old. Being an active man, he joined as a peon and later on promoted as an assistant in the Bursar's Office. After putting in 24 years of service in the college he opted for voluntary retirement. The management allowed voluntary retirement on 6.07.1988. His son S. Jeya singh is now working as a non teaching staff. After a short period of ailment Sundaram died in the year 1996 at the age of 66.

## Rev. JAMES EMLYN

Missionary (L.M.S.) at Parassalai  
who bought the mission land at Marthandam.



- Ref : Page 11,13
- Born : Adpar, New Castle U.K., 7.04.1938
- Came to Nagercoil : June 11, 1968
- Took over Parasala Mission : May 1, 1869
- Worked at Parasala : 23 years
- Retired from L.M.S. Service : April - 1892
- Lived at Marthandam : for 25 years
- ◆ Died at North Street (Emlyn Street) Martandam 26th June 1917.
  - ◆ Buried at the Cemetery of Abbs Memorial Church, Parasala
  - ◆ His Wife : Emily Seymoor Emlyn, died at Trivandrum, buried, Parasala Church Cemetery.
  - ◆ Only daughter died at Kanchirode and buried at Parasala Church cemetery



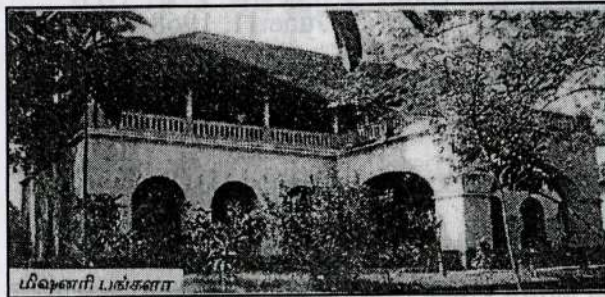
## Rev. ISAAC HENRY HACKER

First Resident Missionary (L.M.S.) of Marthandam

Ref : Page 14,15



Hacker's Bungalow, present office  
Building of N.M. Christian College, Marthandam  
He stayed at Marthandam from 1908 to 1919

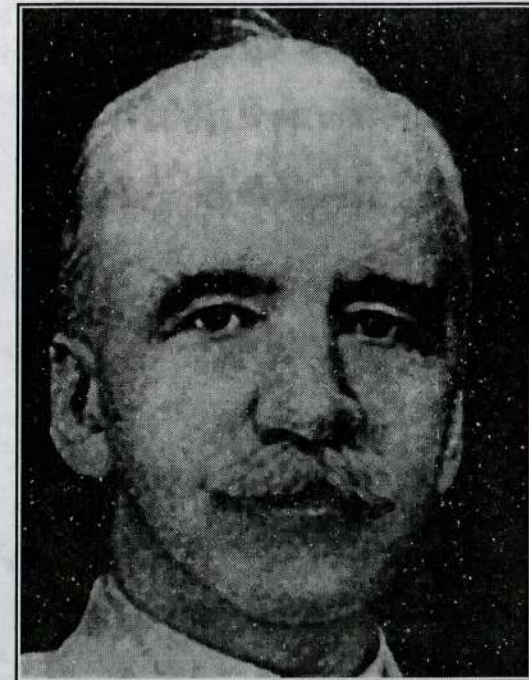


He was the author of the famous book  
**"A hundred years in Travancore"**

## Rev. ROBERT SINCLAIR

Second Resident Missionary  
(L.M.S.) of Marthandam

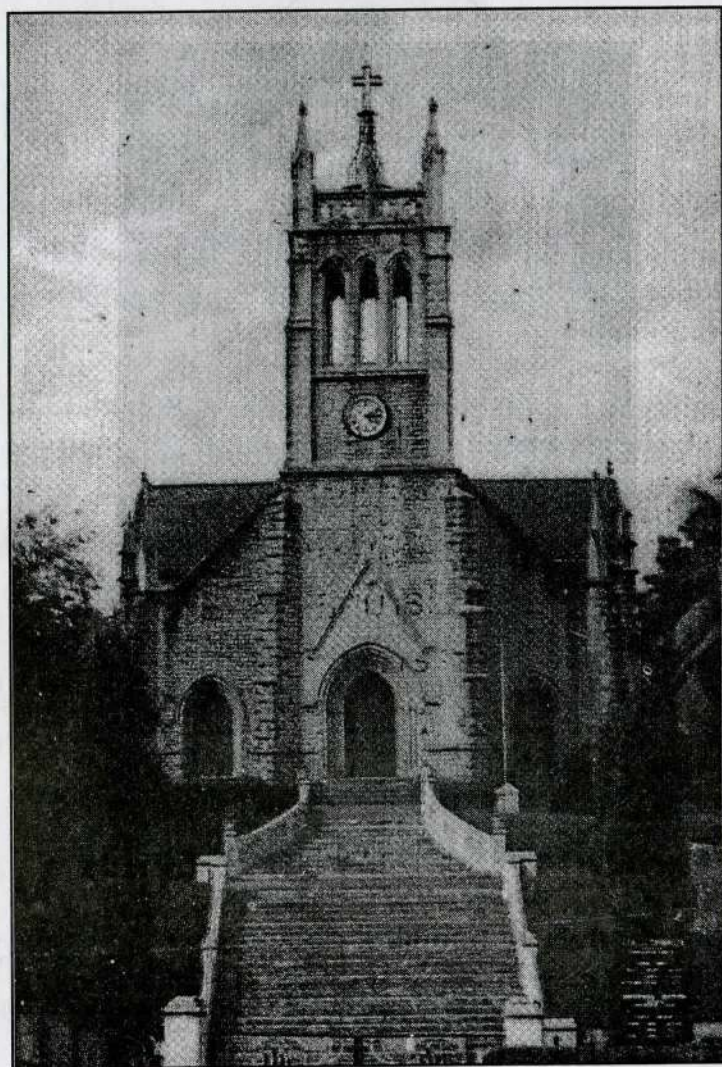
Ref : Page 15,16



Stayed at Marthandam from 1919 to 1939 in the  
Bungalow of I.H. Hacker.  
Built the upstairs of the Bungalow.  
Built the magnificent stone Church at Marthandam.  
Died : At Glasgow, Scotland on 12th Sep. 1946



Church built by the Missionary  
**Rev. Robert Sinclair**  
 at Marthandam



**MISSION HOSPITAL AT MARTHANDAM**

1892

Ref. Page 6

Started as a Dispensary by Rev. James Emlyn in 1883,  
 later shifted to the present campus in the year 1892 by

**Dr. T. Fry** of Neyyoor Medical Mission.

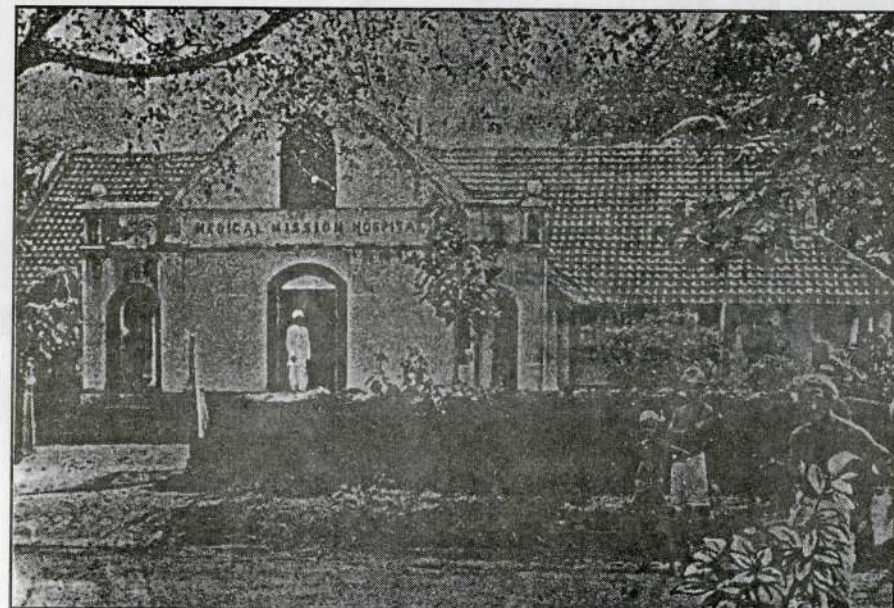


Photo by **Rev. I.H. Hacker** in 1906



## REFERENCES ...

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2.	Miss. R. Sundara Celia	72
3.	Prof. R.S. Ramachandran	40
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