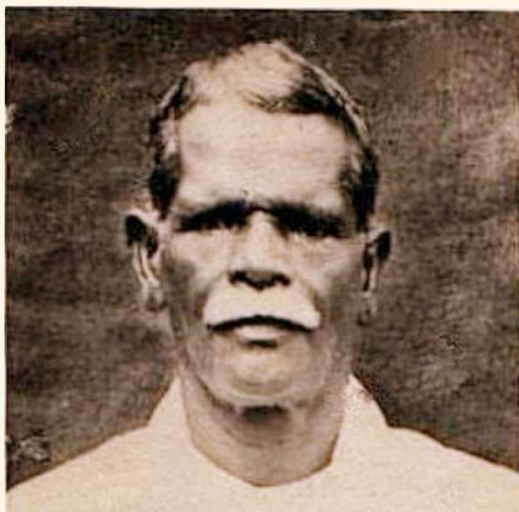


The BRETHREN 01



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A Pictorial Introduction
To The Great Men And Women
Who Nurtured The Brethren
Movement in India

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Established in 1970

A very important figure in the Indian Brethren Movement is VD David or Tamil David. He played a key role in raising an "indigenous" Brethren movement.



Many non-Indians worked in India before God raised Tamil David, but such works were kept as a "western ministry" with western oversight and controls. The Indian believers who came to the Lord through their work were not allowed to integrate with native Indian assemblies.

In 1894 God used Tamil David to bring a great revival in the Mar Thoma Church. This sowed the seeds of an Indian Brethren movement.

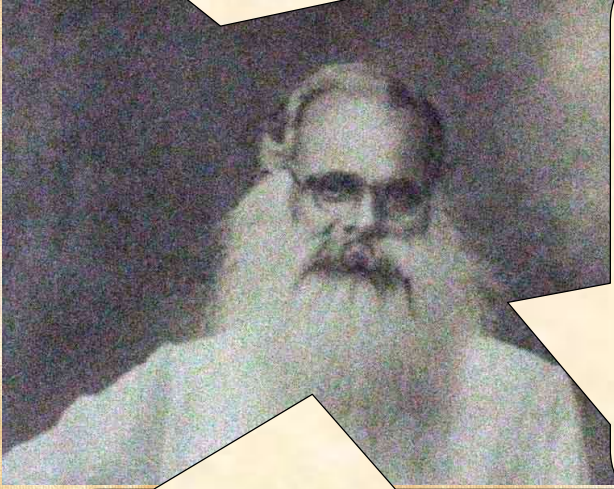


The revivals soon spread to all the denominational churches.

There was wide awareness now that salvation is possible only via faith in Christ, and not through Church rituals.

God used many others also to fan the fire of revival. The need to be born-again, and be baptized after that, became widely known. This background helped the indigenous Brethren Movement to be born in Kerala around 1899.

At this time, Rev. PE Mammen, also known as Kumbanattu Achan, was an active priest in the Mar Thoma Church. He soon came under the influence of Tamil David.

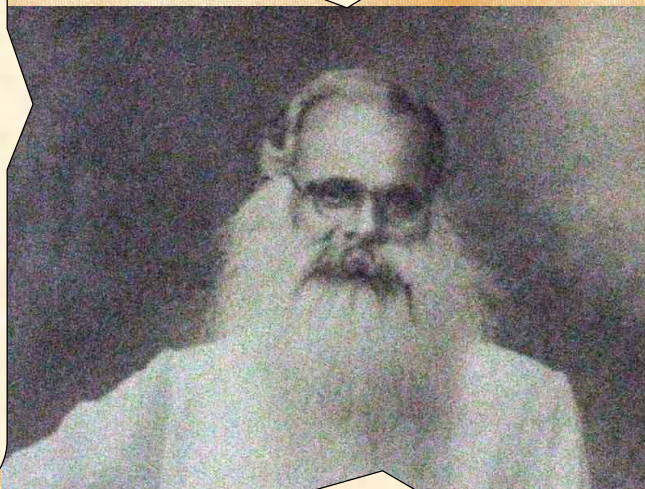


Eventually he got baptized in 1898 at Kunnamkulam by Handly Bird a non Indian missionary in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

PE Mammen became an initiator of the indigenous assembly movement, which had its first worship in 1889. A staunch Indian nationalist, he resisted all attempts by Western missionaries to take control over the indigenous assemblies. He had to pay much cost but in the long run it helped the Indian assemblies to become self-supporting and self-governing.

Keenly aware of the need for teaching fundamental doctrines, PE Mammen and others launched a magazine The Banner of Gospel in Malayalam language. It played a substantial role in strengthening new believers.

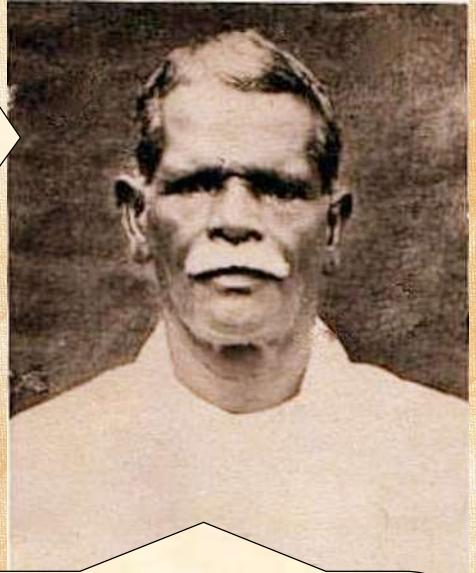
The magazine ceased publication after some time due to financial problems.



Since teaching the fundamentals needed to be widespread, he started a new magazine in 1916 known as Gospel Light in Malayalam language. It played a major role in teaching the fundamentals to assembly believers all over the Malayalam-speaking world. He was promoted to his heavenly abode in 1947.

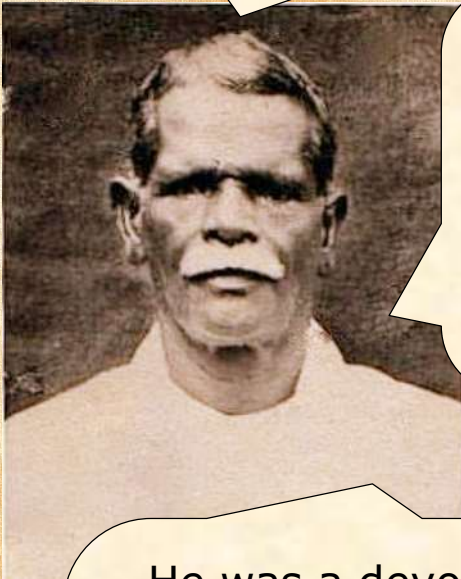
PC John is one of the unsung heroes of the indigenous Brethren movement in India. Born in 1875 in a Mar Thoma family, the revival in Kerala in the last quarter of 1800s deeply touched him.

Tamil David's messages helped him to understand the gospel and that is how he accepted Christ as his personal Saviour.



He was part of the first Brethren gathering at Kumbanad, and played a great role in the establishing of assemblies all around. He was also part of the team that started the Kumbanad convention. This convention played a great role in strengthening the assembly movement.

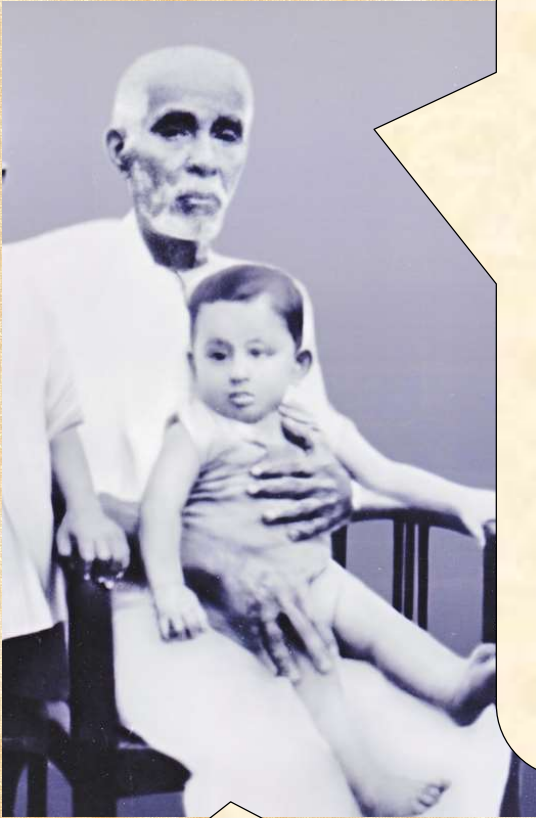
European Missionary EH Noel established many assembly halls and schools in Central Kerala. PC John Upadeshi (the preacher) played an important role by managing and coordinating many of those activities.



EH Noel established his work in four places that he called four "Centers". PC John was responsible for the Kumbanad Center.

He was a devoted Barnabas and tried to advise and help assemblies and individuals.

Since Brethren are a Congregational group without a hierarchy, he played a vital role in holding the believers together in the initial days.



Koshy Mathunni was a young married man when the Spirit of God started stirring him in 1890s. Thus, he joined the six who formed the first Brethren gathering in Kerala at Kumbanad in 1899.

He belonged to the Kaduvettoor family which had its own Orthodox Church in Pandanad region close to Chengannur.

When he refused to disown his new faith, the family threw him and his wife out and cut off all relations with him.

His portion of the property was grabbed by the family

A hard-working person, he moved to a village known as Kallisseri and continued with his business. He became prosperous but his young wife who was in her thirties died suddenly. There was no Brethren Cemetery to bury her, so he buried her behind the house he had built by now, on land he had acquired. This incident told him what the new believers can expect in future.



Eventually he donated a very large piece of land to serve as cemetery in Kallsseri region and around and today it serves as the burial ground for almost a dozen assemblies.

He was not an eloquent preacher, but he was a good mentor to many in the first and second generation of Kerala Brethren. He baptized many prominent Brethren, including Sadhu Kochukunju Upadeshi.



He wanted his family to produce many evangelists and preachers. His own son CM Abraham (Avarachan Upadeshi) became a very prominent preacher. His grandson Philip Abraham became a pioneer Evangelist.

Another grandson TA Abraham is a pioneer evangelist. Grandchildren Dr. Johnson C. Philip, Dora Alex, Abraham Thomas (Kochi), Benny Thomas (New York) are all in Christian ministry. [Others will be listed as names are suggested]

We will keep introducing more people from the past and present in the coming volumes.

Some volumes like this will have brief introduction. Others will be devoted to the biography of single individuals.

Lord willing we will continue this project for decades to come, if the Lord tarries.

If you want any person to be included in this series, you are MOST WELCOME to send information. We will add a volume.

If there is any correction in this volume, please send it to us.

For all the above things, you are invited to contact the Chief Editor at

jcphilip@gmail.com
BrethrenHistory@TrinityTheology.org

This is a multi-volume work.

For example, V Nagel, EH Noel, KV Simon, and others will be introduced in greater detail in future volumes.

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About The Authors

Dr. Johnson C. Philip is an expert in Quantum-nuclear Physics and has done research about the inner structure of Protons and Neutrons (Hadrons). He has authored hundreds of books and he hopes to join hands with Dr. Saneesh Cherian to produce more than 400 volumes of these compact Indian Brethren History books to bless your spiritual life.



Dr. Saneesh Cherian is an expert in Communication and Sociology. Having completed two doctorates in theology and a masters in Sociology from a



prestigious University, he has been working towards his next doctorate.

Together the two writers have authored several major books in Apologetics and Theology, Theology Dictionary and Bible Encyclopedias.

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