

Mrs. Kandamma Varghese
Mar Thoma Sevika Sanghom (Thumpamon)
(1919 - 1964)

Published by Adv. John Joseph Nalloor

Mar Thoma Suvishesha Sevika Sanghom was established in 1919 during the Maramon Convention, under the leadership of Abraham Mar Thoma Suffragan Metropolitan, who gave the women's organization continuous support and inspiration.

Mrs. Kandamma Varghese (born 1876), Chruthuruthiyil, Thumpamon was the first traveling, organizing secretary of the Sevika Sanghom. For almost 20 years she traveled far and wide to almost all corners of Travancore, organizing branches of the Sevika Sanghom in parishes, doing evangelistic work among Christians and non-Christians, and building up work in parishes.

In those days there were no proper roads, so she had to walk miles to her work and used bullock carts to visit distant places. One of her annual reports submitted to the Sanghom reads like this: *"Visited Puthen Cavu, Kundara... (Names of so many parishes are given), etc. Conducted 101 special meetings for women, 38 meetings for girls, visited 236 Christian homes, 70 non Christian homes, personally interacted with 415 people, distributed 700 tracts, 90 gospel portions etc..."*

After serving many years as a Traveling Secretary, she became the General Secretary of the Sanghom. She put a firm foundation for the smooth running of various departments of the Sevika Sanghom.

When the Sanghom started the Salem Bhavanam (Orphanage) in 1923, Kandamma took up that responsibility as well. She adopted orphan children who were previously looked after by Mrs. Sosamma Eappen of Kotturethu Chengannur.

She was called to her eternal home on 9 November, 1964 at the age of 88. In her memory, the Sanghom has collected a Memorial fund of Rs.15,000 (in 1964 this was a big amount) and the interest collected from this fund is still being used for the Theological education of the women who are willing to do full time Gospel work.

