

## **P. M. Kochukurru – Malayalam Hymn Writer**

**(1891- 1936)**

Published by Adv. John Joseph Nalloor

Kochukurru was born in 1891 to an extremely poor farming family in Valakam village near Kottarakkara, Kerala. He couldn't even attend primary school. He learned the alphabets and the art of reading from Kudipallikudam Ashan (Lower Primary teacher). He was a regular student of Sunday School. Influenced by his dedicated Sunday School teachers, he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior at the age of 12. The study of the scriptures made him an evangelist. At the age of 22, he joined the Mar Thoma Church.

Kochukurru started conducting Sunday School classes and Gospel meetings at home. However, he faced severe opposition from his neighbours.

He was a gifted singer and hymn writer. He used to carry a pencil and small pieces of paper while doing his agricultural work and used to write down divine thoughts revealed to him by God. His hymns were written in simple language that could be easily understood by the common man.

Hymn No. 1 in the Mar Thoma Church hymn book, *Kristheeya Keerththanangal*: "*Athiraavile thiru sannidhi – Anhayunnoru samaye*" and Hymn no. 5 "*Mname! pakshiganagal unarnitha padunnu geethangal*" are written by him. These hymns are used by Malayalam speaking Christians across the world for morning family prayer.

He wrote more than 100 songs and published a song book called "*Christiya Prathasayin Geethangal*". He was called to his eternal home in 1936 at the age of 45.

