

**Rev. M. P. Mathew**

**Sihora Ashram 'Treasurer Babuji'**

**(1914 – 2004)**

Published by Adv. John Joseph Nalloor

Rev. Mathew was born on 26th June, 1914 as the third son of Kaviyoor Mavelil Varughese Philipose and Mariamma. After his primary education in Kaviyoor he went to Trivandrum for high school. When he was in Std. 4, he had the privilege to hear messages of Muthampakkal Sadhu Kochoonju Upadeshi and dedicated his life to God.

After his schooling, he joined the South India Plantations office in Trivandrum as an accountant. He was active in the formation of Mar Thoma parishes in South Travancore. Through the influence of Rev. Dr. C. E. Abraham, he decided to form the Sihora Ashram, Madhya Pradesh along with Rev. K. T. Thomas and Rev. John Varghese. He left his job in Trivandrum and went to Sihora. After that he joined the Serampore Theological College in 1949. He became deacon on 1st May, 1953, and priest on 25th May, 1953. Due to his hard work, many parishes were formed in North India. Even now mission work is going on in many places under the Delhi - Bombay Diocese.

Achen was interested in Village Evangelism. He visited and stayed in most of the villages in the Sihora Taluk during his mission work. He conducted Sunday school and VBS classes in many villages. He had a wide circle of educated friends and government servants which greatly helped his work.

For many years he was the Treasurer of the Ashram, making him known as "Treasurer Babuji" among the villagers. His brothers' children used to send him money for his personal use, but he only used it for Ashram work. He was an expert in Hindi. He was also behind the formation of the mission fields in Bastar Dist (Madhya Pradesh) and in Khariar Road (Orissa). An association called "North India Mar Thoma Evangelical Fellowship (NIMTEF) was established by him to vitalize the mission work of our Church in North India.

Achen served the Ashram for 62 years and was called home on 11th March, 2004, at the age of 89. On 13th March, 2004, he was buried at the Ashram cemetery.

More workers are required to work in the North Indian Villages. Doctors with a mission outlook are required to work in the Mission Hospital and clinics at Sihora.

