

Sister Chechamma of Sihora Ashram (1915-1982)

Published by Adv. John Joseph Nalloor

Sister Chechamma (b.4 July, 1915), was the daughter of Kochu Varkey and Mariamma of Mathilunkkal House, Annavattom Edavaka of Tiruvalla. She accepted Jesus as her personal Saviour during her high school days. After working as a Matron in the Mahilayalam (Women's Hostel) in Alwaye, she joined the Palghat Ashram, during which time she got the divine call to work among the women. In 1946, she joined the Vanitha Mandiram in Tiruvalla for training, where she came to know about the Sihora Ashram. She informed the authorities about her eagerness to work in Sihora in Madhya Pradesh. As per the instructions from the Sihora Ashram, she took her nursing training from Madurai in Tamil Nadu. In 1952, she joined the Sihora Ashram.

During that time there were no hospitals in the Sihora Taluk, except one dispensary run by Missionaries. Women patients were not willing to see the male doctors. So Sister Chechamma was the doctor, nurse and midwife for them. As there were no proper roads, she had to walk for miles to her work. She visited far away places on horse cart. Without rest, she did her medical work from dawn to dusk. Her prayerful life was exemplary to all her patients. She used to visit and pray for patients in their homes. Many came to know the Lord through her life.

Her 30 years of hard work without proper rest made her sick. For two weeks she was treated in the Jabalpur Medical College. She was called home at 5.30 am on 29 November, 1982, and was buried in the Sihora Ashram cemetery in the Darsani Hills. Her tomb stands as a testimony to all of us. We need lives like Chechamma Sister to work and shine for the Lord.

