

Brief History of Diocesan Missionary Prayer Band

In 1960, with a call to do the gospel work among the hill-tribes living in the Eastern Ghats of Tamilnadu, South India a few young students of the Bible College, Bangarapet, organized a prayer group. As a result of their prayer, The Hill Tribes Missionary Prayer Band was started on **July 31, 1962**. By the grace of God from May 20, 1979 it became the **Diocesan Missionary Prayer Band** of **C S I Kanyakumari Diocese**.

Diocesan Missionary Prayer Band sent Rev. D. Elias as its Pioneer Missionary and the gospel work was started at Thekkampattu, a village on the **Kalrayan hills** in Tamil Nadu. Afterwards the other missionaries appointed to work with him in the Kalrayan hills by the Diocesan Missionary Prayer Band.

Diocesan Missionary Prayer Band is doing the missionary work in **Kolli hills, Yercaud hills, Kalrayan hills, Bothai hills** are some of the hills of the Eastern Ghats spread in Salem, Dharmapuri, Namakkal, Villupuram, Vellore, Thiruvannamalai districts of Tamilnadu in India.

Tribal had been suffering very much by many diseases and were even dying for want of proper medical facilities. Hence our missionaries began to provide free medical aid to them. We have **12** such **Medical Centres** where our trained nurses give treatments to the sick and needy people.

D.M.P.B. is providing literacy to the adults and also we have been providing education to the children in our Nursery, Primary, Higher and Higher Secondary Schools. We have **9 schools** and **2 Day Care Centres** and **7 Dorcas Tailoring Units** to give training to the ladies living in hill stations in the various mission fields. The tribal children who wish to learn in our schools from very interior hamlets of the hills are not able to study as day scholars due to lack of transport facilities or even proper roads for safe journey from their houses to the schools. At present more than **1314 children** are staying in our hostels and studying in our Schools. There is a heavy rush for admissions in these hostels. But unfortunately now we are not in a position to admit more students because of our financial difficulties and lack of accommodation.

DMPB has also expanded its Missionary work in North India also and in the first phase, the work was started in **Orissa** during 2003. One field coordinator and **41** Missionaries are working in the 200 villages in **Bolangir, Kandhamal and Kalahandi** districts of Orissa State.

At present we have **243** Missionaries covering more than 700 villages, **90** Missionary Teachers, **10** Deputy Wardens, **12** Promotional Workers, **6** Office Staff and **7** Tailoring Teachers working as full time workers in addition to many volunteers working in various fields. So far we have constructed **68 Churches** and **60 houses** for Missionaries in our mission fields. We have to construct a few more church buildings and houses for Missionaries soon in certain places of the hills where they are highly needed.

General Secretary

HOLD YOUR HANDS WITH US

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WORK AMONG TRIBALS

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