

# TRANQUEBAR

1706-1956

THE CELEBRATION OF THE 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE LANDING IN INDIA  
OF THE FIRST PROTESTANT MISSIONARIES  
AT TRANQUEBAR IN 1706

THE PROGRAMME FOR THE CELEBRATIONS  
JANUARY 1956

DETAILS OF THE QUARTER MILLENNIUM  
JUBILEE PUBLICATIONS

FILMS, SEALS AND OTHER ITEMS  
CONNECTED WITH THE CELEBRATIONS



Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg  
Mimonsis Saxo, Ecclesia ex Indis  
collecta Praepositus.

## THE JUBILEE PRAYER

by the

RT. REV. J. SANDEGREN

**L**ORD GOD, our heavenly Father, Thou art the God of yesterday, of to-day and of tomorrow. Thou didst 250 years ago move the heart of the King of Denmark to send out the first Evangelical Missionaries for work in Tranquebar. Thou didst move the hearts of Ziegenbalg and other Missionaries to offer their lives for this service. Thou didst move Christian leaders in Halle and other places in Germany and in other countries in Europe to support this Mission. And when we now look back at Thy work during this Quarter Millennium we find that it has spread from little Tranquebar throughout the length and breadth of India and beyond. The little seed has become a large tree. It became the beginning of the modern world-wide missionary movement bringing the Gospel to all nations. To Thee be praise for this Thy work during the past.

Thou art the God of to-day. As we come before Thee we see that we have not always been faithful to this great heritage. We see that through our indifference, laziness, pride and other shortcomings we have many a time rather hindered Thy work. But in spite of it Thou hast prospered it and given Thy blessing to it. Forgive us, Oh Father, our slowness to see and follow Thy will and lead us all now afresh to dedicate ourselves to seek first Thy Kingdom and to serve Thee wholeheartedly in the task to spread Thy Gospel. Let this Quarter Millennium Jubilee, connected with Tranquebar, be a new call to us to praise and serve Thee, both as individuals and as members of Thy world-wide Church.

Thou art the God also of tomorrow. We ask Thee, Father of all good gifts: Let Thy blessing still rest upon this Thy work. What has been achieved so far through the work of Thy servants during 250 years is far too small a fruit to place before Thy feet. Thou art able to achieve still greater things. For the sake of Thy Holy name pour out Thy Spirit upon all our workers and all Thy scattered children on earth so that we may be true witnesses of Thy salvation in our Lord Jesus Christ. Strengthen our congregations, and make Thy Church grow in faith, hope and charity so that we valiantly fight against sin and all evil within us and outside. Awaken amongst us Thy Spirit. Build and unite Thy Church that we all may be one, as Thou art in Christ and Christ in Thee: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Christ.

To Thee be blessing and honour and glory and power now and throughout eternity. AMEN.

*Issued by the Lutheran World Federation for wide use and translation into other languages.*

## THE TRANQUEBAR QUARTER MILLENNIUM JUBILEE PROGRAMME

### AT TRANQUEBAR

**January 12th.**—MAHANAD : Addresses in Tamil.

**January 13th.**—CONVENTION : Addresses in English.

*Chairman* : Bishop Lilje of Hanover.

*Speakers* : Bishop Schioler of Roskilde.

Professor Regin Prenter of Aarhus.

The Rev. C. Rendtorff of Copenhagen.

Dr. Franklin C. Fry of U.S.A.

**January 14th.**—THE CONSECRATION OF THE REV. DR. RAJAH B. MANIKAM, as the Fourth Bishop of Tranquebar.

Jubilee Meeting :

*Speakers* : The Representative of H.M. the King of Denmark.

Members of the Lutheran World Federation, the World Council of Churches, the International Missionary Council and Sister Churches.

### CORRESPONDENTS

*For the Celebrations at Tranquebar* : Mr. G. T. Williams, Tranquebar House, Tiruchirappalli, South India.

*For the Celebrations at Madras* : Mr. Robert Guruswamy, Y.M.C.A., Boys' Town, Madras 9.

*For the L.W.F. Executive Meeting* : Miss H. Schneck, German Consulate, Post Box 102, Madras 1.

*For Jubilee Literature* : The Rev J. Kumaresan, Chairman, F.E.L.C. Board of Publications, Gurukul, Madras 10 and The Secretary, C.L.S., Post Box 501, Madras 3.

### AT MADRAS

**January 15th.**—Jubilee Sermons in the Protestant Churches in Madras by foreign visitors.

**January 15th and 22nd.**—Afternoon Lectures by Dr. Hans W. Gensichen at Adaikalanathar Church, Tanah Street, Vepery.

**January 16th to 19th.**—Lutheran World Federation Executive Meeting at the Connemara Hotel, Mount Road.

**January 16th.**—Jubilee Public Meeting. *Chairman* : The Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.

**January 20th-22nd.**—Asia Lutheran Conference at Gurukul, Kilpauk.

### AT OTHER CENTRES

After January 22nd the foreign visitors will be touring in India and speaking at meetings which will be arranged in different towns. Dr. Vilmos Vajta, Director, Department of Theology, L.W.F., will be the leader of Theological Conferences in the Hindi, Telugu and Tamil areas.

# THE QUARTER MILLENNIUM JUBILEE

## PUBLICATIONS

The following publications sponsored by the Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India will be available at the time of the Jubilee Celebrations. They will also be on sale at Christian bookshops and may be obtained from The Christian Literature Society, Post Box 501, Madras 3.

### IT BEGAN AT TRANQUEBAR

The History of the First Protestant Church in India

by E. ARNO LEHMANN

To understand the Church one must know its history. No Christian in India can afford not to know at least something about the beginnings of the great missionary movement in India which has led to the Protestant churches in India today.

This scholarly yet readable book gives the wonderful story of Tranquebar 'the Mother of all Evangelical Missions in India'. Based on source studies it contains hitherto unpublished information about the pioneers and the far-reaching principles and results of their work which spread from Tranquebar to Tirunelveli in the south and Calcutta in the north. Many problems of caste, Bible translation, the writing of hymn books, language study and the study of Hinduism as well as the founding of congregations and the education of the young were tackled with almost super-human energy and enthusiasm. This book shows how well the foundations were laid and deals with the first ecumenical quadrilateral Denmark-Germany-England-Tranquebar as it transcended national and denominational barriers.

The reader is brought into intimate contact with Ziegenbalg, Francke, the great Schwartz of Tanjore, the scholar Fabricius and the sweet singer Vedanayagam Sastriar. This is a standard work of reference and moving account of a great beginning.

*The Author* : Professor Dr. E. Arno Lehmann is Dean of the Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg, Eastern Germany, and a former missionary in India. He has translated Tamil hymns into German and is the author of *The Arts of the Younger Churches*, about to be published in Berlin.

*Translator* : Rev. M. J. Lutz, Meenangadi, S. Malabar.

*A book of over 300 pages with half-tone illustrations to be published for the F.E.L.C. by the C.L.S. in late 1955, price Rs. 2-8 (cloth Rs. 3). A large subsidy from the F.E.L.C. has made it possible to publish the book at this cheap price.*

## BARTHOLOMAEUS ZIEGENBALG

A Biography by ERICH BEYREUTHER

Missions are not the work of men but of God who calls men into His service in order to build His Kingdom on earth. The human agents of a mission are not important for their own sake but as instruments and servants of a greater cause. This is how the pioneer missionary of the mission at Tranquebar, Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, looked upon his own life and work and also how we remember him on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of his landing at Tranquebar to begin his work.

The early chapters of the book deal with the preparation of Ziegenbalg for his work and are followed by an excellent description of the mission at Tranquebar, its growth and the reactions in India and abroad. The reader not only gets a comprehensive picture of a personality but also a full account of his pioneer efforts up to the time of his death in 1719 at the early age of 36. Missionary methods have greatly changed and all may be tempted to criticise the early efforts and yet how much more is there for which we must be thankful! Ziegenbalg's spirit lives on and this book will help us to keep his spirit alive for the benefit of the whole church.

*The Author* : Dr. Erich Beyruether is well qualified to be the author of this book. His thesis for his doctorate was also based on Ziegenbalg. Dr. Beyruether has had unique opportunities for research and this book contains many new facts presented in a lively and popular style backed by sound scholarship.

*Translators* : Rev. S. G. Lang, Missouri Mission, Bangalore, and Dr H. W. Gensichen, Divinity School, Tranquebar.

*A book of about 100 pages with half-tone illustrations to be published for the F.E.L.C. by the C.L.S. in late 1955, probable price Re. 1-12 (cloth Rs. 2-8).*

## THE SONG OF TRANQUEBAR

by the RT. REV. J. SANDEGREN

Bishop of Tranquebar

This well-produced, attractive booklet gives a brief history of the Tranquebar mission. The waves of Tranquebar sing a song of courage, for the work of the mission was often like the waves which beat on the Coromandal coast. Sometimes the work was quiet and peaceful, at other times troublesome and difficult, sometimes the flood tide of success was followed by periods of bitter disappointment and tragedy, yet always there was movement—the move-

ment of the Spirit of God. *The Song of Tranquebar* will make an excellent souvenir and those who read it will be able to take part in the celebrations with a greater thankfulness to God for His wonderful guidance.

*The Author* : Bishop Sandegren's long term of service as Bishop of Tranquebar qualifies him to write with authority and feeling. It is fitting that the first Indian Bishop of Tranquebar will be consecrated at the celebrations which will also be a climax to Bishop Sandegren's work in India.

*Published for the F.E.L.C. by the C.L.S. and already on sale price 12 annas. A Tamil version translated by the Rev. V. G. Asirvadam, price 8 annas.*

## FROM TRANQUEBAR TO SERAMPORE

The Carey lectures 1955 by the RT. REV. J. SANDEGREN

The Serampore College has resolved to institute 'Carey lectures' to deal with the history of Carey or subjects connected with his work. Bishop Sandegren was asked to deliver the first of these lectures. He chose as his subject the connection between Tranquebar and Serampore, or the development from Ziegenbalg, who came to Tranquebar in 1706, to Carey, who came to Serampore in 1793. He shows that without Tranquebar, there would not have been any Serampore in our mission history, and without Ziegenbalg's work the work of Carey would have been impossible. Both places were Danish colonies. And the Kings of Denmark have had much to do with the starting and maintenance of mission work in both places. Three times on her way from Tranquebar to Serampore the muse of History stopped breathlessly in Copenhagen to watch the encounter between the King who had the power to open the doors to mission work and the devoted workers who were willing to give their lives in order to enter through the doors opened by the King. The first of these encounters took place 1705 when King Frederick IV invited Ziegenbalg and Pluetschau to appear before him and called them to go to Tranquebar as 'Royal Danish Missionaries'. Thus began the Danish-Halle Mission. In the year 1737 Zinzendorf met King Christian VI in Copenhagen. This encounter became the beginning of the mission work of the Moravian Brethren, in Greenland, West Indies, East India and other Danish colonies and in further inaccessible countries. The third historic encounter between King and Missionaries was 1816 when Carey's Moravian co-worker met King Frederick VI in Copenhagen and obtained the Royal Charter for the Serampore University.

The time between Ziegenbalg and Carey witnesses the constant struggle between collectivism and individualism. Only step by step individualism developed so that in Carey's day the time was ripe for a private society sending out individual missionaries unconnected with King or state church. The lecture shows Carey's right place in this development, whether we consider that the modern missionary era, now ending, began in 1706 with Ziegenbalg or nearly 100 years later with Carey.

*Published by the Senate of Serampore, price Re. 1.*

## DR C. J. SANDEGREN

by E. SILEN

Many school children in Sweden know that the name Sandegren is connected with foreign missions. The teaching of mission history is obligatory in the schools, and the handbooks naturally mention the name of Bishop Johannes Sandegren. Even more important than his name for the spread of knowledge about foreign missions in Sweden probably is the name of his father, Carl Jacob Sandegren, who came to India in 1869 and died here in 1929, thus giving 60 years of his long life to India. His life and work had a strong influence on the growth of mission interest in Sweden. For the western part of the country in his home diocese of Gothenburg he may be called the apostle of missions. In India he will be remembered by many as the old and saintly white bearded veteran and wise leader of the Lutheran enterprise in Tamilnad.

His first call to this work he received through a sermon which he did not hear. And the final assurance as to the field to which he was to give 60 years of his life came to him through a letter which was not addressed to him. How that came about the reader of the book will find out.

The book tells us of the growth of mission interest in Sweden and the growth of mission work in India, of the many problems to be solved, of Carl's wife, Theodore Kremmer, of his seven children who all came out to India to join in the work, of the Indian Church which grew up under his wise leadership. Like his father-in-law and his wife he was buried in Tranquebar.

*The Authoress : E. Silen is not an amateur, but a wellknown authoress of a number of books, mainly on foreign missions. This abridged translation into English has been made by Miss E. Wimmercranz.*



## SOME OTHER BOOKS OF INTEREST

### *Talks towards wider Union in South India*

More Conversations between Lutherans, Baptists and the C.S.I., Reports of the 1949 Conference. As. 5.

The Holy Spirit and the Life in Christ, Reports of the C.S.I.-Lutheran Commission, 1953. As. 14.

Unity in Faith and Life, Reports of the 1954 meeting. Re. 1-10.

### *Church Union in India, Pakistan and Ceylon*

The Constitution of the Church of South India. Re. 1-8 (cloth Rs. 2-4).

The Plan of Church Union in North India and Pakistan (reprinting).

Suggested Services for Use at the Proposed Inauguration of the Church of North India and Pakistan. As. 8.

The Proposed Scheme of Church Union in Ceylon. Rs. 2.

### *Other Interesting books in English*

Christianity and the Asian Revolution, edited by Rajah B. Manikam, Rs. 3.

The Elements of Ecumenism by H. W. Gensichen and N. Zernov. Re. 1-4.

Memoir of Christian Frederick Schwartz by G. H. Lamb. As. 12.

The Mission of the Church, a Syllabus in preparation for the Tranquebar celebrations by Dr. S. Estborn, available free (in English or Tamil) from the Gurukul Office, Madras-10.

The Lutheran Enterprise by C. H. Swavely. Rs. 4.

### *Books in Tamil*

Martin Luther by Bishop J. Sandegren (also in Telugu). As. 12.

The Victor and His Reward by Bishop J. Sandegren. As. 10.

The Suffering God by Bishop J. Sandegren.

C. F. Schwartz of Tanjore by A. Eziekiel. As. 12.

Ziegenbalg by Rhenius Devaprasad. As. 15.

## FILMS

### *A film on the life of Ziegenbalg*

This film has been produced under the supervision of the Lutheran World Federation in co-operation with the F.E.L.C. Field Committee in India and the U.S.A. National Committee for Lutheran World Federation arranged by Film Productions International, Hollywood, California. The film was actually shot in the familiar surroundings of Tranquebar. The second part of it was taken at the Vauhini Studios at Kodambakkam, Madras, under the direction of Mr. Kenn Carmichel of the Film Productions International, California. It will be released and shown in South India before the end of 1955. A Tamil sound track is also to be produced on the tape-recorder for the sake of the village congregations in South India. The film will be available for loan from the Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church Evangelical Band after the celebrations are over in Tranquebar and Madras.

*A Documentary Film*

A documentary film in technicolour depicts the activities of the various Lutheran Churches that are affiliated with the F.E.L.C. It will be first shown at the time of the Jubilee celebrations and later released for public use. The tail-end of the documentary film will be shot at the consecration of the fourth Bishop of Tranquebar Dr. R. B. Manikam, Secretary of the World Council of Churches and International Missionary Council for South-East Asia, on 14th January 1956.

**SEALS**

Jubilee Seals have been released from the headquarters of the Lutheran World Federation in Geneva. 2,50,000 have been ordered for India. These seals, a gift of the Leipzig Evangelical Lutheran Mission, have been printed in Leipzig.

**A TRANQUEBAR CALENDAR FOR 1956**

An attractive pictorial calendar, valuable pictures, historical dates and inspiring mottos to be ready as one of the celebration souvenirs. Produced by the Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India. Price Re. 1.

**THE JUBILEE EDITION OF THE TAMIL BIBLE**

The Swedish and Danish Bible Societies through their generous grants have made possible the printing of a special Jubilee Edition of 30,000 copies of the new Tamil version of the Bible issued by the Bible Society of India, Pakistan and Ceylon. Part of the edition will be issued at the time of the Celebrations with a special Jubilee cover.

**A HISTORICAL NOTE OF INTEREST**

This folder and several of the Jubilee publications are being printed at the Diocesan Press, Madras, a press very closely connected with the history of the Tranquebar Mission. The Press was founded on its present site in 1760 by the Rev. J. P. Fabricius after the Mission had extended its work to Madras. For many years it was known as the S.P.C.K. Press—a witness to that close co-operation between the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge and the Danish Mission. Later the Press was taken over by the Anglican Diocese of Madras and the name changed to Diocesan Press. But in 1930 the Press became the property of the Christian Literature Society.

The Old Vepery Mission House in which Fabricius lived and which was for many years the centre of Protestant mission work in Madras, still forms part of the Press premises.



THE NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH  
DEDICATED 1718

