

Rev. Packianathan David

A Christian Legend and Poet

As the maternal grandson of Rev. Packianathan David I deem it a great privilege to pay my tribute to him and bring out his exemplary contributions to the forward march of Christianity in India.

My ancestors, who lived in the village Pillayanmanai in the year 1852 were Hindus and they were baptized and admitted to Christianity at Mookuperi on 08.10.1852 by the Christian Missionaries Honb;le A.F.Kumar and Honb;le Bretherden, who were then working around Nazareth. Among those who were baptized was my great grandfather Arunachalam, who became Arumaniayagam. His son, my grandfather, was Rev. Gnanapragasam (30.11.1847 - 30.10.1912). My father, G.V.Samuel (17.09.1875 - 25.02.1929), eldest son of Rev. Gnanapragasam, was in service with Central Government. After retirement in May 1926 he settled in Pillayanmanai along with his family. He passed away on 25.02.1929. My mother, Mrs. Angel Samuel (18.09.1891 - 01.02.1989), was the daughter of Rev. packianathan David.

Rev. Packianathan David was born on 29th May 1841 in Solaseri. He was ordained as deacon in 1876 and as a priest in 1879 by Bishop Sargent in Palayamkottai. He served in Sivakasi (1876 - 1877) and Dhonavur (1877 - 1895). He was the Chairman of the Church Council of Dhonavur during 1893 - 1895. He slept in Jesus on 15th June 1895 at Dhonavur. The regard with which he was held by the local congregation was shown by the fact that his mortal remains