

THOMAS, LEWIS JOHN (1883 - 1970), missionary in India with the London Missionary Society

Name: Lewis John Thomas
Date of birth: 1883
Date of death: 1970
Spouse: Hannah E. Thomas (née Mathews)
Child: Iorwerth Thomas
Parent: Mary Thomas (née Williams)
Parent: Cefni Thomas
Gender: Male
Occupation: missionary in India with the London Missionary Society
Area of activity: Religion
Author: Huw Ethall

Born 2 February 1883 at Llangefni, Anglesey, son of Cefni and Mary (née Williams) Thomas. The family moved to Rhiwbrydir, Blaenau Ffestiniog, when he was five. After a period as a pupil-teacher and working on the railway, he moved to Corwen and then Birkenhead. There he came under the influence of the 1904-05 religious revival and began preaching; he had wished to become a missionary since he was a young man.

After attending Paton College, Nottingham, he was ordained at Jerusalem, Blaenau Ffestiniog, 12 October 1911. He sailed for India 4 November 1911 and worked hard as a superintendent of a large number of churches in the provinces where Telugu was spoken. He married Hannah E. Mathews in Madras; they lived at Cuddapah, Kamalapuram, Goety and Jammalamadugu, and had a son and daughter. From 1927 to 1938 he was responsible for a seminary to instruct native evangelists, and from 1939 to 1949 he was secretary/treasurer of the Missionary Society. As an uncompromising Independent, he opposed the United Church, although he gave of his best in all co-operative activities.

He retired from missionary work in 1949, but accepted the care of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Bangalore, where their son Iorwerth was a missionary and head of a boys' grammar school. He lost his sight in 1954. His wife died 13 May 1964 and he died 17 April 1970 in Bangalore where they both were buried.

Author

Reverend Huw Ethall

Sources

Personal research

Additional Links

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Published date: 2001

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