

Kitty Wood Barr-Kumarakulasinghe

Born USA.17.1.1853

Died Ceylon 17.1.1926

by **Richard. J. Kanagasundaram, 2000, New Zealand**

Orrie Emma Wood or "Kitty" as she was known, was married to my grandfather's brother, Gate Mudaliar K.C.Barr-Kumarakulasinghe. Unfortunately my curiosity was not sufficiently aroused, when my parents were living, to try and learn more of this strange American woman who had entered the Barr family. However I am grateful to several sources, for the help received in piecing together all the information into a short biography.

Dr Isaac Thambyah, the brother in law of K.C.B.Kumarakulasinghe, writes about him and his wife Kitty in a publication titled "In Memoriam", a tribute to K.C.B's brother Chellam, who died in London. In this publication a letter by Kitty to the "Free Methodist" is quoted. The search tools for the Internet, helped me to locate a denomination of evangelical Methodists called the Free Methodists, in the U S A. Their response was immediate; coming up with references to Kitty Wood from their archives in Indianapolis.

The other sources were Mrs Blossom Navaratnam of Toronto, a niece of K.C.B, and the diaries of Rev Arthur Paynter, who helped to establish an Orphanage with Kitty in Nuwara Eliya, Ceylon. Some of the information is rather inaccurate, but the reader will have no difficulty forming an impression of Kitty Wood, her faith, determination and the fortitude with which she bore all her tribulations, in a foreign land.

Kitty Wood was born in Lockport New York on the 17th of Jan 1853, the daughter of Rev Levi and Sarah Wood. The parents were both pioneers of the Free Methodist Church. Levi was also the first editor of the "*Free Methodist*" paper. In 1867 the family moved to North Chili, where Kitty became a student at A M Chesborough Junior College, during the early years of its existence.

At the age of eleven, she was converted and united with the Free Methodist Church in North Chili, where she retained her membership for thirty nine years. At the age of eighteen she graduated with honors in the classical course at Chili Seminary. After graduation she became Private Secretary to a blind evangelist, who was also the author of several books and religious tracts. In 1882 she moved to Chicago, where she worked part time in the office of the Free Methodists. Being very interested in evangelical work, Kitty devoted much time to City mission work in Chicago.

In March 1882 Kitty Wood along with a band of forty missionaries sailed for India. It was a purely faith mission, the group collecting their own supplies and financing their efforts. Kitty Wood traveled on to Ceylon and arriving in Colombo, she expressed a desire to learn



KITTIE WOOD KUMARAKULASINGHE
AND CHILDREN



*Gate Mudaliyar K. C. Barr-
Kumarakulasinghe*



Kitty Woods

Tamil, one of the languages of the indigenous people. Tamil was the language of the people living mainly in the North and East of the country. Gate Mudaliar K.C.Barr-Kumarakulasinghe was introduced to her as tutor. He was then Chief Translator and Interpreter to the Governor Sir West Ridgeway. K.C.B was, to quote Dr Isaac Thambyah, his brother-in-law, "A man of noble appearance,manly bearing and sustained dignity.His life was based on principles of self denial and service."

Kitty and K.C.B.were drawn to each other and very soon K.C.B expressed a desire to marry her. Marriage to foreigners was very rare,at that time especially to Caucasians, and there appears to have been some opposition from K.C.B's mother Sivakami. Mrs Blossom Navaratnam, sheds some light on their respective attitudes.She says-

"Yes Appachi (Sivakami) was a tough stubborn person;yet she had to give in to her son's request with good grace.He tactfully pointed out to her that he had cleared all the family debts(the properties had been heavily mortgaged by K.C.B's father),settled all the brothers and sisters,and done all that his late father would have done.He wanted his own life with the woman of his choice."

Kitty and K.C.B eventually married,and there is evidence that she was accepted into the family. They had three children, the eldest a girl was called Akilanda Catherine,and the boys Charlie and Willie.The children are described in an article to the"*Free Methodist*"Feb 25 1906. (vide attachment)

It was the practice for K.C.B to visit the Maldiv Islands with the Governor ,Sir West Ridgeway, as it was at that time, being administered from Colombo. On one of these routine visits K.C.B contracted an illness from which he never recovered. He died in June1903 at the age of 43.

It is said that K.C.B on his death bed requested Kitty not to take the children back to the U S A, fearing that they would not be treated fairly, being the children of a mixed marriage. However loneliness and her father's illness made Kitty decide to take the children back. It was also her intention to educate them at Seattle Pacific College. This decision appears to have led to some conflict with the Barr relatives.

The journey back to America was a long and tedious one taking several weeks. On the way, the children fell ill with diphtheria, and Akilanda and Charlie succumbed to the illness, and were buried at sea. Willie died soon after arriving in New York. He was buried in the family grave near President Garfield's.There is some mention that President Garfield was related in some way to Kitty.Garfield was the 27th president, but he held office for only six months before being assassinated by a disgruntled official. No evidence could be found to substantiate the connection.

This is what Mrs Navaratnam has to say about subsequent events.

Kitty's father died soon after she reached America;desolate and heartbroken, she stayed on in America for a year. During this time she stimulated interest in missionary enterprises,and helped to raise money for such works, before returning to Ceylon.The Barrs shunned her,turning their backs, had nothing to do with her till her death in 1926. I remember my mother looking sad, when we returned from school one day. She spoke to my sisters who were older than me,and said" Your Aunt whom you never saw,has died; a stranger in a foreign land,a castaway. The stubborn , Kumarakulasinghes never found it in their hearts to forgive her. Thereafter she returned to Nuwara Eliya and helped to found

an orphanage and school. She spent all her time and wealth there, and was much loved. They called her "Sudhu Aunty" or White Aunty."

It is after the return of Kitty from America, that her association with the Paynter family becomes evident. It would be appropriate to deal briefly on the history of the Paynter family because of this connection which lasted several years until Kitty's death in 1926.

Arthur Stephen Paynter was born in Bicester in Oxfordshire, where his father owned several breweries. Arthur married Anagi, the daughter of a Ceylonese, Arnolis Weerasooriya. Both were in the Salvation Army and worked in India and after some years left in order to start the India Christian Mission. Arthur and Anagi moved to Ceylon in 1904, and decided to start a mission in Nuwara Eliya. Fortunately Arthur was an inveterate diarist and there are several references to Kitty Wood. The first time Kitty's name comes up, is with this entry:

1905 April 9th.

Received Rs 400 from Mrs Kumarakulasinghe (This was a fortune those days) First meeting held in Railway Station- Went to Holy Trinity Church. Musa Bhai, old Tamil friend joins us.

1905 June 13th

Aunty Kumara and children going to America- She was Kitty Wood, sister of General Wood of the US Army- She married Kumarakulasingham, Interpreter Mudaliar to His Excellency the Governor. He died in 1903.

1905 June 25th

Letter from Mrs Kumara; Akhil and Thamby dead- Poor dear Aunty

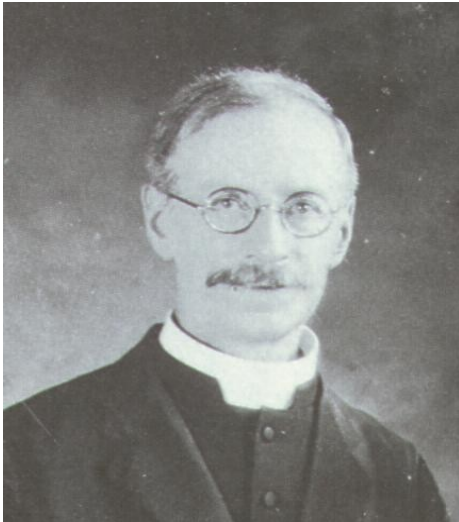
(n.b. Kitty was going to America with her three children, the baby died on the voyage of Yellow Fever and the other two died later when the ship was kept in Quarantine in New York. ? *Diagnosis of Yellow fever probably incorrect, may have been jaundice due to Hepatitis. RJK*)

Anagi writes to Aunty Kumara.

*"I am so sorry for everything and cant tell you how much I feel for you. I do wish I could have been with you through it all. I am sure the Lord has been near and dear to you all the while. It must have been terrible, and must still be terrible, but Jesus is with you and can help you to bear it. I am weak I fear; I could not have stood it. Did J B tell you what Mr Unwin wrote to us? He said, God must love you well, to be able to trust you with so much sorrow. **If the Lord leads you back to Ceylon, come straight here and make your home with us.** I would be so glad to have you. J B hopes to leave for England on July 5th (J B or Jai Bhai was the name assumed by Arthur Paynter in India) He has been so ill, and goes for an Appendicitis operation. He is taking an Indian worker from the East coast with him. The Lord sent the money for their fare in a wonderful way. It was all given by people who have been to our Nuwara Eliya meetings, during the past two years. Thank God for these loving friends. Pray for J B and his little family here.*

1905 July 1st

Memorial Service for Mrs Kumara's children.



Arthur Stephen Paynter



Anagi Paynter (nee Weerasooriya)

1907 Feb 4th

Started work on the Union Church

1907 April 7th

Aunty Kumara sends Postcard from New York: Leaving for Ceylon
Apr 22nd. Praise God!

1907 Aug 3rd

Aunty Kumara arrives in Nuwara Eliya.

1908 June 1st

Aunty Kumara's birthday.

1908 Oct 15th

Mrs Kumara here for dinner. Pleased

1908 Nov 1st

Arnold Paynter (Son) left for Kandy re: the Kumara land
(Hertford).

Visited Mrs Kumara in hospital-Very poorly

1908 Dec 11th

Mrs Kumara, poor soul very ill.

Diary entries missing till 1926

1926 Jan 10th

Mrs Kumara very low.

6 pm Mrs Kumarakulasingham DIED.

Phoning re: arrangements for funeral et, dear Aunty Kumara.

1926 Jan 11th

Mrs. Kumarakulasinghe's funeral. A rush of work.
Funeral 2.30 pm, real crowd. Back to Mission House.

1926 Sept 1st.

Visited Mrs Kumara's House (Hertford). Building up.

1927 Apr 7 th

Opening of new home (Hertford) AGA Harrison Jones very happy
re:children.

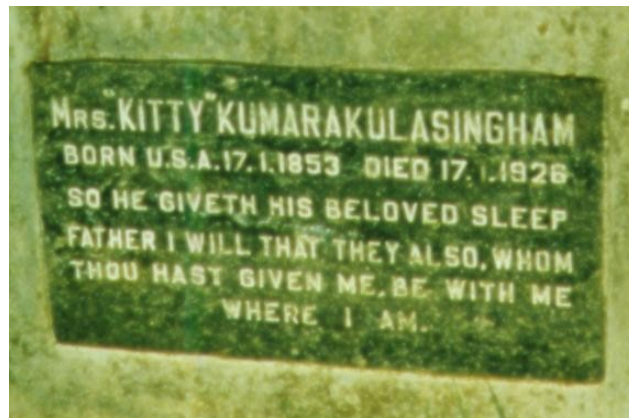
The Arnold Paynter Orphanage is still continuing its humanitarian work in Nuwara Eliya. The adjacent school however was taken over by the Sri Lankan Government during the Educational Reforms of 1961.



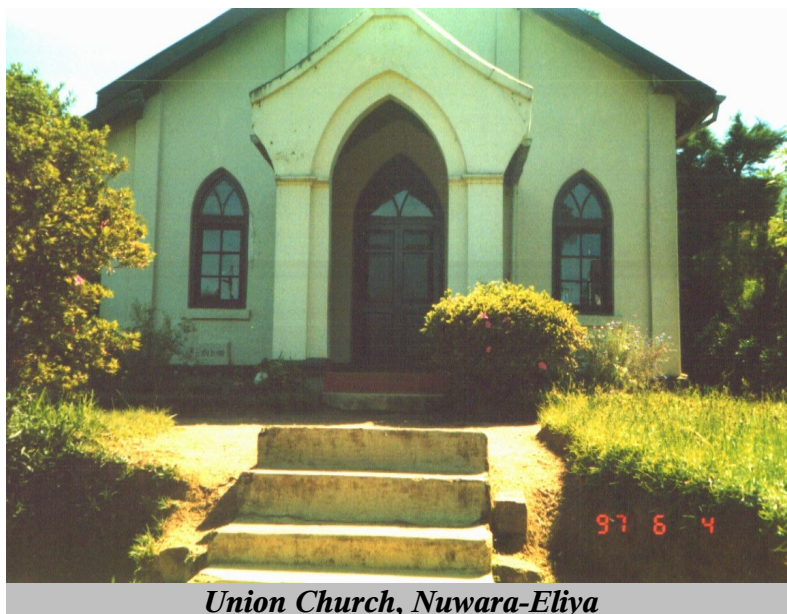
K. C. B-K's residence, Tellipalai, Ceylon



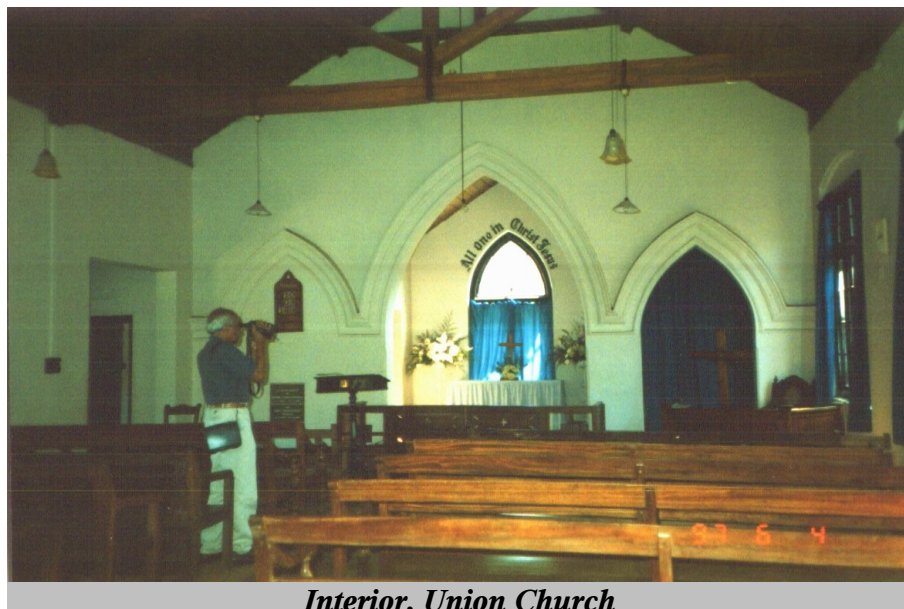
Kitty Woods residence, Hill Cottage, Nuwara-Eliya, Ceylon



Kittys Grave, Nuwara-Eliya, Ceylon



Union Church, Nuwara-Eliya



Interior, Union Church

It was a practice for the Press to cover the funeral's of prominent people,so we are fortunate in having the report of Kitty Woods funeral in Nuwara Eliya.

Funeral of Mrs Kitty Barr Kumarakulasinghe

Largely attended funeral in Nuwara-Eliya.

N'Eliya. Jan 12

The funeral of MrsKitty Barr Kumarakulasinghe, whose death was already recorded in our issue,took place at the Non Conformist burial ground today at 1.45 pm in the presence of a large gathering. Prior to the cortege leaving "Beulah", the deceased's residence, Rev A.S.Paynter, Pastor Union Church, held a brief service, after which the remains enclosed in a handsome casket were carried by Messrs A.I.Rajasingham, Wilson Ward, J.R.Fry, Vivian. C.Perera, De Coonam and S.V.Alagaratnam, to a motor car, and the procession wended its way to the Union Church, where Rev A.S.Paynter held a funeral service. The hymn "Peace Perfect Peace", being feelingly rendered, MissRuth Paynter, presiding at the organ. The coffin was carried to the car again,and at the burial ground the following pall-bearers took up teir position carrying the coffin to the graveside;-

Mr A.I.Rajasingham	Mr De Coonam
J.R.Fry	S.V.Alagaratnam
H.M.Greet	William Ward
Vivian.C.Perera	C.D.C.Chimin.

Rev Paynter read the concluding graveside prayers, after which the coffin was lowered to its last resting place. Rev Paynter then delivered a stirring address dwelling on the deceased life history and service to God. The grave was completely hidden by flowers and foliage. Among those who sent wreaths, were All at "Hill Cottage" India Christian Mission, Worshippers at Union Church. Advocate and Mrs C.S.Rajaratnam, Mr and Mrs L.M.Wordsworth, Mr and Mrs J.R.Fry, Mr and Mrs A.I.Rajasingham, Mr and Mrs Vivian .C.Perera, Mr and Mrs Greet Darlington, Misses Bell, Mr and Mrs Hindle, Mr and Mrs Ralhart Francis, Mr and Mrs White, Mrs F.Bartholomeuz, Miss Estelle Bartholomeuz. Miss Keyt, Mr and Mrs William Ward, Mrs Fanny Corteling. Mrs Vidier and several others.

The deceased had completed 40 years of missionary work in Ceylon. She was always of a cheery disposition, and counted a wide circle of friends in Nuwea Eliya. She was highly educated, a very able writer and also wrote some beautiful poems. Quite recently she was engaged in translating the scriptures into the Maldivian language the Maldivians being a people much liked by her husband. She was nursed to the end by Miss Paine of the Salvation Army."

FREE METHODIST CHICAGO, SEPT 25 1906

THE TRANSLATION OF MY THREE LOVING CHILDREN.

I wish to write about my three little ones, who are in my heart and will continue to be imaged there until I shall meet them and rejoice in their glad love.

Agilanda Catherine came to us as a wee mite of a thing, but she developed into an ordinary sized girl, with large dark eyes, dark curls and a very womanly mien.

Charlie for he was named after his father, was a bright fat baby, but when he was a year old, he had a very serious sickness, left him never as strong again after that. He had a fine intellect though, and at the age of seven had so advanced in his studies that he could do difficult sums in long division: and if he once tackled a sum he would not give up until it was finished correctly.

Willie was our baby and he came soon after his father's death, and was truly our joy, the children as well as mine. Of a bright, happy and cheerful disposition, intense in everything he did, and with a great kind heart, he seemed just what we needed in the home where the sorrow of his father's departure was so still keenly felt. Truly he was a gift of God to us, my darling happy baby.

But just as they seemingly had become the most to me, that ruthless destroyer, shall I say nay reaper, garnered them in, and in one short month my precious treasures were no more to be seen by me on earth; though beyond my conception happy, radiantly happy.. But Oh, the empty mother's arm! Let me write what I wrote the night after my girlie fled from me, for she was the last one to go. "Oh, my baby, my precious little boy! How he used to wake out of his sleep, and say "Mamma I love you" but the father has them all. I wanted them, but they are delivered out of this evil world. My baby boy lies in the waters of the Atlantic; but the Earth and the Sea shall give up there dead. How they suffered, but I wanted them still. Now they are gone, I thank God they are better off. If they were my own children, I must say they were exceptionally intelligent and good. It was the father's intelligence they inherited, but they live and move and go on progressing to all eternity. They got a good start here only to be continued. My darlings all gone! Oh, may my life be the rest of it. "Thy Kingdom come" I do not say it selfishly, but they will come with the King.

Before dying my Thamby boy (the second child) who had reached his seventh birthday, four days before, asked me "Mamma may I go and play with baby" (baby had gone before him) Yes darling I said. Then he said as though addressing his brother "You go first, I will go second, and Agill will go third". And so it was. A little later I wrote on a piece of paper, you like to be with Jesus and the angels and Papa? and with full consciousness, he said cheerfully "Yes I like to go Mamma; do you like it?" for he never wanted to do anything unless I liked it. I could say nothing.. My Akhil asked for a piece of paper and wrote "I love Jesus more than tongue can tell" wrote asking "Do you like to live or go to heaven". She wrote I like to do what God wishes' and another time "I would like to stay with you as long as I can, do you understand, mother dear? My heart bleeds, but I know that God makes no mistakes. I look through a cloud and see His face.

Akhilanda Catherine Kumarakulasinghe had just reached her tenth birthday and her brother Charlie his eighth. My baby was two years and seven months, the joy that supported my soul

after his father went, God has been good to us. Love never dies, my treasures are in heaven.

I could write so much about their beautiful lives; but they had special grace given to them during their sickness. During that month passed, with the two elder ones in hospital, not a word of murmuring did I hear from their lips; but once when it seemed that I should fail, though I dared not show it, my girlie wrote, for she could not speak "God is a loving and caring God, God is love." When Aghil was sick, she loved her Bible as long as she could hear, but after those dreadful abscesses that destroyed her hearing, she wished me to hold the Book so that she could read it herself. It was such a comfort to her.

Do not think that because they were God's children, they were not fond of play. No more buoyant romping children could be found when they were in health. They loved dogs and cats. Oh what gambols they used to have with the calf. Before their father died, they used to ride about on the pony's back, and when it was not the pony's, it was their father's.

They had their little work to do, and after we left Colombo, two miles a day each way to school, where they were under a private teacher, and music practice, and lessons to be prepared, and everything they could do themselves, and something to help mother, each day; besides there was the Sunday school lesson in Tamil on Friday and the children's meeting on Saturday at Mrs Harris's and prayer meeting on Thursday at half past four, for where Mama went they went also. There was nothing they liked so much as the open air meeting on Sunday afternoon near the market. One day I called someone to pray, but no one did, and again no one responded, when my little boy then six years old prayed with such simplicity and earnestness that it moved the older ones to shame and to pray.

I would like to copy a few lines from Mrs Ethel Clarke's letter, which I received lately from India. I was there just before coming away.

"It is strange to think that those dear little children who just a few months ago, made this bungalow resound with their romping and laughter are with the angels. I remember so well the day we were making the new dress for Willie, how they all chased each other across the house, first through the bedroom then out on the verandah, then back through the side door, and through again. Little Willie seemed so sweet that afternoon, after we brushed his curls, and put the new dress on him. But he is just as sweet and beautiful in heaven. Charlie did not seem strong enough to go through this wicked world, easily, so God took him to a more genial clime. Darling Catherine! God wanted her too. I think she is one of the dearest children I have ever known, so pretty and bright and such a sweet disposition. The tears almost choke me as I write. I know not what to say. He can. All missionaries are praying for you"

And again from Sister Ward:

"My heart goes out to you in inexpressible longing as I read of the translation of your three dear children. How we learned to love them during our stay in "Yeotmal" Louisa used to come in after being in your room to say "Oh Mamma isn't the baby sweet. I feel like hugging him. His laughing brown eyes and curly head. I could fill a letter with thoughts of love for those precious ones. The girl so good to her little brothers the boy so manly. What a large place he had in my heart." But Oh, the empty mother's arms"

And I can echo an empty mother's arms. Love draws me as with an irresistible attraction to heaven. And may this little story of their life do the same for you.

A Child of the King

Kittle Wood Kumarakulasinghe was a faithful, warm-hearted, unique child of God. We never saw a person of greater humility. She was a Christian from her girlhood, a daughter of Rev. Levi Wood, one of the earliest preachers in the Free Methodist Church. Living at North Chili, New York, she was graduated from the A. M. Chebrough Seminary of that place. Her call was to public service. She loved and occasionally labored with the Salvation Army. She was wholly devoted to the work of God, lifting up the fallen, doing service to any and all who were in need. She seemed to have little thought for her own comfort or well-being.

About forty years of her life have been spent in missionary work in the island of Ceylon. She built a rest home at Newara Eliya, in which many of God's children, weary with service, have been cared for. Miss Effie Southworth and Miss Effie Cowherd were intending to visit her the coming summer. Miss Cowherd's first coming to India was with Mrs. Kumarakulasinghe on her last return from America. She writes: "In many ways she was a remarkable woman. The editor of the *Christian Herald* in New York City told her that she ought to write—it was her gift, and said they would be glad to pay her well for her contributions; but I do not think she ever sent much to them. I remember seeing only two articles from her."

As near as we can find out she died on January 17, 1926. After a month in the hospital, she returned to her home; but repeated attacks of heart failure forbade recovery. She wrote in a letter

dated December 21, 1925, "I believe the time of my departure is at hand."

On her last visit to America she had the heart-breaking experience of losing her three children, two girls and a boy during the voyage, but in all this bitter sorrow she "sinned not nor charged God foolishly." Her husband had previously died in Ceylon.

It was fitting that a memorial service should be held for her at North Chili, New York, where she always held her church membership. Rev. Foster Wood, of the Baptist Theological School, Rochester, New York, her nephew, and himself a returned missionary from the Congo, Africa, gave the principal address. He said, "In her life we get a lesson of unselfish service and a purpose moved by God Himself. She was intensely in earnest and gave herself to the highest part of life—the religious. She turned aside for nothing." She loved the people among whom she labored. There was nothing she would not do for them. With no missionary board nor organization to assist her, but with strong faith, persistent effort, a loving heart, a constant dependence upon the Holy Spirit for help, she has accomplished much in God's work and enshrined herself in a multitude of hearts. Miss Bernice Wood, of Kaifeng, China, was influenced much by her aunt's life and example. She once remarked, "I always expected, from a child, to be a missionary."

The "storm of life" is past and our dear sister has reached the port safely. No doubt higher service awaits her in the heavenly country.

சு த் த வ ந் தி

குறள்வேண்டிசெந்துறை

1. உலகம்எலாம் படைத்தளிக்கும் ஒருவன்அடி அன்றி
ஒருநாளும் வேறென்றும் எண்ணாத நெஞ்சன்,
பலகலைகள் பயின்றிருந்தும் இறுமாப்பே அறியாப்
பாலன்என வேளவரும் புகழும்ஒரு குரிசில்.
2. இவன்பெற்ற மகள்ஒருத்தி சுத்தவந்தி என்பாள்
இந்தியரும் இலங்கையரும் வாழ்ந்தனரி. சிறக்க
அவன் அருளால் அவன் அடியை வணங்கும்வகை யாரும்
அறிந்துகொழு வேண்டும்என்ற ஆசைபிடர் உந்த;
3. தன்னகாம் தன்னவர்கள் தன்னாடு விடுத்தித்
தம்பெருமான் மலர்அடியே துணைஎனத்தான் கொண்டே
என்னகாம் என்னவர்கள் என்னாடு மகிழ
இங்குபல கைக்கரியம் செய்துவரும் நாளில்;
4. இறைவன் அருள் கூட்டஇவள் குமாரகுல சிங்கம்
எனும்கனக நாயகனை அறியஇவர் இருவர்
அறம்இரண்டுள் இல்லறமே நல்லறம்என் றெண்ணி
அவ்வறத்திட் புகுந்தபல அறம்இயற்றி உவந்தார்.
5. வள்ளுவரை வாசுகிபோல் இருவரும்ஓர் உயிரே
எனவரும் புகழமண்மேல் இனிதிறையும் காலை,
கிள்ளுகுயில் யாழ்எனவே மழலைமொழி பேசும்
மூவர்மகார் எம்பெருமான் கிருபையினூற் பிறந்தார்.
6. கலைச்செல்வம் பொருட்செல்வம் பிள்ளைகளாம் செல்வம்
உத்தியோகச் செல்வம்எனும் கடல்களிலே அமிழ்த்தித்
தலைவன் அடி மறந்தவர்கள் தாரணியிற் சிலரோ?
தம்பதிகள் இவர்இருவர் அத்தகையார் அல்லர்.
7. செல்வம்எலாம் தருகின்ற செல்வன் அடிச் செல்வம்
செல்வம் அன்றி மற்றவைதாம் செல்வம்என லாமோ?
கல்வியைத்தான் கல்விஎன்று சொல்லஇடம் உண்டோ,
“கற்றகனூற் பயன்என்கொல்” கடவுள் அடி மறந்தால்?

8. சுத்தவந்தி குமாரகுல சிங்கம்இவர் இருவர்
சுத்தமனத் தோடிறைவன் மலர் அடியை வாழ்த்தி
நித்தமுமே அருள் அமுதம் பருகிவந்தார்; இவரால்
நித்தன் அடி கண்டயந்தார் வேறுபல மாந்தர்.
9. இப்படியே இவர் இருவர் வாழ்த்துவந்த நாளில்
இல்லாளைப் பிள்ளைகளை இவ்வுலகில் விடுத்தே
செப்பமுடி யாதகிலை கணவனவன் சேரத்
“திருவருளே போதும்என்றன் சிறுவருக்கும் எனக்கும்.
10. “எந்தையவர் என்னாட்டில் இருக்கின்றார், அவர்பால்
ஏகடுவோம் பிள்ளைகளும் யானும்” என எண்ணி,
தந்தையவர் நாட்டுக்குக் கப்பலிலே ஏறி,
நானும் தன் மக்களொடு கடற்பயணம் செய்தாள்.
11. கப்பலிலே ஒருபிள்ளை வியாதியினால் வருந்திக்
கடவுள் அடி சேரையிர், கடலில் உடல் இட்டார்.
“அப்பா, உன் சித்தம் இது, அப்பனெனினார் பிள்ளை
அடியேன்கை தனில் இருவர் மக்கள் உளார்” என்றார்.
12. துறைபுதுபோய்ச் சேருமுன்னே இன்னும் ஒரு பிள்ளை
சுரகோயால் வருந்தினது; துறைசேர்ந்த வுடனே
இறைவன் அடி மறவாத சுத்தவந்தி இருவர்
பிள்ளைகளைக் கொண்டுரை சேர்ந்தவுடன் ஆங்கே;
13. பிண்தீரில் லம்தேடிப் பிள்ளைகளை வைத்தப்
பரிகாரம் செய்தும அந்தப் பிள்ளை இறந்ததுவே.
பிணிமற்றப் பிள்ளையையும் பிணித்ததனால் ஆங்கே
பின்னும் இராப் பகல்கழித்தும் பயன் ஒன்றும் இல்லை.
14. முவர்மகார் இறந்தபின்பும் முனைவன்றன் அருளே
முமுநெஞ்சிற் குடி கொண்ட மொய்ப்பினள் “என் தந்தை
சிவனுடன் இருக்கின்றார், செல்வேன் யான் ஆங்கே,
செல்வேன் யான் எந்தையிடம் தேவன் அருளாலே.”
15. என எண்ணித் தந்தையவர் இருக்கும் இடம் தேடி
“எங்கே என் தந்தை?” என வினவினள்; ஆங் குள்ளார்
“நினதப்பர் சின்னா முன் நித்தியலோ கத்தை
நினைந்தங்கே சென்றனால்” என்று விடை பகர்ந்தார்.

16. “என்கணவன் இறந்தபின்னர் மூவர்க்கா ரோடே
எந்தைத்தனைத் தேடிஇங்கு புறப்பட்டி வந்தேன்;
நன்கலமாம் பிள்ளைகளும் எனைஅகன்று சென்றார்;
நான்வருமுன் ஏந்தையுமே நல்லுலகம் சேர்ந்தார்.
17. “படமுடியா தினித்தயரம் படமுடியா தந்தோ
படுபாவி நான்என்று கலங்கிவிழு வேவே?
படமுடியா தானிலும் பாமன்அருள் இருந்தால்
படமுடியும் படமுடியும் படமுடியும் என்பேன்.
18. “என்கணவன் என்கனகம் என்சிங்கந் தன்னை
எனைவிட்டுப் பிரித்தாலும் உன்னருள்என் றிருந்தேன்,
நன்கலம்என் மூவரையும் ஒவ்வொருவ ராக
நான்உனக்குக் கொடுத்தவிட்டு நல்லதென வந்தேன்.
19. “எந்தைமடி மீதுமுகம் வைத்தமுதாற் திரும்
என்கவலை எனஎண்ணி இங்குவந்தேன்; ஐயோ!
எந்தைஇலை இங்கென்றன் கண்ணீரைத் துடைக்க,
யாரும்இலேன், யாரும்இலேன், யாரும்இலேன், ஐயோ!
20. “இனிஇந்த உலகத்தில் எனக்கேதம் உண்டோ?
என்னையுமே உன்னிடமே வருகஎன அழைப்பாய்,
இனித்தயரம் படமுடியா தெனஅழுத என்னை
‘என்மகளே, என்மகளே, யானும்இறந் தேனோ?’
21. “உன்னுள்ளத் துறுகவலை அறிவேயாயன்; நீதான்
உலகில்உள்ள நாள்எல்லாம் ஒழியாஇக் கவலை;
உன்னுள்ளத் துறுகவலை ஒழியாமல் நீற்கும்;
உனைத்தாங்க என்னருளே பொதும்இன்றும் என்றும்.
22. “இன்னும்நீ பலவருடம் இவ்வுலகில் எனக்குக்
கைங்கரியம் பலசெய்தல் வேண்டும்;அகன் மேலே
பொன்னுலகம் நீஅடைதல் கூடும்,அது வரையும்
போதும்உனக் கென்னருளே உன்கவலை தாங்க.
23. “இவ்வாறு சொல்லும்ஒரு சொல்லத்தைக் கேட்டேன்,
காதாலோ ரெஞ்சினிலோ, யாதொன்றும் அறியேன்!
எவ்வாறு சொல்வேன்என் அனுபவத்தை உமக்கே?
என்கவலை தாங்குவதற் கிடைவன்அருள் பெற்றேன்.

24. "எனைஒழிந்து போகாத துயரம்எலாம் தாங்க
இறைவன்ருள் போதும்என அனுபவத்திற் கண்டேன் ;
இலிஉலகில் யாரும்இலேவ் ஒன்றும்இலேவ் ; எங்கை
இனியதிருச் சித்தம்அன்றி வேறென்றும் இல்வேன்."
25. தந்தைநகர் சுத்தவந்தி றேர்ந்தவுடன் தானே
எழுதியலர் கடித்தின் சாரமிது காண்மின்.
எந்தையருள் இலங்கையர்கள் இந்தியர்கள் அறிய
என்றாடு தனைநாடி வந்தாளே பின்னும்.
26. சுத்தவந்தி முகந்தன்னை என்கண்ணாற் கண்டேன் ;
சொல்லுவதெப் படிஅந்த முகந்தன்னை உமக்கே?
மெத்தவிசை நம்பநின்ற முகந்தனிலே ஈசன்
அருள் அளித்த ஐயுதலின் விவாசம்விளங் கினதே.
27. பின்னும்இரு பதவருடம் கைக்கரியஞ் செய்தாள்
பிறர்என்றும் தமர்என்றும் பேதம்ஒன்றும் இன்றி.
மன்னும்அறு பத்திரண்டு வயதுநிறை வுற்று
மாதேவன் மலர்அடியில் வாழ்ந்தகளிக் கின்றாள்.
28. இன்புறினும் தன்புறினும் இறைவ,உன தருளால்
யான்எனவும் எனதெனவும் நினையாமல் என்றும்
மன்பதைகள் ஈடேற ஊழியம்யான் செய்ய
மாதேவா நீஎனக்கு வழங்குகலர் வரமே.

Francis Kingsbury

கொழும்பு,
நாதுளு புரட்டாதிழி.