

Dr. Miss. Annamma Mathew – Ankola Ashram, Karnataka, 1922- 1997

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Annamma was born (28 December, 1922) as the fifth child of Kuriannoor Athinilkunnathil Cheriya Mathai and Kumbanad Puzhikkalayil Aleyamma. She had her school education in Kumbanad, Eraviperoor and Kottayam. She was a nursery school teacher in S.C. Seminary School in Tiruvalla, from 1942-1945. After that she joined the South India Bible Institute in Kolar (Karnataka) for her theological training. In 1948, she became a member of our Christa Mitra Ashram in Ankola. She got her medical diploma LSMF (LSMF diploma - licentiate of state medical Faculty) from the Ludhiana Medical College (1951-56) and served our Ashram Hospital till her death.

Annamma was a permanent member of the Ashram. She served as a teacher, doctor, social worker, Acharya of the Ashram and mother to the orphans and destitute. She had a deep commitment to the Lord and dedicated her life for the service of humanity. Her selfless, sacrificial and dedicated life is a challenge and inspiration to all.

She was called home at 9.15am on Sunday, 14 December, 1997, and was buried in St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church Cemetery, Ankola. Her funeral was the first of its kind in the history of Ankola. People from all walks of life gathered for her funeral procession as a sign of their love and respect. She was the "Mother Teresa" of Ankola.

During her 41 years of Medical Service, she never accepted any salary. Her brother, Late Rev. A.C. Zachariah, was one of the co-founders of the Hoskote Mission. Her sister, Miss. Aleyamma Mathew, is a member of the Ankola Ashram.

