

## **Rev. K. T. Thomas- Saint of Sihora, 1909-1989**

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Rev. K. T. Thomas was born on 1 April, 1909, in Aanaprampal village near Tiruvalla. His parents Karimpil Yohannan Thommy and Aleyamma were very devoted, God fearing Christians. After his early education in local schools, he graduated from Union Christian College, Alwaye and did his theological training from Serampore College, near Calcutta. Then he became a teacher in Theological seminary, Kottayam. He became deacon in 1941 and priest on 1942.

While Rev. Thomas was spending his holidays in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) with his brother, who was a teacher there, he came in contact with Rev. Selvarathanam, founder of the Christu Seva Ashram in Ceylon. The simple ashram life influenced Rev. Thomas and he tried to copy it in his personal life.

During the early 1940s, Rev. Dr. C.E. Abraham, a teacher in the Serampore College, encouraged youths for missionary work in North India. Rev. K.T. Thomas became a member of this fellowship and in 1942 went to North India for Mission work with two other friends. In 1943, they reached Sihora in North India and established the Ashram. For the next 46 years he worked tirelessly for the Glory of God through the various activities of the Ashram.

He was a living saint for the people in and around Sihora. Many came to know the Lord through his life. He gave leadership for the formation of the Delhi, Jabalpur, Bilaspur, Bhilai, Bombay, Nagpur, Katni, Agra, Poona and Kirkke Parishes and Satna ashram. Because of his exemplary sacrificial life, many youths became members of the ashram. Our Bishop Easow Mar Timotheos was one of the members of this ashram. Achen was called home on 8 February, 1989. He was buried in the Ashram cemetery in Sihora. God wants people like Thomas Achen to work in His field, to proclaim the Gospel to millions of people in North India. Thomas Achen's life is a challenge for all.

