

## OBITUARY

Victor P. Das

1913–1983



It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Dr. Victor P. Das, former Secretary of The Leprosy Mission for Southern Asia, on 4 July 1983.

Dr. Das was born in the year 1913 and graduated from Indore

Medical College. His father Canon Dr. A. P. Das worked at Tarn Taran as Medical Superintendent until his death. It is his earlier association with the leprosy work which his father was doing that motivated him to take up leprosy work and to continue it until his retirement in 1977. His daughter and son continue to work with The Leprosy Mission.

After serving for a short time in Burma during World War II, Dr. Das was married

to Beulah Masih, a very talented person. He then joined The Leprosy Mission at Poladpur. Facing many difficulties at Poladpur, Dr. and Mrs. Das worked hard to transform this place into an exemplary leprosy institution. From there Dr. Das was called on to take the responsibilities of the Secretary for Southern Asia in 1961. He held this post until 1977 and was the first Indian to hold this post.

During his tenure of office, he was responsible for the change in policy and also in implementation of the whole work in India and other countries. He progressively modernized and transformed the then work of home care to the present system of leprosy control and inpatient care.

He was a very well known and respected member of the Indian Association of Leprologists until his retirement. He was also on the Governing Body of the Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh. He leaves behind his wife and three children.

—R. H. Thangaraj