

## P. M. Kochukurru – Valakam, 1891- 1936

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Kochukurru was born in 1891, to an extremely poor farming family in Valakam village near Kottarakkara. He couldn't even attend Primary school. He learned the alphabets and the art of reading from the Kudipallikudam Ashan (Lower Primary teacher). He was a regular student of Sunday School. Influence by his dedicated Sunday school teachers, he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior at the age of 12. The study of the scriptures made him an evangelist. At the age of 22, he joined the Mar Thoma Church.

Kochukurru started conducting Sunday School classes and Gospel meetings at home. Because of this he faced severe opposition from his neighbours. He was a gifted singer and Hymn writer. He used to carry a pencil and small pieces of paper while doing his agricultural work and used to write down divine thoughts revealed to him by God. His hymns were written in simple language which could be easily understood by the common man.

Hymn No. 1 in our book, Kristheeya Keerththanangal: "*Athiraavile thiru sannidhi – Anhayunnoru samaye*" and Hymn no. 5 "*Mname! pakshiganagal unarnitha padunnu geethanga!*" are written by him. These hymns are used by Malayalam speaking Christians all over the world for morning family prayer.

He wrote more than 100 songs and published a Song Book called "*Christiya Prathasayin Geethanga!*". He was called to his eternal home in 1936, at the age of 45.



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