

## Breklum Missionaries in India

### Ernst Pohl 1860 - 1935



Ernst Pohl with his wife

His book "The beginnings of Breklum mission", a report of the life and work of the two first Breklum missionaries in India, not only gives an idea of their faith and obedience especially under hardship, fear and sacrifice but also how those two young men gain happiness in believing in God and praising the Lord, which helps us through the abysses of temptation. Forever we will remember it.

Ernst Pohl was born 25.12.1860 in Fraustadt. His parents belonged to the Altlutherischen Kirche. He attended the junior high school, later the vocational school in Liegnitz. The young Pohl wanted to become a constructional engineer. But a missionary sermon impressed him so much, that he felt, he should become a missionary. The Leipziger Mission at that time only admitted academics. But should he begin a study of theology? The father of the young Pohl, a joiner with six children, was convinced, that he could not raise the necessary money for such a study. But at that time people in Liegnitz were reading the Breklumer Sonntagsblatt. From this paper it was known that Jensen's new missionary seminar also admitted nonacademics. Taking this chance Ernst Pohl joined the Breklumer Seminar the 13. of april 1878.

Together with his friend Bothmann he started from Venedig to India in 30.12.1881. After fruitless efforts to establish a missionary post in Jagdalpur and Koraput - nearly giving their lives because of hostility of the people and fever - they could construct the first house of mission in Salur as a starting point for the way back to Jagdalpur/Bastar over Koraput.

Both were married in Waltair the 14.09.1885. The wife of Ernst Pohl, Martha Schmidt, was an early female friend; her father, a carriage builder, was presbyter in Liegnitz. They had eight children. From 1889 to 1897 Pohl was lent out, as he described it, to the American Mission in Rajahmundry. Later on he was in Parvartipur.

1906 the directory of Breklum Mission called him from India back to Germany. Back at home he was tireless travelling around, giving reports, lectures or a sermon. He stopped his activities not earlier than to the point he was nearly blind. We still see him before our eyes, the cheerful witness of Jesus, who between us knew to make big the faithfulness of our Saviour. On October tenth in 1930 Senior Pohl withdrew from the Breklum work and changed to the Sisters of Mercy institution in Flensburg, where he was the home clergy-man of the house. On August 16th 1935 God, the Lord took him home in a process of calm decease. His wife followed him the 25.3.1950.

## Paul Schulze 1865 – 1944



Paul Schulze with his wife and first child 1889

His 79 years enclose a rich and fulfilling missionary life with a maximum of devotion and energy and at the same time full of bodily defects, so that his friends often were amazed at his power of faith and will with which he overcame all this or often enough neglected it.

He was born the 29.07.1865 in Lochau near Merseburg, where his father and already his grandfather have been a pastor. He left the Gymnasium of the Franckeschen Stiftung in Halle with GCSE and after the termination of the missionary seminar in Breklum he came 1889 to Salur.

From his arrival in 01.12.1889 till November 1914 and then again from the end of 1928 till 1934 he could work in this place. For the pagan sermons he covered the whole region with a net of little district houses, from which one could reach 20 - 25 villages. Already in 1891 he established a joiners and a bookbinders workshop, where Christian boys who had left school could learn a handicraft and find a basis for life. With all his love he looked after the school. Christian and pagan children stuck to him like burs. His biggest work however, for which he got the "Kaiser i Hind"- order and the American doctor degree, was his care for the leprous people, whom he couldn't cure but protect. In the beginning he gathered them in a farm-stead near the real estate of the Mission. Later, in 1906, his "Philadelphia" came into existence outside from Salur, it was financed with Scottish money, but for the religious spirit it was and remained Schulzes project. Another big work are his constructions around Tumarelli, testimony of his trouble on the Konds and his love for them. He investigated as the first their language and produced the first prints in Kuwi.

After the return from India he found from 01.09.1916 an extensive work in the congregation in Nürnberg-Lichtenhof, 1923 in Flossenbürg. Yet he perceived the years of separation from his Telugus and Konds as "years of imprisonment". When the Americans couldn't take over so quickly our Telugu territory he moved out again in 1928. 1934 he came back, nearly 70 years old. During the war he acted as a substitute for the pastor in Lochau. The 16.04.1944 he died in the Sisters of Mercy institution in Halle. He lies in the churchyard of Lochau. "I have to perform so long as the day lasts" - he has done it.

He was married 1894 with Martha von Rath from Herrenhut. They had three children.