

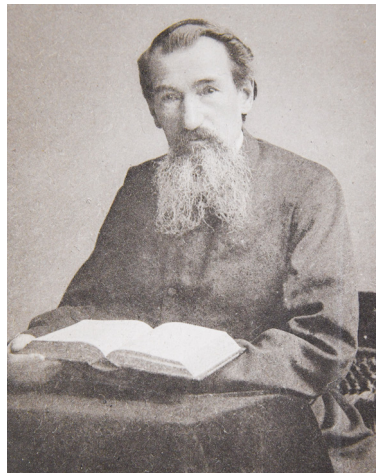
FACES OF LUTHERAN MISSIONS IN INDIA

Eduard Raimund Baierlein

Born: April 29, 1819 in Sierakowsky, Poznań, Poland

Died: October 12, 1901 in Clarens, Montreux, Switzerland

Courageous Leipzig Mission Society missionary who, despite many physical ailments, served both in the Saginaw Valley in Michigan and in South India.



ER Baierlein

CHRIST SHOWED GRACE TO HIS FAITHFUL SERVANT EDUARD RAIMUND BAIERLEIN despite repeated rejections and setbacks. Disowned by his father after Eduard embraced the Lutheran faith, he struggled to find purpose and direction in his life until he began studies to be a missionary of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission of Leipzig. Here he studied to be a missionary to India. However, he was eventually called to help evangelize the Chippewa Indians in Michigan. He learned their language and lived with a Chippewa tribe for over 5 years.

Baierlein was called by the Leipzig Mission for mission work in India in 1853. He was assigned to the Sadras mission and to the poor fisher-people there. While continuing his study of Tamil, Baierlein opened a school and orphanage. While he regularly took periods of extended rest, Baierlein continued work in Sadras and Cuddalore, preaching the Gospel and denouncing the evils of the caste system. Baierlein was struck with fever in 1860 and was sent to Germany to recover. Undaunted, Baierlein returned to India in 1862 to rebuild the church in Cuddalore. Baierlein, suffering from severe headaches and weakness, returned to Germany in 1871. He returned again to India in 1872 and was assigned mission work in Bangalore. However, in 1886 he suffered a heart attack and was ordered to return to Germany. He subsequently began writing about his work in America and India.

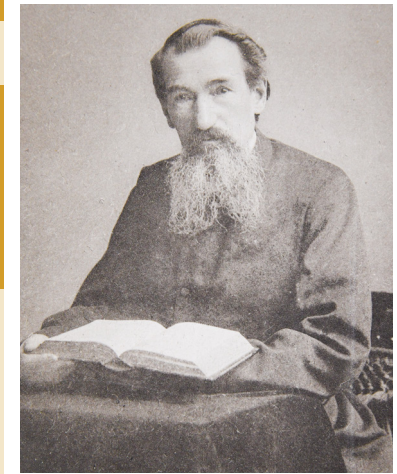
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- **1840** Disinherited by father after period of restlessness followed by conversion to Lutheranism. Changes his family name from “von Valseck” to “Baierlein” (Little Bavarian) and joins the Breslau Free Church.
- **1843** Enrolls at the Leipzig Evangelical Lutheran Mission and trains for mission service in India.
- **1846** Commissioned to leave for India after successfully completing coursework. Becomes seriously ill two days before ship leaves for India.
- **April 19, 1847** Leaves for Frankenmuth, Michigan, after being commissioned for service to Chippewa / Ojibwa Indians.
- **July 17, 1852** Leipzig Mission sends letter that Baierlein is now assigned to mission work in South India.
- **December 17, 1853** Arrives in India and is assigned to Tamil-speaking people in town of Sadras. Baierlein opens a school and orphanage.
- **January 4, 1856** Baierlein becomes seriously ill and is forced to rest in a more temperate mountain climate. Baierlein returns December 1856 and begins mission work in Cuddalore. Fights with other missionaries about approach to the caste system.
- **1860** Doctor sends Baierlein back to Germany for complete rest. However, he returns to India in fall of 1862.
- **Early 1870** Wife of Baierlein falls ill and returns to Germany. Eduard follows in March 1871 after severe headaches and physical weakness.
- **November 19, 1872** Baierlein and his wife board ship to return to India and arrive in Bombay December 19, 1872. Assigned to mission work in Bangalore.
- **Spring 1886** Baierlein suffers heart attack and is ordered to return to Germany.

MISSION WORK IS A WORK FOR ETERNITY. IT IS TRUE THAT GODLINESS HAS the promise of this life and of that hereafter; it is true that the outward temporal life of the Christian is very different to that of those who live without God; it is true that joy in the Lord is the strengthening of life here, and the consolation of everlasting life does not suffer even the most bitter sorrow of earth to penetrate to the most inmost depth of the soul; ... But a Christian who has known the Lord and has Him in his heart never can be [unhappy]. ... there in the light of the eternal sun ... will it be clear and visible how ... much has been won by the salvation of one single soul. And if the angels in heaven, who live in eternal joy, are yet able to rejoice over one sinner that repents, how much more will we be able to rejoice over the hundreds who have turned from darkness to light, from their dead idols to the living God! May the blessing of the Lord rest upon, and His saving love preserve our station of Cuddalore now and in the future, and whoever loves Him let him answer—Amen! —from Baierlein’s *Land of the Tamulians* (174)

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