

EDUARD RAIMUND BAIERLEIN

Missionary to Michigan and South India

BORN: **APRIL 29, 1819** *Sierakowsky, Poznan, Poland*

DIED: **OCTOBER 12, 1901** *Clarens, Montreux, Switzerland*

DESPITE REPEATED REJECTIONS AND SETBACKS, Christ blessed the native people in the Saginaw Valley and, later, the people of South India through the mission skills and zeal of His servant Eduard R. Baierlein. Disowned by his father after Eduard embraced the Lutheran faith at age 21, Baierlein 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 the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions, preparing to be sent to share the Gospel with the people of India.

However, Baierlein became ill a few days before the ship was scheduled to leave for India. While he was recovering, the Leipzig Mission received a request to send a missionary to work under F.A. Craemer in evangelizing to the local Chippewa Indians in Michigan. Baierlein and his wife arrived in Frankenmuth, Mich., on June 10, 1847. He began to learn the Chippewa/Ojibwe language and was welcomed by Chief Bemassikke and his people. Baierlein began to live with the Native American tribe at Bethany in July 1848 and to translate Luther's Small Catechism and sections of the Bible into the Ojibwe language.

After almost six years of mission work in Michigan, Baierlein was called by the Leipzig Mission to travel to India. On May 19, 1853, Baierlein, his wife and three small children left Michigan for Germany. He was commissioned in Leipzig August 30, 1853, and left for India, arriving in Madras on December 17. He was assigned to the Sadras mission and to the poor fisher-people there. While continuing his study of the language of Tamil, Baierlein opened a school and orphanage. On March 8, 1855, the Baierleins mourned the loss of their fourth child, Theodosius, who died of cholera. On January 4, 1856, Baierlein became seriously ill and traveled to Tranquebar for treat-

ment. The doctor sent him to a more temperate climate in the mountains in order to recover. He returned to India in December of 1856, and dedicated a new church building in 1859.

Baierlein was struck with fever in 1860 and sent back to Germany to recover. Undaunted, Baierlein returned to India in November of 1862 to rebuild the church in Cuddalore. In the midst of successes there, Baierlein's wife became seriously ill and returned to Germany. Baierlein, suffering from severe headaches and weakness, also returned to Germany in March of 1871.

The couple returned to India in December of 1872. Baierlein was assigned mission work in Bangalore. In the spring of 1886, he suffered a heart attack and was ordered to return to Germany. He died in Clarens, Switzerland, on October 12, 1901.

Baierlein's accounts of mission work in both Michigan and India were published and widely read in North America and Germany.

For more information about the 175th anniversary of the LCMS, visit lcms.org/175.



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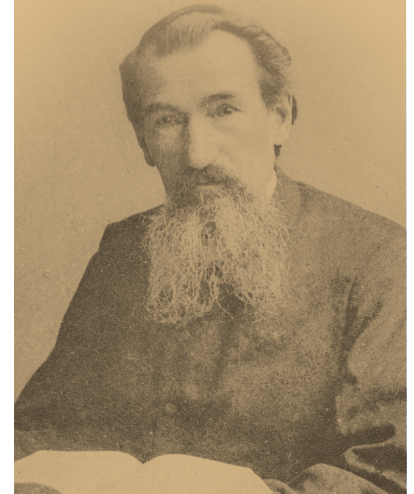
Walter P. Schoenfuhs, "Eduard Raimund Baierlein," *Part One, Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* 27, no. 3 (October 1954)

Part Two, Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly 27, no. 4 (January 1955)

Part Three, Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly 28, no. 1 (April 1955).

Eduard Raimund Bairlein, *In the Wilderness ...*, trans. Anita Z. Boldt, ed. Harold W. Moll (Detroit: Wayne State Univ. Pr., 1996).

William Gustave Polack, *Bringing Christ to the Ojibways in Michigan* (New York: E. Kaufmann, 1927).



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ONLY JESUS
NO OTHER NAME

– 175 YEARS –

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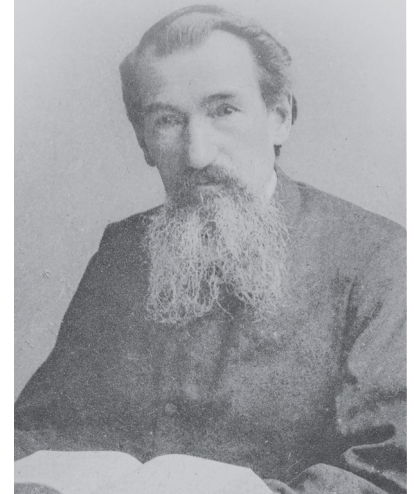
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