

= Emilia Baeyertz =

Emilia Louise Baeyertz (née Aronson ; 29 March 1842 ? 26 April 1926) was a Welsh Christian evangelist , born to a strict Jewish family in Wales , who described herself as " the Christian Jewess " . She was home schooled due to her poor health and suffered a breakdown when her fiancé was diagnosed with tuberculosis . Her family sent her to Australia to live with her sister to help her recovery , where she fell in love with and secretly married an Anglican Christian man .

Baeyertz did not intend to convert to Christianity when she married him , but she subsequently did for the sake of her children . Her husband died as a result of a shooting accident in 1871 , whereupon she experienced a full conversion to Christianity . She spent the following few years giving sermons and , by 1879 , she was featured speaker for a YWCA campaign of sermons , before spending a decade conducting Christian missions around Victoria .

Between 1890 and 1904 , Baeyertz conducted missions around the world , starting in New Zealand , then spending a few years in the US and Canada , before returning to the United Kingdom and Ireland .

= = Biography = =

Baeyertz was born as Emilia Louise Aronson on 29 March 1842 in Bangor , North Wales . Her family were wealthy orthodox Jews , and she was brought up to strict Jewish ideals . She attended school for a while but , by the time that she reached thirteen , her family removed her from formal education and she remained at home due to her ill health . Instead , she spent her time with her mother , who used to read Shakespeare to her , and would spend time in her family 's library practising reading aloud .

When she was old enough , she attended social events and soon met a young Jewish man . He asked her father for her hand in marriage , and the father agreed on the condition that the man take out life insurance . While Emilia was planning the wedding , her fiancé attended doctor 's appointments as part of the insurance underwriting process . There he was diagnosed with tuberculosis and told that he did not have long to live . The wedding was cancelled , and Baeyertz suffered a breakdown and ill health as a result .

In February 1864 , her family sent her and her brother to Melbourne to live with her sister , with the intention of helping to improve Baeyertz 's health . By the time that the siblings arrived by ship in Melbourne , Baeyertz had already recovered and she quickly integrated herself into the Australian social life . She soon met Charles Baeyertz , a bank manager at the Richmond branch of National Bank of Australasia and a practising Anglican . The couple started a relationship , keeping it secret from both their families .

Baeyertz agreed to marry Charles on the condition that he would never attempt to convert her to Christianity ? indeed , that he would never mention his religion to her at all . The couple married in secret at Christ Church in Hawthorn , Victoria on 16 October 1865 . Soon after , the Baeyertz 's family discovered the marriage and disowned her for marrying a non @-@ Jewish man . They moved to Colac , Victoria where Charles found a new role as bank manager for the National Bank of Australasia , and they had two children , son Nalder who went on to be a journalist and establish a New Zealand magazine , and daughter Marion . Baeyertz started attending church with her husband , and she decided to convert to Christianity for her children 's sake towards the end of the 1860s , when Marion was baptised . She didn 't believe in the Christian tenets , so she had a friend fill in her baptism application to ensure that the answers were correct .

= = Evangelical work = =

Baeyertz 's husband died on 6 March 1871 at the age of 28 , two days after a shooting accident . She turned to the Anglican church to help her and she experienced a full conversion to the religion . She put her children into boarding school and became an evangelist , visiting jails and hospitals to spread the religion , as well as door @-@ to @-@ door preaching to the Jewish areas of Melbourne

. She did not manage to convert anyone , and ended up with her life threatened .

Baeyertz joined the YWCA and was soon preaching to large crowds . By 1879 , she was the featured speaker for a campaign of sermons in Sandhurst , eventually converting 200 individuals . She then conducted a Christian mission to Ballarat , with crowds of 2 @, @ 300 assembling to hear her talk . Emilia conducted a number of further missions around Victoria between 1880 and 1890 . In 1890 , she went to New Zealand to preach , before moving on to North America . She arrived in San Francisco in October 1890 , and spent two years giving sermons in conjunction with the YMCA in Los Angeles , San Francisco , and Boston in USA as well as Toronto and Ottawa in Canada .

In 1892 , Baeyertz returned to the United Kingdom , preaching and conducting missions in Ireland , Scotland , and England . There she would preach to packed halls , sometimes to just women , earning £ 43 in a fortnight (worth about £ 17 @, @ 000 in 2014) . She remained in her London base until 1904 , when she returned to Australia . Emilia arrived in Perth in May 1904 , remaining there for a year before returning to Victoria . Towards the end of her life , she returned to England . She conducted a few missions before her death on 26 April 1926 in Surrey .