

# William Carey

“The Father of Modern Missions”

# Carey's Early Life

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- Raised in Moulton, England, in an area noted for heavy drinking and immorality
- Very poor.
- Formal education ended at age 12.
- At age 14 became a shoemaker apprentice to Master McNicolls.

# Fellow Employee Witnessed

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- Another shoemaker apprentice worked with Carey.
- His name was John Warr and he was a Christian
- Warr invited Carey to church
- Carey's response: "Prayer meetings are dull. I want to have fun."

# Warr's Answer To Carey

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- Warr told Carey:
- “My church is not like the state church.”
- “People in my separatist church know God in a personal way and they are excited about it.”
- *Lesson – If you want to invite people to church, be enthused and excited about your church. Enthusiasm is contagious!*

# Carey Turned To God

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- At age 16, Carey attended church, got saved, and committed his life to Christ.
- William was later baptized by immersion in the Nen River "October 5th, 1783

# Rejected As A Preacher

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- Carey felt led to become a preacher. He prepared for ordination in 1785. After hearing his first ordination sermon, the ordination committee declined to recommend Carey.
- It took two more years for him to be eventually ordained to the ministry.

# Iron Sharpeneth Iron

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- Carey came to know and learn from the separatist Baptist preachers of his day.
- The fiery sermons of Andrew Fuller had a significant impact on Carey
- As Carey spoke and taught, he gained a good reputation among the Baptists, as one being used of God to reach others.

# The Value of Missionary Stories

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- Carey was much influenced by Christian Missionary stories.
- Carey read Jonathan Edwards' *Account of the Life of the Late Rev. David Brainerd*, and became deeply concerned with propagating the Christian Gospel
- *Lesson - What your children read can influence what they do with their life.*



# Carey Is Ordained

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- Ordained as a preacher on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1786
- Walked 16 miles to speak at a Baptist Church in Moulton.
- He developed a keen desire to take the gospel into all the world, as Christ had long ago commanded his disciples.
- Carey developed a reputation as a spirit filled speaker.
- He was invited to the annual meeting of Baptist preachers.

# Isaiah 54:2-3

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- For his message to the annual meeting of Baptist preachers, Carey chose this text:
- “Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes.”
- “For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left: and thy seed shall inherit the gentiles and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.”

# Go Ye Into All The World....

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- Pastors meeting Northampton, 1786
- Carey spoke to the pastors about the need for foreign missions.
- The chairman interrupted Carey's message and said: "Sit down Mr. Carey. When God pleases to convert the heathen, he'll do it without your help or mine."
- Carey left the meeting deeply discouraged.

# Carey Wrote a Masterpiece

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- What he could not say to the preachers, he penned at home.
- *“An Enquiry Into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathen”*.
- Mr. Potts read this, was deeply impressed and funded printing and circulation.
- It had such an impact that Carey was asked to speak about it at the next Pastors’ meeting.

# Baptist Missionary Society

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- The first modern missionary movement
- The Baptist Missionary Society was formed in October, 1792.
- Three Big Problems to be faced:
  1. Where to go?
  2. Who to send?
  3. How to finance?

# “We Will Hold The Ropes, If You Will Go”

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- Pastor Fuller, leader among the Baptists recommended that Dr. Thomas and William Carey go out as missionaries.
- Dr. Thomas had worked with the East India Trading Company and knew of India.
- Fuller said: “If you will go, we will hold the ropes for you.” (provide the lifeline of support)
- A British cargo ship agreed to take them to India.

# Family Opposition

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- Mrs. Carey had three children and was “with child”
- She thought it utterly foolish to go to a foreign country.
- Carey’s father said William must be “mad” to even consider going to a foreign country to be a missionary.

# Missionaries Ready To Go

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- The East India Company decided not to issue a permit for the missionary to go to India.
- The Company said: “the missionary will threaten the Indian way of life.”
- The Captain of the ship received a message that if the ship had a missionary on board, his license to ship to India would be revoked.
- (Satan tried to stop the life of Moses, Satan tried to stop the life of Christ, and Satan tried to stop the life of Modern Missions)



# God Provides A Way

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- Word came to Carey that Denmark had a colony in India, independent of the British East India Trade Company jurisdiction.
- A Danish steamship was on its way to India, via London.
- In June, 1793, The Careys boarded the ship and took the five month trip to Serampore, India.
- There was no one to welcome them.

# Missionary Funds Inadequate

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- Financial support from churches in England was not enough for costs experienced by missionaries.
- Carey got a job as manager of an indigo plantation.
- The climate and diseases took a toll on the Carey family. Their 5 year old son died.
- Mrs. Carey became mentally ill.

# Discouragement Abounds

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- Son dead
- Wife insane
- No converts his first seven years
- No letters from churches back home for 2 years.
- When a letter finally came, it was highly critical of the job Carey was doing.
- *What would most people do when things are going from bad to worse – give up on God?*

# Missionary Society Sends More Missionaries

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- Mr. Ward, a Printer and the Marshmans (teachers), arrived to help Carey
- Carey devoted his time to translating the Bible.
- Mr. Ward set up a print shop.
- The Marshmans established a school.

# First Convert to Be Baptized

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- Krishna Pal, heard the gospel, accepted Christ and wished to be baptized.
- A mob gathered.
- The leader said: “If he is baptized, we will kill him.”
- The Danish governor sent in troops to protect the baptism ceremony.
- Dec. 28, 1800, Krishna Pal was baptized in the Hooghly River (leading into the Ganges)

# Educational Facilities A Huge Success

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- Carey's translations of the scriptures into various India languages and the influence of teaching Indians had phenomenal results.
- The British Governor of India, invited Carey to be a professor at the University in Calcutta.
- For his textbook Carey used the Bengali New Testament that he had translated.

# Shoe Cobbler Turned Scholar

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- Within a few years Carey had translated dictionaries and grammar books in Bengali, Punjab, Telugu, Marathi, Karanese, and Sanskrit languages.
- By 1825, Carey and his team had translated and printed the New Testament into 34 languages.

# Carey's Wife Dies

- She left and later lost family and friends in England.
- Three children died on the mission field.
- Hot humid climate, snakes, bugs, diseases, different culture of the people all made life miserable for Dorothy.
- Her unhappiness with life in India turned to deep bitterness, then to insanity.
- She died in 1807 at age 51



# Horrors of Hinduism

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- “The Saga Mela” area of india
- The most holy sacrifice for sin made to Mother Ganges
- Children were sacrificed to Hindu gods
- At the great annual festival of “Gunga Sauger”, children were pushed down the steep banks to the water to drown.
- Many were eaten by crocodiles or sharks.

# The Horrors of Hinduism (2)

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- As a sacrifice to Hindu gods, babies in baskets were placed in trees to be eaten by white ants
- “Suttee” – the practice of burning widows upon the death of the husband.
- In many cases the husband had multiple wives and often very young girls.

# More Horrors of Hinduism

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- Sick and dieing were dragged down to the edge of the Ganges River as a sacrifice
- Lepers were disposed of by digging a pit, starting a fire and throwing the leper into the pit to be burned to death.
- Often the leper would crawl out of the pit on fire screaming for help
- He would be prodded back to the edge and poked back into the fire.

# How To Improve Living Conditions

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- William Carey did a study and produced a report to the British Government pointing out the human sacrifices and other heathen practices.
- He requested legislation to end these practices in the British held territory of India, that had been going on for many hundreds of years.
- *Lesson – Where the gospel is taken, the social conditions improve.*

# Once Given 10 Days to Leave Nation

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- William Wilberforce gave a speech to Parliament praising the missionary work of the “Ana-Baptists”.
- “In truth sir, these Anabaptist Missionaries as, among other low epithets bestowed upon them, they have been contemptuously termed, are entitled to our utmost respect and admiration.”

# Missionary Set-backs

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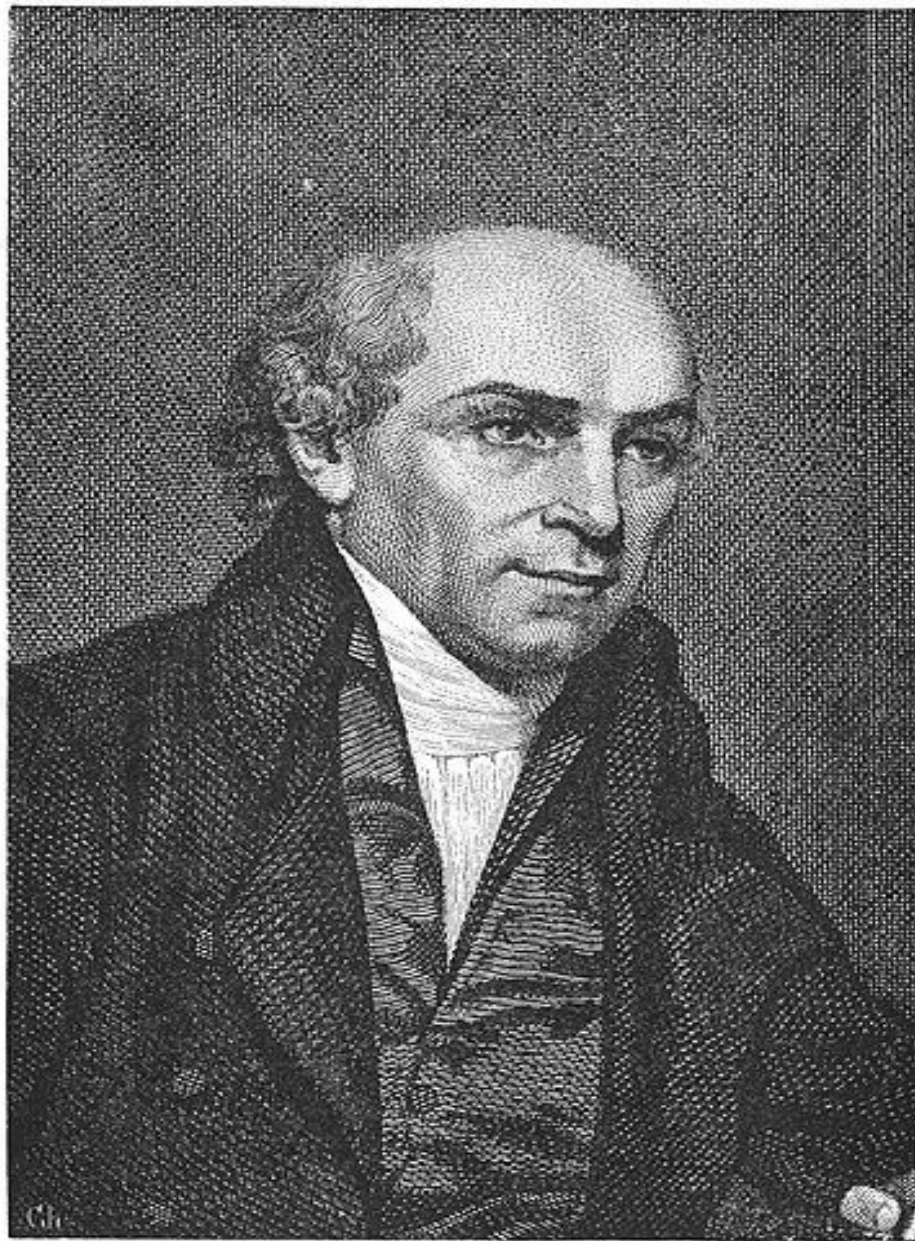
- In March 1812, Carey was on travel away from his mission station.
- Fire broke out in the print shop
- Years of translation work was destroyed.
- 12,000 reams of paper were burnt.
- Valuable reference materials were lost.
- The facility was ruined.
- All of the staff and workers were discouraged.

*Why would a loving God allow this to happen?*

# A Modern Day Job

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- William Carey's response to the tragedy:
- "this is no doubt a heavy blow that will set us back considerably."
- "But I wish to be still and know that the Lord, he is God and to bow to his will in everything."



WILLIAM CAREY.



# God Brings Beauty Out of Ashes

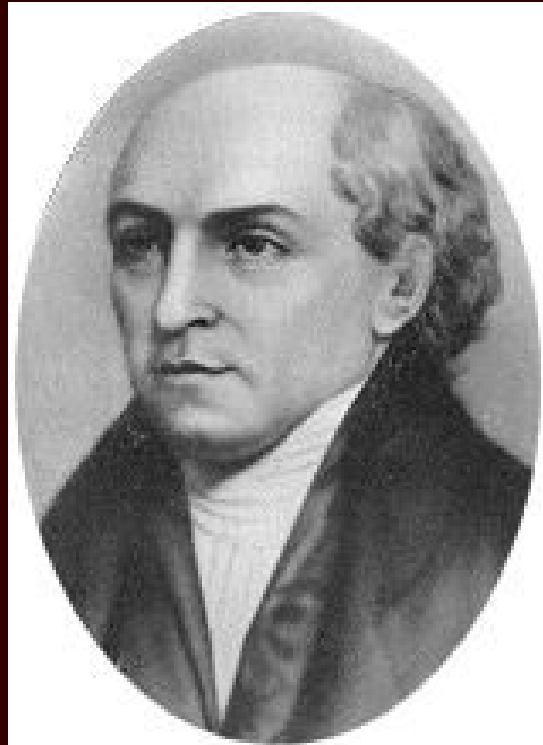
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- News of the tragedy reached England.
- News of the tragic fire caused the mission work to become well known throughout England.
- Donations came pouring in.
- New and better equipment and supplies were sent to replace those lost in the fire.
- Stacks of letters of support and encouragement were received.

# William Carey's Motto

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**“Expect great things from God.  
Attempt great things for God.”**

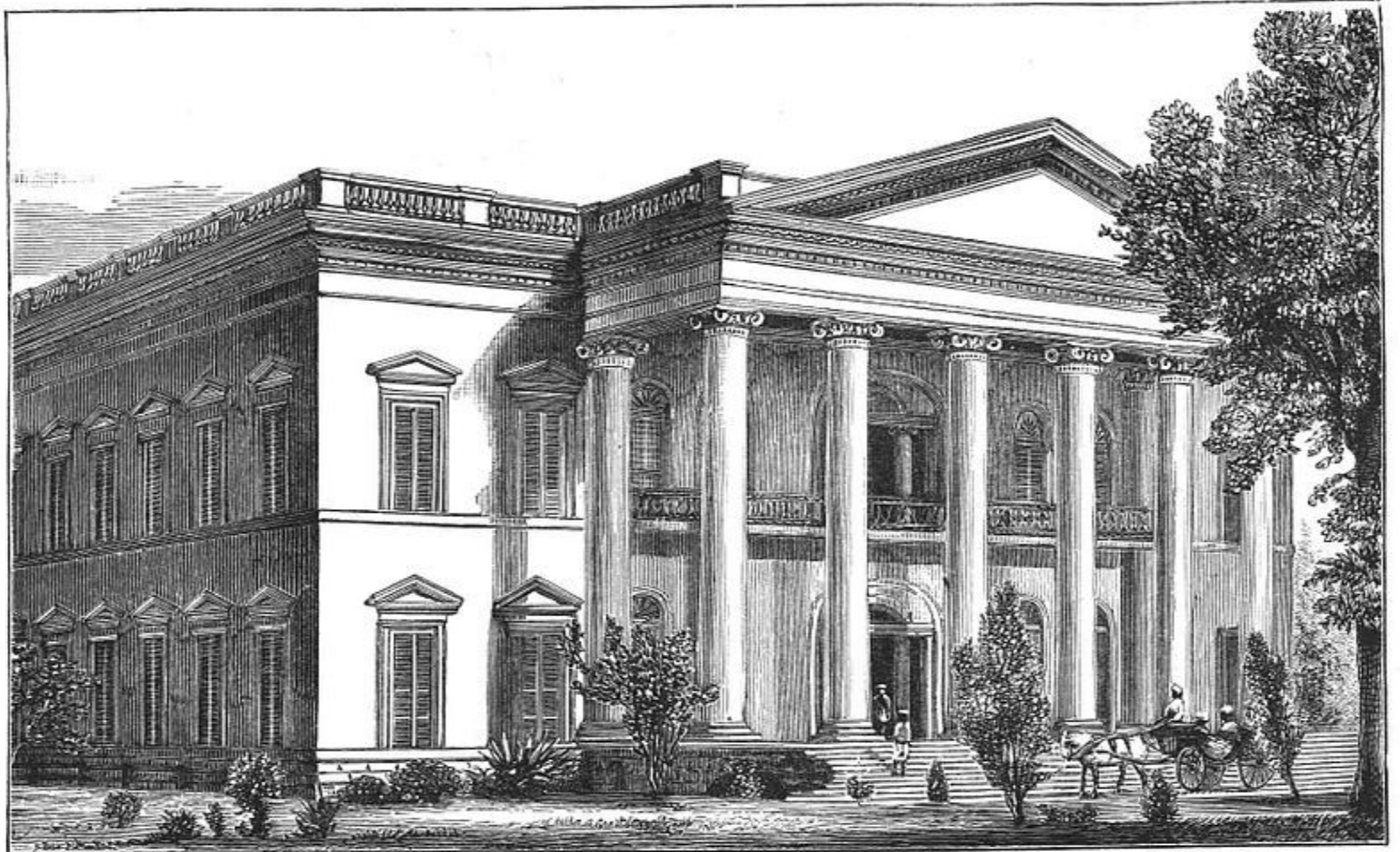


# First Degree Granting College in Asia

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- In 1818, the mission founded Serampore College to train indigenous ministers for the growing church and to provide education to anyone regardless of caste or country.
- The King of Denmark granted a royal charter in 1827 that made the college a degree-granting institution, the first in Asia.

# Serampore College



SERAMPORE COLLEGE.

# Carey Remarries

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- After Dorothy's death, William met a Danish woman, who was highly educated and a master at language translations.
- They married and she was a tremendous help with his work.

# More Woes

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- In 1823 floods washed away his beautiful gardens, destroyed part of his school and washed away his home.
- Unlike the fire of 1812, no funds came from England.
- Unfounded slander from various family and friends had cast doubt on his work.
- John Mack was sent out to help in the mission work and brought great joy to Carey

# Confined to a Wheel Chair

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- Carey built a wheelchair so that he could get around during his later years.
- He still taught Bible classes, worked at translating the Bible into various languages.
- Many praised his work, but he told them all: “Do not praise me; praise my Savior.”
- On June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1834, at the age of 72, and holding the final proof of his Bengali New Testament, Carey was promoted to heaven.

# William Carey's Last Words

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- Mr. Duff, "the apostolic successor of Carey: The last time I saw him I spent some time talking about Carey's missionary life, till at length the dying man whispered, 'Pray.' — Duff knelt down and prayed, and then said good-bye. As he passed from the room, he heard a feeble voice saying: 'Mr. Duff, when I am gone, say nothing about Dr. Carey — speak about Dr. Carey's Saviour.'"



# His Legal Will

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- Please put a simple grave marker with the following words:
- “William Carey, born August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1761; died- June 9th 1834
- “A wretched, poor, and helpless worm, On thy kind arms I fall.”
- There have been some proud and arrogant preachers, but God says: “He that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”
- No wonder God used Carey so mightily!

# God Uses The Foolish To Confound The Wise

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- When Carey began his ministry, the Bengali language was considered the lowest of languages, “fit only for demons and women.”
- Through Carey’s translations of the Bible into Bengali and his teaching of Bengali in the schools, it became the top language.
- Today Bengali, the national language of Bagladesh, is the only Indian language that has earned a Nobel Prize for literature.

# The Gospel Saves Souls and Changes Society

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- “Go to the ant thou sluggard”.
- In early India, to be spiritual, meant to be still and meditate. This often led to laziness.
- The missionary taught the value of hard work, and making every minute count (Carey practiced what he preached).
- Just as the “Protestant Work Ethic” is credited with the rebirth of Europe, so did the Bible Work Ethic of Carey help transform India.

# Carey's Legacy In India

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- Introduced concept of savings banks to eliminate crime of usury.
- First to make paper from indigenous materials for use in printing.
- Established humane treatment for lepers.
- Began schools for all levels of society.
- Established first colleges (East India Company would not allow him to have full title as he was “not an Anglican.”)

# Carey's Legacy in India

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- Ended the burning of lepers.
- Responsible for ending “*Sati*”, the burning of widow women in 1829.
- Promoted education for women and all classes.
- Brought the gospel to India, bringing light into darkness. Had thousands of converts.
- Called by India “the Central Character” in the story of India's Modernization.

# 1993 Nation of India Honors Carey

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# Baptists in India Today

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- It took 7 years and much suffering to win the first soul – Krishnu Pal.
- Today, Baptists are the most numerous Protestant denomination in India.
- There are more Baptists in **India**, about 1.7 million, than any nation other than the United States.

# In Conclusion

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- Family and friends at Northwest Baptist Church, a humble, godly, self-educated missionary is looking down from heaven with this message –
- **“Expect great things from God.  
Attempt great things for God.”**