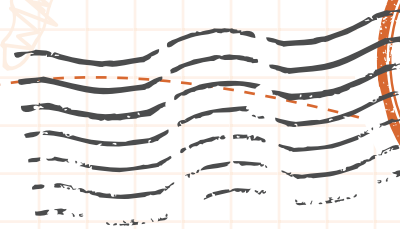


To Every Nation

Blazing the Trail of Mission Work



**Apostle Paul
to Early 19th
Century
Missionaries**

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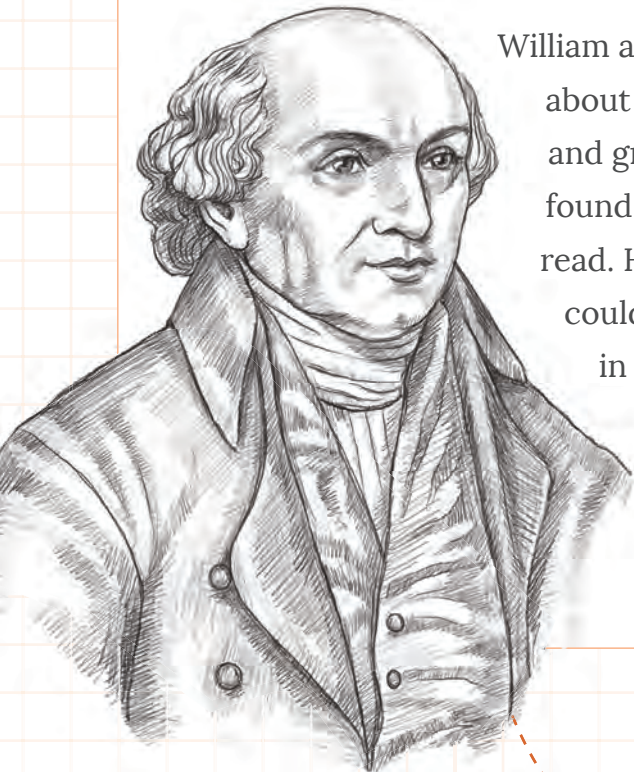
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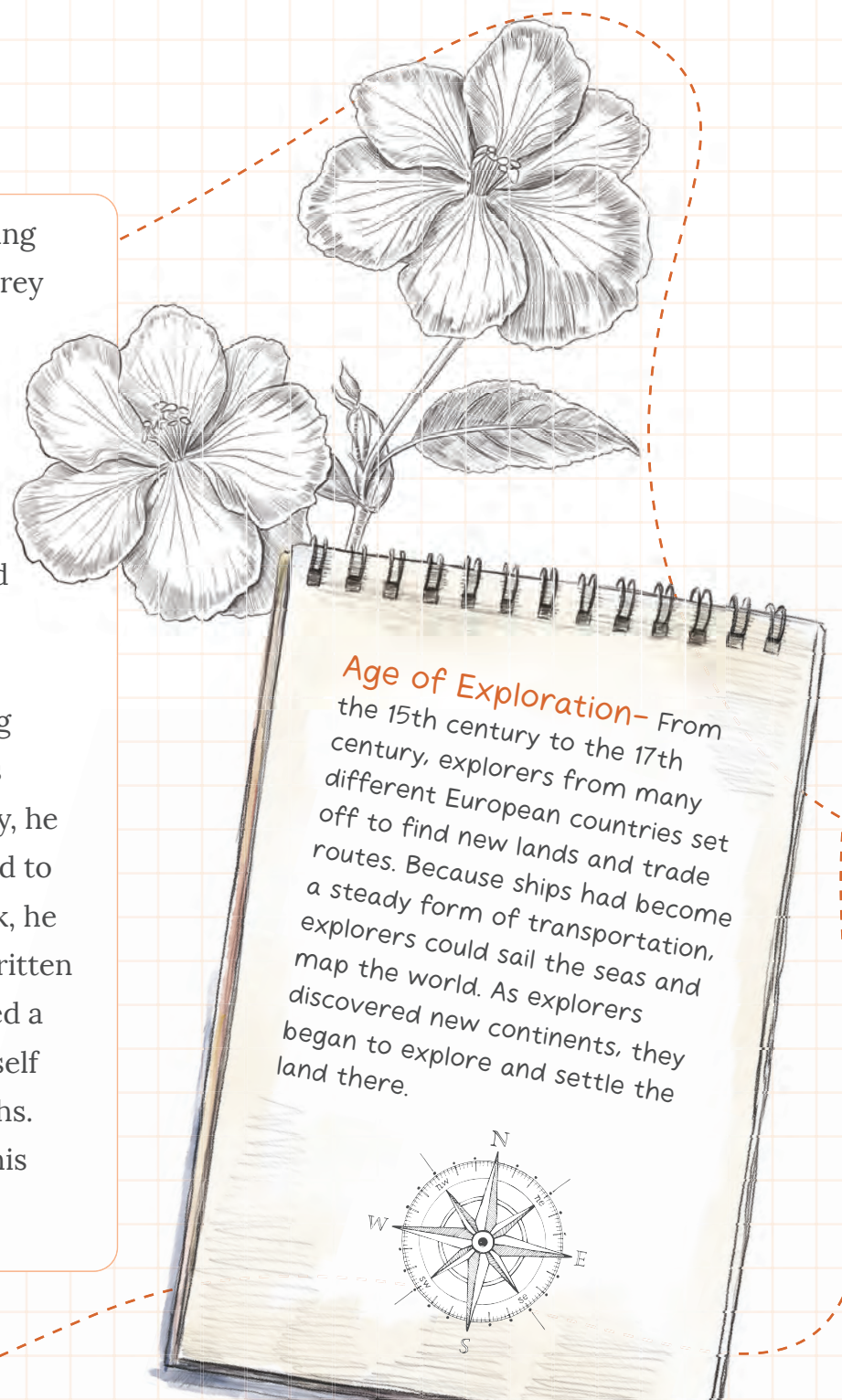
William Carey

Discoveries

Has there ever been a time in your life when you knew the right thing to do, but no one else was doing it? This is the situation William Carey found himself in as a young preacher. William was born in England in 1761. His parents were weavers and worked very hard all day to feed their family. When William was six, his father found a new job that enabled William to attend school for six years. William loved learning about the world outside of England that was just being discovered by Europeans. His uncle had been to North America and filled William's imagination with colorful stories.



William and his uncle also spent time talking about plants. He enjoyed studying plants and growing them in his garden. One day, he found a book about plants that he wanted to read. However, when he opened the book, he couldn't read any of it. The book was written in Latin! Eleven-year-old William used a Latin grammar book to teach himself the language in just a few months. That was just the beginning of his love for languages.



DAY
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William Carey

Life in England

When William was 12, he graduated from school and got his first job. He worked as a farmhand for two years and then began a seven-year apprenticeship as a cordwainer, someone who makes shoes. William had attended the Church of England his whole life, but his fellow apprentice was a Baptist. In England, it was not a popular choice to attend a church other than the official church, but when William attended his first Baptist meeting, he knew he had to become a Baptist. In the Baptist church, people preached and prayed from the heart instead of following a strict service routine like the Church of England.

William began to preach at a Baptist church, and after he finished his apprenticeship, became a pastor. He married a woman named Dorothy, who was nicknamed Dolly. Even though William worked as a cordwainer on the side to support them, they were still very poor. William and Dolly's first child, Ann, died as a young girl. Dolly was deeply grieved and was never the same after losing Ann. Even though life was hard and William struggled to keep food on the table, he trusted God and continued to do the next right thing. It was around this time that William's vibrant faith and passion for the world joined together. He realized that there were so many people outside of England who needed to hear the gospel, and he wanted to do something about it.

Apprenticeships—In 18th century England, most young people took an apprenticeship, often for seven years, to assist and learn from a skilled tradesman. Young men and women would often begin with menial tasks like cleaning or making deliveries and advance to more difficult tasks as they progressed. Having an apprentice was a good way for a skilled tradesman to have help and pass on a trade.



DAY
3



William Carey

Missions

The more William read his Bible, the more he became convinced that churches were responsible for sending missionaries out to newly discovered lands. While this may seem like a fact everyone would agree on, in 18th-century England, this was not a popular view. Most people believed that the Great Commission in **Matthew 28** was given only to Jesus' disciples in that generation. They believed that if God wanted to convert the "heathen," as the unbelievers in other lands were called, then He would do it without their help. William continued to study the Bible and take notes, and eventually, those notes became a book. Along with information about the new lands that had been discovered, William also wrote about evangelism and how he thought Christians in England should go about sharing the gospel.

Slowly, God began to use William to make a difference in England. His book was completed, and someone volunteered to publish it. William gave lectures in churches about missions and ended one of them with the famous quote, "**Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God.**" Finally, a group of men began to meet and work toward the goal of starting a mission board. This board would send out and support missionaries who could teach people in faraway lands about God. A doctor named John Thomas soon approached the group and offered to go to India. He had been saved there while serving as a doctor of the East India Company, a major trade company between India and England, and felt compelled to attend to their medical and spiritual needs. When he asked for someone to go with him, William Carey was ready and eager to go.



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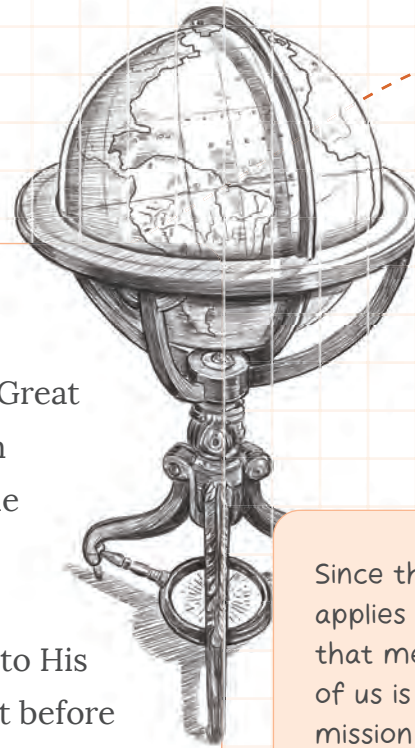
William Carey

Bible Lesson

During William Carey's early life, Christians in England believed that the Great Commission was only given to apostles like Peter, John, and Paul. William believed that the Great Commission was for every believer. Let's study the passage and find out who it's for!

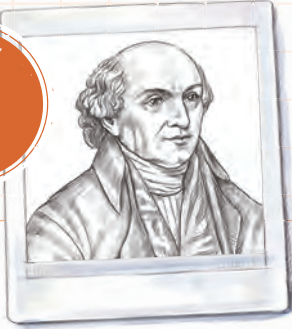
Read **Matthew 28:19-20**. After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to His disciples and many other believers. Then, He ascended into heaven. Right before the disciples watched this happen, Jesus gave them what we call the Great Commission. He commanded them to go into all the world to teach others, make disciples, and baptize people. Then, Jesus gave a time frame. At the end of verse 20, He said "to the end of the age." Jesus promised to be with those taking the gospel to every nation until the end of time. This suggests that the Great Commission is not an old command. Jesus wants us to go to every nation until He comes back for us!

The Great Commission



Since the Great Commission applies to all believers, does that mean every single one of us is called to go to the mission field? Some believers are called to travel around the world telling people about Jesus. Others are called to stay where they are, telling their neighbors about Jesus and helping others grow closer to God. Some support missionaries through gifts of money, resources, or prayers. Whether God calls you to stay or go, every believer is commanded to live so that Christ shows in their lives (**1 Peter 5:9**).

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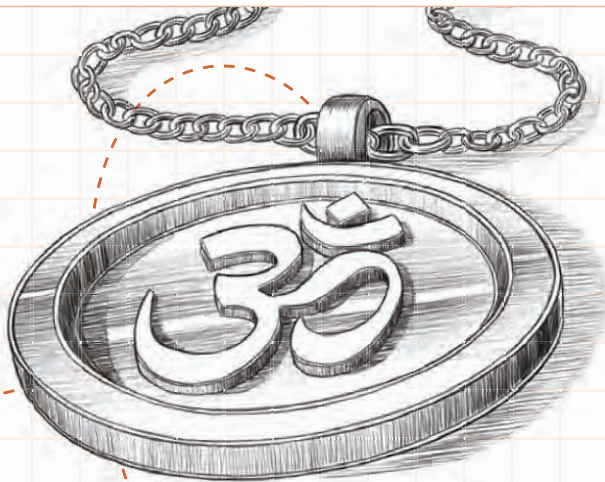
William Carey

To India

The journey to India would not be easy. William and Dr. Thomas were worried about getting in because only British people with East India Company permits were allowed to stay. When William asked John Newton about the issue, John said if God had work for them to do in India, no power on earth could stop them. John was right, and seven months later, William, Dolly, their three boys, and Dolly's sister arrived in India. Upon arrival, all of their plans to make money in India seemed to be failing. Unfortunately, Dr. Thomas had a kind heart but unwise spending habits. During the first few months, William's family moved many times as they tried to figure out how to earn enough money to support themselves, befriend the local people, and speak the language.



Hindu Religion—Hinduism is one of the oldest religions in the world. It's also the third largest religion in the world, right after Christianity and Islam. Hindus believe that when you die, you will reincarnate as someone or something else. They also believe that if someone does enough good things in their life, they will become more and more perfect, eventually becoming free of their death and reincarnation cycle. Another belief is the theory of karma, which means that the good or bad things you might be experiencing are a consequence of what you have done in the past. Hindus believe in various ancient holy books as well as a few different gods and goddesses, depending on their particular sect of Hinduism. This religion is still widely practiced in India today. Nearly 80% of Indians today are Hindu, and less than 3% are Christians.



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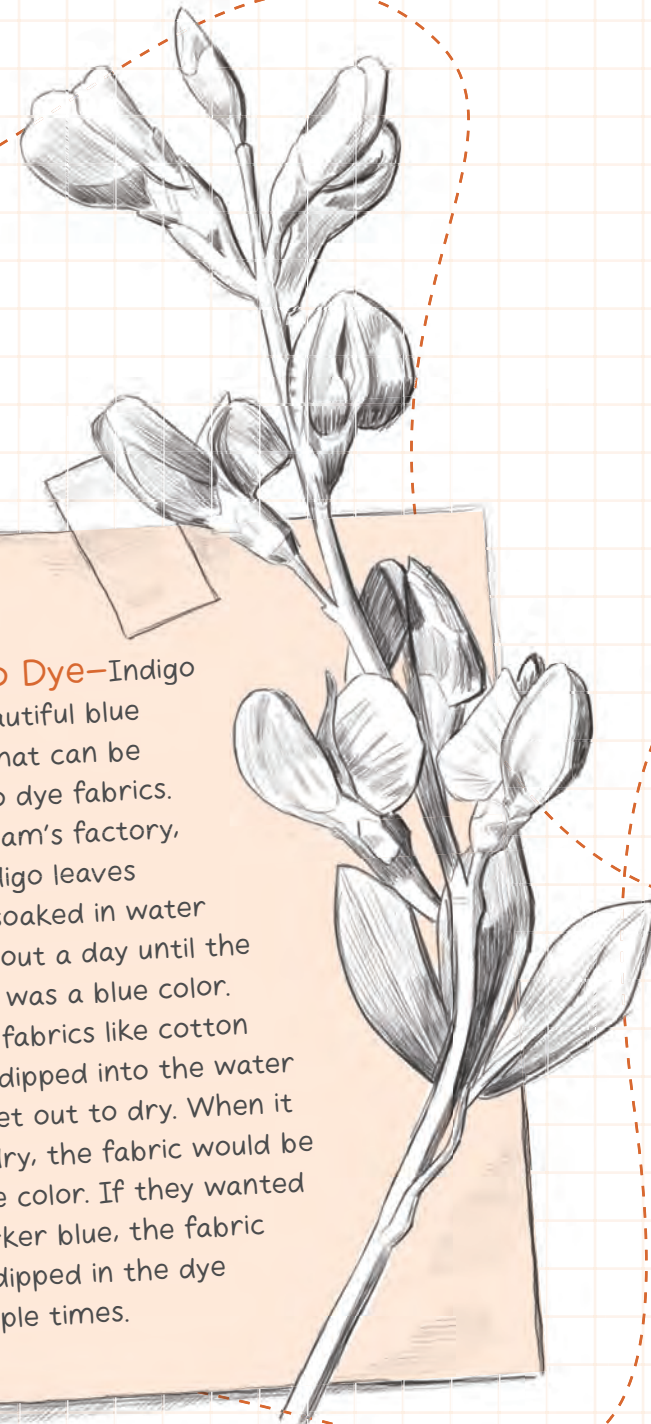
William Carey

Dye Factory

William and his family were not having a very easy time in India. However, God was still watching over them. William continued to trust that God had a plan, and one day, that plan became clear. The East India Company owned dye factories that used the indigo plant to make a blue dye. Both William and Dr. Thomas were asked to manage separate dye factories. This job provided a large house, the biggest salary that William had ever been offered in his life, and most importantly, free time. William knew that this job would give them time and resources for mission work, so he eagerly accepted.

The Carey family moved to Mudnabatti, where William became the manager of the dye factory. He learned all about the process and oversaw the work done by the Indian employees. The dye was only produced during three months of the year, so William had the other nine months available for mission work. He could travel to nearby villages and check on the growth of the indigo plants while also preaching. He also spent a lot of time working on translating the Bible into the local language. William no longer had to worry about having enough to feed his family, and he was excited for the new opportunities God was giving him. Soon, he began to ask the mission board for another missionary to come help him.

Indigo Dye—Indigo is a beautiful blue plant that can be used to dye fabrics. In William's factory, the indigo leaves were soaked in water for about a day until the water was a blue color. Then, fabrics like cotton were dipped into the water and set out to dry. When it was dry, the fabric would be a blue color. If they wanted a darker blue, the fabric was dipped in the dye multiple times.



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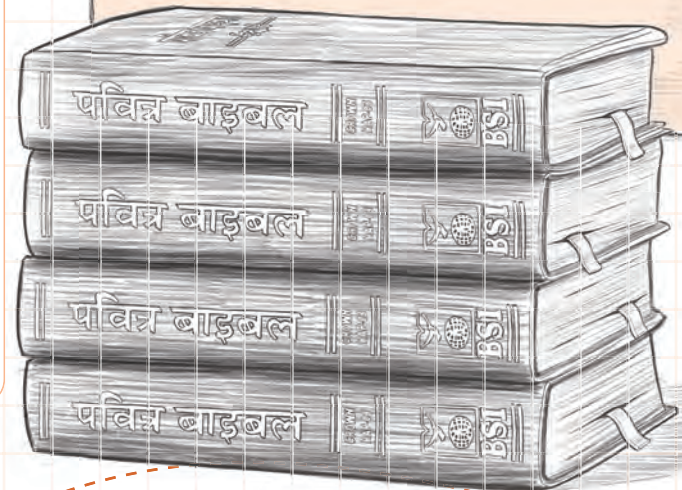
William Carey

A New Mission

John Fountain was sent out to help William and soon took over many responsibilities at the dye factory. Together they were able to accomplish more than William could alone. Because he had more time, William finished a Bengali translation of the Bible. God provided the supplies and a printing press so they could print 1,000 copies of the Bible to reach many people.

William asked for even more missionaries to come to India, and soon they were on the way. Unfortunately, the missionaries were mistaken for French spies and could only go to the Dutch-ruled town of Serampore. William made the decision to leave the dye factory so that the group of ten adults and nine children could establish a missionary house there. Before long, the missionaries were running schools for English and Bengali children, printing more copies of the Bible, and preaching in the surrounding areas. When William learned that the leader of the dye factories changed shortly after they moved and that the new leader was opposed to missionary work, he saw how God had clearly led them to Serampore.

Pohela Boishakh—Bengali people celebrate a colorful spring festival called Pohela Boishakh, which is their New Year's Day. Children wear bright traditional clothes and enjoy special treats like pitha (sweet rice cakes). On this important day, families clean their homes, draw colorful alpona (floor art) using rice paste, and visit fairs with exciting rides and puppet shows. Bengali children also receive new clothes and books for this celebration, because education and learning are highly valued in Bengali culture.

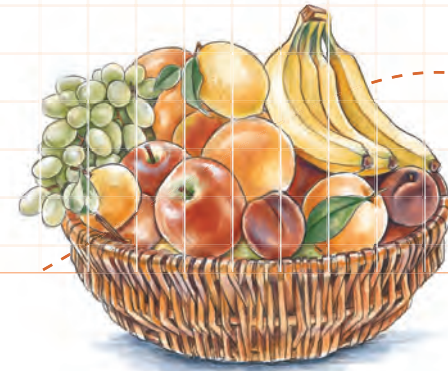


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William Carey

Fruit



The mission work at Serampore flourished, and soon the printing press had twelve full-time workers. Everything was going well, except for one thing. William Carey had been in India for seven years, and not one person had converted to Christianity. One day, a local man named Krishna Pal fell and dislocated his shoulder. Dr. Thomas, who was visiting the mission house, helped him recover and shared the gospel with him. Krishna Pal and his friend Gokul began visiting the mission house to talk with the missionaries about God. Everyone was thrilled when Krishna Pal and Gokul decided to become Christians just before Christmas.

The missionaries waited anxiously to see how these men would be treated by the other locals and how they would respond. When Krishna Pal and Gokul broke caste by eating with the missionaries, the local people were angry and made threats. Krishna Pal and his family were imprisoned, but God used that to help him lead his family to believe in Jesus. The day that Krishna Pal was baptized was a wonderful day for all of the missionaries. All of the new Christians were soon baptized, and many more Indian people were saved after that.



Caste—The caste system in India was an elaborate social structure made up of multiple classes. The highest class was made up of priests, the lower three were soldiers, merchants, and landowners, and the poorest people were called “untouchables.” People married and made friends only with others in their caste. To eat with someone who was not part of your caste was culturally unacceptable. Today in India, the caste system is officially banned, but it still affects marriages, friendships, and job opportunities.

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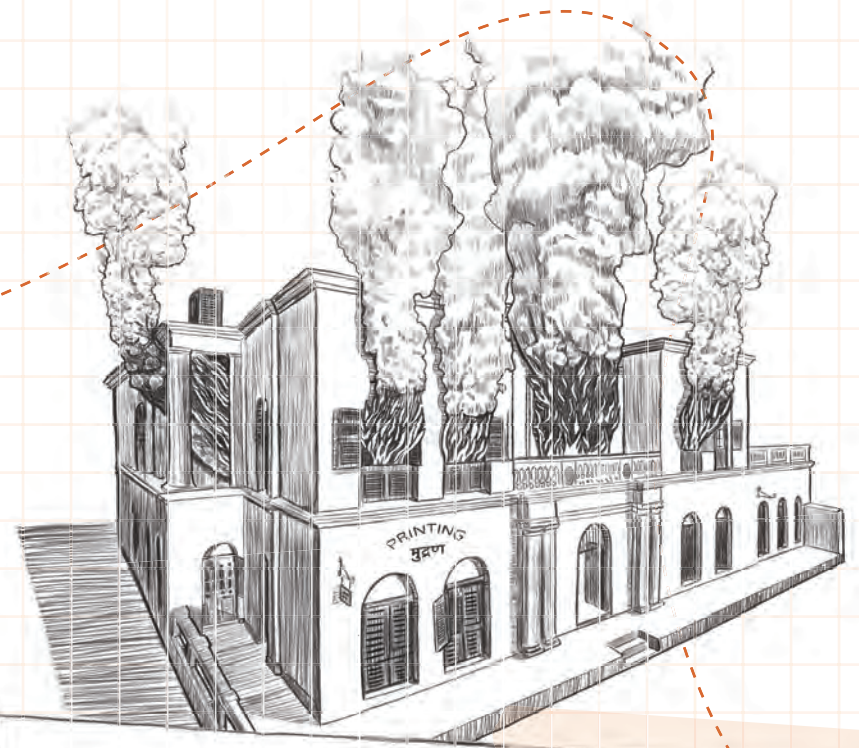


William Carey

The Serampore Trio

In the years that followed, William Carey and two other men at the Serampore mission, William Ward and Joshua Marshman, worked together so well that they became known as the “Serampore Trio.” William was asked to teach at a college for British young men who wanted to work in the government offices in India because he knew the language better than any other non-native. He was asked to translate government documents.

One of the largest setbacks was when the printing building caught fire. Almost everything used to print was destroyed, and a newly finished manuscript of the Bible in another Indian language was lost along with many other valuable documents. People in India and England raised money to restore damages caused by the fire. As more people learned about the Serampore Trio and their work in India, more missionaries came. William spent 41 years in India and never traveled anywhere else. He died and was buried at the Serampore Mission Burial Ground in 1834.



Family—William’s wife, Dolly, struggled with mental health for most of her married life. William’s 4 sons were rather unruly and undisciplined. Joshua Marshman and his wife helped train the boys and care for Dolly while William was busy working. Despite the family’s hardships, God still used William’s sons. Felix became a missionary to Burma, and other family members became missionaries as well. William’s story shows us that famous missionaries are just as human as you are. No missionary ever served God perfectly or without sinning. God can use us in spite of our failures, and He can use our weaknesses for His good.

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William Carey

Family Mission Challenge

William Carey is often called the “Father of Modern Missions.” It is through his influence and work that European countries began sending out missionaries. His book, the mission board he helped start, and his faithful years of service motivated many more people to go into all the world with the gospel. When God called him to do something out of the ordinary way of life at the time, he chose to listen. God used that choice to inspire missions around the world.

God calls all of us to unique mission fields, whether far from home or close by. We must listen to Him and faithfully do what He wants us to do! Spend some time answering these questions together as a family.



- ? What does your family believe about God and missions?
- ? How has God called your family to be different from other families around you?
- ? How can you fulfill the Great Commission as a family?
- ? What resources or abilities has God given you to use as a family?
- ? What is one way your family can serve others this week?