Sanctuary (Third Window on right side facing Chancel)

Lower Medallion:

William Carey (1761 - 1834)

A shoemaker by trade, an English Baptist minister, and first missionary to India. Carey is known as the Father of Modern Missions





Born in Northhamptonshire, England in 1761

Son of a weaver so the possibility of his being educated was very poor

His early years:

He was a very bright child. By the time he was 10, he had taught himself to read Latin.

At 14, he was apprenticed to a shoemaker and taught himself Greek.

He grew up in the Anglican Church, but joined the Dissenters as a teenager.

He went to work for William Olds as a shoe repairer and taught himself Greek during this time.





William Carey married Dorothy Plackett in 1781 at 20 years old.

While he was working on repairing shoes, he taught himself Hebrew, Italian, Dutch and French.

In 1783, he joined the strict Baptists. Two years later they ordained him as a minister of this Particular Baptist group.



Read the works of Jonathan Edwards and David Brainerd, Missionaries to the Native Americans, and ministers to many churches in New England.

Read Captain James Cook's journal during his first voyage around the world.





He used scraps of leather to cobble together a map of the world.

He studied the populations of the world. He shared this map with anyone who came into the shop.

In May 1792, he published his manifesto:

An Inquiry Into the Obligations of Christians to use Means for the Conversion of Heathens

- Theological justification: The Great Commision A time will come when the gospel knowledge will cover the earth to touch all people and bless them.
- A History of Christian Missions
- Tables of the World's Populations
- Answers to Objections
- A Call to Action



Religion and Philosophy

In May 1792, he preached <u>The Deathless Sermon</u> from the text of Isaiah 54: 1-3 The Future Glory of Zion

54 "Sing, barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband," says the Lord. 2 "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. **3** For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities. Carey concluded with what became a famous Protestant Mission call: Expect Great things from God ... Attempt Great things for God



Baptist Missionary Society formed

October 2, 1792

This was not a likely group to begin major world-wide missionary work. The twelve ministers were all from small churches in the district of Kettering, England.

Two had churches with congregations of less than 25 each. But they had become increasingly convinced that their churches should send the gospel message to the far-flung corners of the globe. In April of 1793, Carey, his wife, his wife's sister, four children and a fellow missionary (Dr. Thomas a former surgeon) sailed for India. They were waylaid by the British East India Company rules. They changed to a Danish ship and arrived in India in December of 1793.





Carey and Thomas had grossly underestimated what it would cost to live in India, and Carey's early years there were miserable.

Thomas deserted the mission setting up a practice in Calcutta with all of the funds for the first two years.

Carey was forced to move his family repeatedly for employment.

Illness racked the family, and loneliness and regret set it: "I am in a strange land," he wrote, "no Christian friend, a large family, and nothing to supply their wants." But he also retained hope: "Well, I have God, and his word is sure."

His son Felix died of dysentery, and then his wife lost her mind to mental illness, who eventually died.

Carey spent the first six years translating the Bible into Bengali.

He preached everywhere, but had no converts to the Christian faith. People listened. They loved the message, but refused to break caste. In October 1799, he was invited to locate in a Danish settlement in Serampore near Calcutta, which allowed him to preach legally.

Carey had his first convert, Krishna Pal, in 1800, seven years after he began.

Krishna Pal's daughter married a man above her caste in 1802, helping to break down the caste system.

Carey worked the rest of his life to eliminate infant sacrifice and settee.

He studied Bhramin texts to get and use Indian priestly arguments to eliminate these horrendous practices.



In India Carey witnessed:

A rigid caste system

Worship of thousands of petty gods

Radical asceticism

Infant Sacrifice in the Ganges

Suttee (Widow Burning)





Over the next 34 years, Carey and his colleagues translated the entire Bible into India's major languages: Bengali, Oriya, Marathi, Hindi, Assamese, and Sanskrit and parts of 40 other Indian languages and dialects.





Carey and the Marshmans founded Serampore College in 1818, a divinity school for Indians.

Today the college offers theological and liberal arts education for some 2,500 students.

Carey founded the Agri Horticultural Society in 1820.



Carey established the first newspaper ever printed in any Oriental language, because he believed that "above all forms of truth and faith, Christianity seeks free discussion."

His English-language journal, Friend of India, was the force that gave birth to the social-reform movement in India in the first half of the nineteenth century.



Expect Great things from God ... Attempt Great things for God

