

“I CAN PLOD – THAT’S MY ONLY GENIUS”

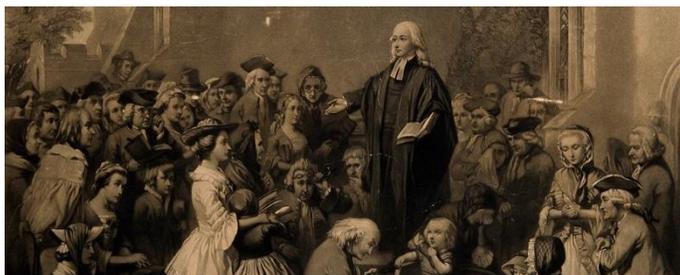
ser4018 Keep the Fire Burning, Pt 3
February 28, 2021 E & L

I. (HOOK) WILLIAM CAREY, FATHER OF MODERN MISSIONS

A. William Carey is considered by many to be the father of modern missions. (show photo)



Follow me for a few minutes as we look at the setting/history from which his life emerges. William Carey was born on August 17, 1761 in Paulerspury, England, a small village, northwest of London. At that



time, *John Wesley*, founder of the Methodist Church, was 58 years old. (show photo – no social distancing or

masks 😊)



The renowned transatlantic evangelist *George*

Whitefield, ([show photo, p 2](#)) considered by many to be the father of the great awakening, was preparing for his sixth and next to last trip to America. Edmund, William Carey's father, had been appointed as the Headmaster of the local charity school in the village where William was born. Charity schools were designed to teach children basic reading skills.

Carey strongly felt that the Church at large had lost its zeal for foreign missions, quibbling about the "means" of missions rather than just doing it. Let me explain what I mean about "means."

At that time the church of Carey's day was in a huge debate over whether or not God would use a "direct voice" (natural catastrophes and awakenings) to bring the heathen to Christ or use the efforts of missionaries on foreign soil.

As a newly ordained minister, while arguing the value of sending missionaries overseas with a number of church leaders, young William was told to sit down and shut up. The exact words were: "Young man, sit down! You are an enthusiast. When God pleases to convert the heathen, he'll do it without consulting you or me." I'm sorry, but what a dumb statement.

WHY WOULD THAT EVEN BE A MATTER OF DEBATE?

Seriously! Doesn't the word of God tell us in **Romans 10**:

(BOOK)

9 ... that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from

the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

¹⁴How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the
gospel of peace,
Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

B. **William Carey was a genius.**

His father said of him that from his infancy he had a proclivity for books and reading. At the age of 12 he taught himself Latin. On his own he mastered Greek, Hebrew, French and Dutch. Most of us have already checked out on William Carey. LOL! Forget it! What do we have in common? Hang in there. By the end of his life, he had learned dozens of languages and dialects.

Here are a few more facts about William Carey:

1. He was an *industrialist*. "The first Englishman to introduce the steam engine to India and the first to make indigenous paper for the publishing industry."

2. He was an *economist*. And “introduced the idea of savings banks to India to fight the all-pervasive social evil of usury.”

3. He was a *medical humanitarian*. “The first man...who led the campaign for a humane treatment for leprosy patients.”

4. He was a *media pioneer*. “The father of print technology in India, he brought to India the modern science of printing and publishing and then taught and developed it.”

5. He was a *translator and educator*. The Rev Dr William “Carey was a British cobbler . . . who became a professor of Bengali, Sanskrit, and Marathi (Fort William College, Calcutta). . . . Carey began dozens of schools for Indian children of all castes and launched the first college in Asia at Serampore, near Calcutta.” He also translated and published the Bible in 40 different languages.

6. He was an *advocate for women’s rights*. “William Carey . . . was the first man to stand against both the ruthless murders and the widespread oppression of women . . . Carey opened schools for girls. When widows converted to Christianity, he arranged marriages for them rather than allowing them to be burned alive. It was Carey’s persistent 25-year battle against sati that finally led to Lord Bentinck’s famous edict in 1829,

banning one of the most abominable of all religious practices in the world: widow-burning.”

7. He was a *moral reformer and transformer of culture.* “The father of the Indian Renaissance (19th and 20th centuries) ... [placing a] strong emphasis on justice and love for others.” This practice is continued through many modern-day missions like Hepzibah, directed by Brother Samuel Verghese.

C. That is probably a little more history than you would have liked, but there’s a method to the madness.

The reason for that somewhat lengthy history of William Carey was to make this point. Unmistakably, he was a genius. Most of us are not privileged be classified a “genius.” I believe the percentage of people classified “genius” in the world is less than one percent. Yet when asked what his genius was, he would reply, “I can plod. That is my only genius.”

II. (LOOK) I CAN PLOD

A. What does it mean to plod? (show photo)



Let’s look at some examples:

1. The mules plodded around the grindstone.

2. We were plodding through a textbook.

i.e: That is what some of you are doing who took the Bible Challenge—plodding, one chapter at a time, beginning with the first chapter of Genesis and ending with the last chapter of Revelation. And what is your genius? You're going to finish. That's your genius.

3. I could recognize his plod anywhere.

4. We plodded back up the hill.

B. What does it mean to plod?

To persevere until you finish:

1. One day at a time.
2. One chapter after another until you finish the book.
3. One year after another until you finish your education.
4. One dollar saved every day until you can retire comfortably.
5. One step in front of the other until you reach your destination.

ILLUSTRATE: No matter what it is in life:

- 1) Profession
- 2) Education
- 3) Savings
- 4) Breaking an addiction
- 5) Courtship
- 6) Marriage

- 7) Walking with the Lord
- 8) Winning someone to Christ

Our only genius is that we can plod until we've reached the finish line, until we've accomplished what God has called us to do. (Sometimes that requires letting go, but that's a subject for another time.)

- 6. One seed sown and one prayer prayed until the person you are praying for comes to know Christ.
- 7. You'll never see the results of your race if you drop out. "I can plod—that's my only genius."

ILLUSTRATION: When Sheryl and I, along with 33 other people, began GCCC, the town gossip was that we were a store front church that wouldn't last. Well, I tell you, humbly, and to the glory of God, out of all the lead pastors who were pastoring at the time GCCC launched, only two of us are left— George Eisenhart (Lambs Road) and yours truly.

In fact, there is one more truth I'd like to share with you. I believe that when Jesus sets up His Millennial reign, GCCC will be one of the houses of worship where believers will gather. Like in Jesus' day, there will be a Temple and synagogues. I believe GCCC will be one of those synagogues.

III. **(TOOK1)** INVITATION

- A. Would you like to be included in the host of redeemed who will worship during the Millennial Reign of Christ?**

It's not difficult. In fact, it's as simple as ABC.

Admit– your sins have separated you from God.
(Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23);

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.)
(Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);

Commit – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);

Do it today! (Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen.

B (TOOK2) Ok, where do we go from here?

Let's plod.

1. **Distribute Win One in 2021 cards**
2. **Pray over Win One in 2021 cards**
3. **PT, Let's sing a song of victory!**

ser4018, *I Can Plod—That's My Only Genius* (Keep the Fire Burning, Pt3) 1511 words
(approximately 12 minutes + 2 minutes for distribution of W1in2021 cards & prayer, and 3
minutes for the Invitation. 17-18 minutes total.