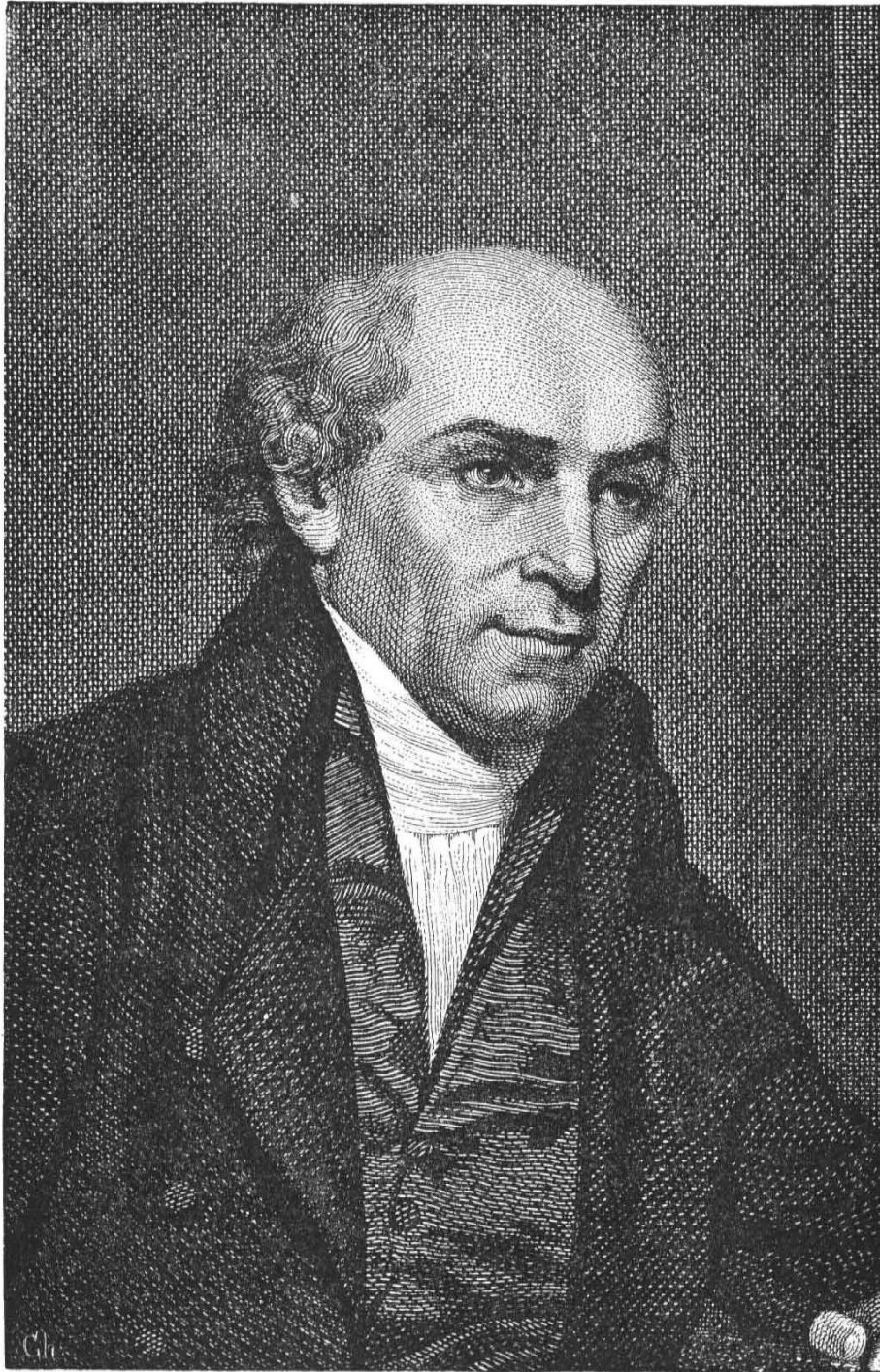


William Carey (1761-1834), missionary to India

Observed 19 October



WILLIAM CAREY.

Carey is a renowned missionary and linguist. Although a shoemaker by trade, he was an avid student, and beginning in childhood and continuing in adulthood, taught himself numerous languages, including Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Dutch, and French. Although he was brought up in the Church of England, Carey became a dissenter during his apprenticeship and eventually joined the Baptists. He preached regularly at a nearby Baptist Church. By the time he was 25 he had gone from a shoemaker to a village schoolmaster and church pastor. He became passionate about foreign missions, firmly convinced of the Christian responsibility to carry the Gospel into all nations. He wrote eloquently on the subject, laying out the mission fields, with extensive information about the populations of every country in the world. In one of his sermons meant to rouse people to missionary zeal he repeatedly used his favorite saying, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." In 1792 his efforts finally led to the founding of the Baptist Missionary Society. Carey and his family went as missionaries to India the next year. Their time there was filled with hardship, but Carey worked hard to establish principles of mission activity and serve the local people. He soon translated the New Testament into Bengali, and began work on translating the Bible into Sanskrit and other local languages and printing them for distribution. His linguistic skills were put to ample use for the spread of the Gospel, as the mission print shop eventually printed Bibles in 44 languages and dialects. He also began translating Sanskrit literature into English, so that his countrymen could better understand the cultural context of their mission work. Carey is referred to as the Father of Modern Missions, having generated the enthusiasm and promulgated the principals that led to the extensive Protestant missionary work throughout the world in the 19th century.

Lessons Jeremiah 1:4-8; Psalm 119:25-32; Romans 10:14-17; Matthew 17:14-20

Collect Merciful God, you called William Carey to missionary work in India and gave him a zeal for your Word that led him to translate Scripture into many local languages and dialects: Give us a heart for the spreading of your Gospel and a thirst for justice among all the peoples of the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who sheds your light and peace throughout humanity, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.