

# William Carey

## India

## Foundation

William Carey was born in the village of Paulespury, Northamptonshire in 1761. His parents were weavers, though his father went on to become the schoolmaster. William learned the trade of a cobbler, repairing shoes but had a great eagerness to learn.

He was brought up to go to church but hadn't understood that he himself needed to believe and trust in Jesus. It was a fellow apprentice who explained to him more about Jesus and eventually, aged 18, William trusted in Christ.

William went on to become a shoe maker and also got married. He was always eager to learn and during these he years learned seven different languages and had an interest in the natural sciences. As a result, aged 24, he became the schoolmaster in the nearby village of Moulton and pastor of the local Baptist church.

William was influenced by books about the great explorer James Cook and about David Brainer's work amongst native Americans. He became convinced that Christians were not doing enough to share the message of Jesus with others around the world.

Some of his fellow pastors tried to persuade him that if God wanted such people to believe then God would do it, but Carey went on to form a missionary society to raise funds and send people to other countries to share the gospel.

When William was 32 years old he and his family travelled to India, a journey that took seven months. It was a hard thing to do, one child died shortly after arriving there and his wife, who had never been more than a few miles from home,

*William Carey*

became very ill. But William worked for the next 40 years in India, and never returned to England.

At first he managed an Indigo Plantation and learned the local language, Bengali. He then translated the Bible into Bengali and had copies printed so people could read it in their own language. Later he would translate it into another five Indian languages.

The caste system was very strong in India at the time but when people came to faith Carey taught them that all are brothers and sisters in Christ. He went on to set up a college in Serampore to train Indian Christians to tell others about Jesus and become church leaders. He also established Serampore University, the first place in India to award degrees.

Many were inspired by Carey's example and many people followed and went all over the world, often in great danger and difficulty, to tell people about Jesus.

Throughout all that he achieved Carey often described himself as a cobbler. He would also often say something which became very well known: "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God."



**From a simple background  
Carey became a pioneer, at  
great cost and a hardship, in  
order to tell people about Jesus.**

