

Week 14

Dawn of Protestant Missions

Class Handout

Lack of Missions in Reformation Era

- Protestants focused on reforming Europe
- Jesus' Commission in Matthew 28 fulfilled by the apostles?

Moravian Missionary Movement

- Pietism – renewal movement in 18th century Germany
- Halle, Germany was center of Pietism
- Sent missionaries to India at request of Danish king

Count Nicholas Von Zinzendorf

- missionary statement of Moravians
- Bohemian Protestant refugees lived at his family's estate
- revival Aug 13, 1727 → more unity → zeal for missions
- Prayer vigil - 24/7 for more than 100 years
- more missionaries in 20 years than in past 200 years of Protestantism

Moravian Brethren

- 18th century missionaries to Virgin Islands, Greenland, North America, Lapland, South America, South Africa, Labrador
- Among Moravians, missionary ratio 1:60 but among other Protestants 1:5000

Moravian Missionaries

- evangelists not theologians (minimized doctrine / theology)
- save doctrinal truths until after conversion
- even after conversion, more mysticism than theological teaching
- self-supporting --> Moravians were normal people, artisans, and workmen
- In Labrador (Northern Canada), they were traders - brought Gospel to Eskimos and helped economy
- business as mission

William Carey

- English cobbler and Baptist missionary to India,
- Tries to persuade English Baptist churches to evangelize India, rebuffed by hyper-calvinist
- 1792, Carey and wife Dorothy went to India
- loved language and translation, though not as preacher
- Joined by William Ward (printer) and Joshua and Hannah Marshman (teachers, and he was preacher) – missionaries need teams
- Won a small handful of converts, one of the first martyred
- Opposed by British East India Company, finds refuge in Danish controlled Serampore, India
- Opposed sati (widow burning) – role of missionaries in culture change

Carey influential because

- 1) Started missionary society which set an example for how to organize and send foreign missionaries
- 2) Wrote *An Enquiry into the Obligation of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens* – many future missionaries read and were persuaded by his treatise

Adoniram Judson

- Adoniram and wife Ann remembered as first American missionaries (though African-American George Lisle was actually first – went to Caribbean)
- 1812 - Sent by American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions
- On boat journey to India, changed view on baptism
- Couldn't get into India, so went to Burma (Myanmar)
- Intense language study
- Built *zayat* (gazebo) by roadside to preach to travelers
- 1820 - ten converts
- 1824 - English - Burmese war - Judson in jail (suspected of spying)
- Wife and newborn die after he is released but before he saw them
- Judson worked to drown depression
- Became jungle recluse, contemplated suicide
- Love of local Christians and other missionaries brought him back
- Translated Bible into Burmese (still used today)
- Married 3 times, first 2 wives died, multiple children died

Hudson Taylor

- English missionary to China
- 21 years old went to China, arrived in Nanjing in 1854
- Founded China Inland Mission on following principles

CIM Distinctives

1. Missionaries drawn from any denomination
2. No guaranteed salary but trust in the Lord to supply their needs. Income would be shared. No debts would be incurred.
3. No appeals for funds would be made.
4. Work abroad would be directed not by home committees but by Taylor and eventually other leaders on the field in China.
5. Focus on reaching inland provinces of China
6. Missionaries wear Chinese clothes and worship in Chinese-styled buildings.

Recommended Resources

Timothy C. Tennent, *How God Saves the World: A Short History of Global Christianity*, Franklin, TN: Seedbed Publishing, 2017.

- This is an enjoyable little book with short chapters that give narrative snapshots of God working throughout history around the world

Howard and Geraldine Taylor, *Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret*, Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2009

- Multiple hard copy and digital versions are available of this older, classic biography of Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission, one of the biggest and most influential Protestant missions in China from the mid-1800s up through 1950.

Video: *A Candle in the Dark: The Story of William Carey*, 1hr 35m, 1998

- Full Movie: <https://youtu.be/i0ppqpfI4WA>
- This is an engaging biographical historical drama that introduces viewers to the man known as the Father of the Modern Missions. Not a high budget production, but VERY watchable and worthwhile.