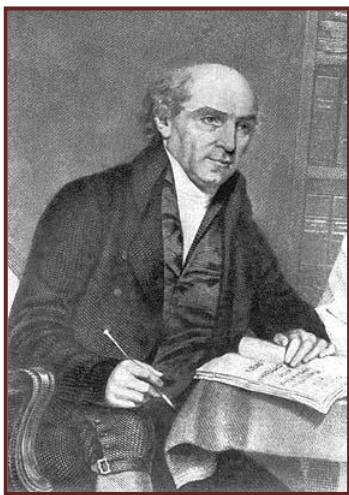


# A Shoemaker's Calling

An English shoemaker captured the attention of the world. Ruth Tucker, author of *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*, tells the story of William Carey (1761 – 1834).

Carey, the youngest of five children, was born to Edmund and Elizabeth Carey, who were weavers by trade in the village of Paulerspury in Northamptonshire.

At the age of 14, Carey's father apprenticed him to a shoemaker in the nearby village of Piddington. He later went to work for another local shoemaker, Thomas Old, and when Old died, Carey took over the business.



He was just a shoemaker, after all, and an average one at that. But in the evenings, after work, he studied Greek, Hebrew and a variety of modern languages. He devoured Captain Cook's *Voyages* to expand his horizons, which – because of his poverty – kept him bound to a small, forgotten English village. Some people said his time would have been better spent getting a second job to support his growing family.

But God had a plan for William Carey, just as He does for you, bringing you to where you are in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home. As you look back on your life, you can trace the hand of God preparing you for the special ministry in which you are involved.

The thirst for knowledge culminating in those studies was not a curious, self-satisfying hobby for young Carey. Early in life, he had become concerned about the millions of unbelievers outside of Europe, and he was trying to determine what could be done to bring them to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

With God's help, he slowly figured it out. He ended up going to India to serve as the first Protestant missionary in the modern era. He became known as the "father of modern missions," and was one of the founders of the Baptist Missionary Society. His passion inspired a generation of men and women, such as Adoniram Judson, Hudson Taylor, and David Livingstone, to take up the cause of missions.

Because one impoverished shoemaker named William Carey followed his God-given desire, large parts of the world that had little or no access to the gospel have large populations of people today who confess Christ as Lord.

*Take delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart (Psalm 37:4).*

– Beecher Hunter