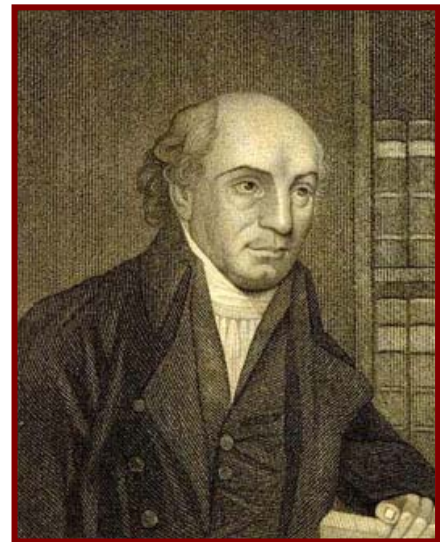


Calling of a Shoemaker

With Christmas behind us, an appropriate question would be: What kind of impact did the coming of Christ – His birth, His ministry, His death and His resurrection – have on the world? There is a whole universe of answers that could be given. But here is an example of the effects of Christ's life and teachings on just one man.

He was just a shoemaker, after all, and an average one at that. But in the evening, 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 the young man's passion wasn't a curious, self-satisfying hobby. Early in life he had become concerned about the millions of unbelievers outside of Europe, and he was trying to figure out what could be done to bring them to the gospel of Christ.



With God's help, he slowly arrived at the answer. He ended up going to India to serve as the first Protestant missionary in the modern era. His zeal 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 passion, 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.

God calls us to our own mission. For those of us in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, it is taking care of God's frail and infirm children, bringing them hope and comfort. To do so requires discipline and passion. But the personal rewards are immense.

--Beecher Hunter