

AC TALK

WHERE THE
APOSTOLIC COUNCIL
SHARE THEIR HEARTS

NOV
2014

AC



**FROM
KEITH'S
HEART TO
YOURS**

SEEING THROUGH HEAVEN'S EYES

Prior to my becoming a part of the COTN family, Shelley and I shared a common denominational life with a man who may not be recognised by many outside of that denomination, but whose legacy has left an indelible mark on the nation with the second largest population in the world today. Most of the 1.26 billion citizens of modern India may well not know the name William Carey, nor might they have any idea of the profound impact he has had on the shaping of their nation. But, shape it he did and, in the way that he did, he leaves a challenge to the

church today to do likewise, in serving its own generation.

Carey was a humble shoemaker in England, when he felt God call him to build His kingdom in India. The nation he faced when he arrived in 1793 was a far cry from what it is today, a nation that comprises 17.5 percent of the world's population and is a rapidly rising superpower in many respects. India is a global competitor in numerous fields and boasts some of the world's largest cities in terms of numbers and rising infrastructure. It's not surprising then that few today know anything about Carey's kingdom contribution to the nation.

It's almost unbelievable to think of a time when the church needed convincing of the relevance of the Great Commission to its day, yet that was the situation that existed prior to Carey leaving for India. So foreign

was the concept of reaching the lost that he wrote a paper titled, *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens*, in which he defended the responsibility of Christians to disciple the nations in their day. Quite what he understood by “Means” is unclear but, whatever he may have imagined it to be from the comfort and familiarity of his home, it quickly became apparent to him, once he set foot on foreign territory, that he could not content himself with simply preaching the gospel without also doing something practical to address the socio-political-economic conditions he encountered. Even when he did simply preach and saw people converting to Christ out of a Hindu background, he was immediately confronted by very real social challenges, which were the direct result of the word falling on good soil. One such example was whether it was appropriate for Hindu converts to Christ to retain their caste classification, which discriminated against people according to a strict ranking system. This was in direct conflict with the very gospel he preached; so, whenever individuals came to faith from that background and found love within their new Christian community, Carey would insist on holding a very public marriage ceremony, to witness to the fact that the couple, despite their previous caste rankings, were now equal in the sight of God.

The gospel as the tool to bring sustainable transformation to any society is seen in the fact that William Carey is remembered today as much for his pioneering of Indian social reform, as he is as the father of modern missions. Amongst numerous other legacies he bequeathed to that nation, Carey

- started agricultural surveying and reform which turned a country that was more than fifty percent wild and uncultivated into a productive farming community that made the most of the rich, fertile land
- introduced the first savings banks to fight the system of usury and exploitation of the poor

- campaigned for the humane treatment of India's leprosy sufferers who, at the time, were often buried or burned alive by Hindus who believed their bodies were rid of the disease thereby
- established the first newspaper ever printed in any Oriental language because he believed Christianity seeks free discussion
- translated the Bible into 40 different Indian languages
- started dozens of schools for Indian children of all castes and founded a university
- campaigned against his own English government who tolerated the abuse of women and the ungodly practice of widow burning (sati) on their dead husband's funeral pyre.

**EXPECT
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FOR GOD**

The point of this article is neither to idolise William Carey nor to be overawed by what he accomplished in his life of serving the King and His kingdom in such a remarkable way. In fact, if he were to be judged purely in terms of how missionaries have traditionally been judged, he would be called a relative failure as, after forty one years of mission work, he had only 700 converts that he could account for. What is at stake, however, is to note that Carey's life of serving India was motivated by two questions he asked himself – If Jesus were the Lord of India, what would it look like?

What would be different?

Take *India* out of those two questions for a moment and replace it with the name of your nation, your city/town, your suburb. Ask yourself what your nation, city/town and suburb would look like if Jesus really reigned supreme over them and then, what would be different about those three contexts compared to what exists now. Once we have even a vague idea of what that might be, I suggest that we have just found a starting point for us to live as real kingdom people, motivated by the love of the king for His world and seeing lasting social reform develop, at suburban, city and national level. We may

never need to originate an agricultural reform project or establish a university in the name of Jesus, but we could well find ourselves initiating a drive to beautify ugly neighbourhood public areas, contribute to civic safety forums that are designed to make our cities safer, take up positions on school governing bodies where we can influence the

policies and practices of our school environments, to name but a few.

Finally, my prayer is that, as a global CotN family, we will be emboldened to follow William Carey's famous encouragement – **“Expect great things from God; Attempt great things for God.”**

Keith



Keith & Shelley du Plessis



THREE REMINDERS FOR 2014.

As 2014 is winding to a close those of you in the Southern Hemisphere are planning summer holidays and time of rest. Here in the North we are thinking of the cold and snow.

What a year it has been! A year of Kingdom advancement as well as a year of global shakings and turmoil.

For me and Marilyn it has been an excellent year although much busier than expected. Three things I mentioned during the year have certainly been marked in our lives and in many of yours so thought it was good to bring a reminder of them.

1. Pregnant year: A year of the open door.

In January I shared a prophecy that had been passed on to me about 2014 and the significance of the Jewish Calendar year of 5774 which much of 2014 is included in: A year with an extra month: An active and full year where much would be accomplished.

The prophecy said: “We are entering into 2014 which will be one of the most explosive years in the history of man andit's going to be awesome!” One only has to look at world events to see this on the earth.

I know many of you have walked through open doors this year!

2. Decisions made will affect the next few years.

At our annual sons Christmas dinner last year I spoke a word over a son, that in 2014 he would make life decisions that would determine how he would live the next few years. Little did I know that this would become a prophetic word to many as we traveled through the year. If it was true for you, remember, kingdom transition is always new position for new provision.

3. The Kings are coming!

Earlier this year I spoke out that 2014 would be remembered for the year that the Kings began to come.

Isa 60: 1-3 Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising..

There have been some wonderful testimonies of this happening! Let us know what you are experiencing.

May the rest of this year be fruitful and we believe with you for continual open doors, clarity in decision making and increasing influence. Have a wonderful and blessed Christmas season!

Tony & Marilyn

2015 COTN DATES

Leadershift South Africa - April 2015

April 15-18, 2015
Jeffreys Bay, South Africa

COTN Day of Prayer - Sept 2015

13 September 2015

Leadershift Europe - Oct 2015

October 15-18, 2015
The Netherlands

COTN LEADERSHIFT USA 2014

The audio sessions from the recent COTN Kingdom Leadershift that was held in Missouri , USA is now downloadable from the following link.

Enjoy inspiring teachings from the COTN Apostolic Council & more!!!
<http://www.cotn.org/teachings-a-messages>



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