

Twitter Thread by Tanvangi



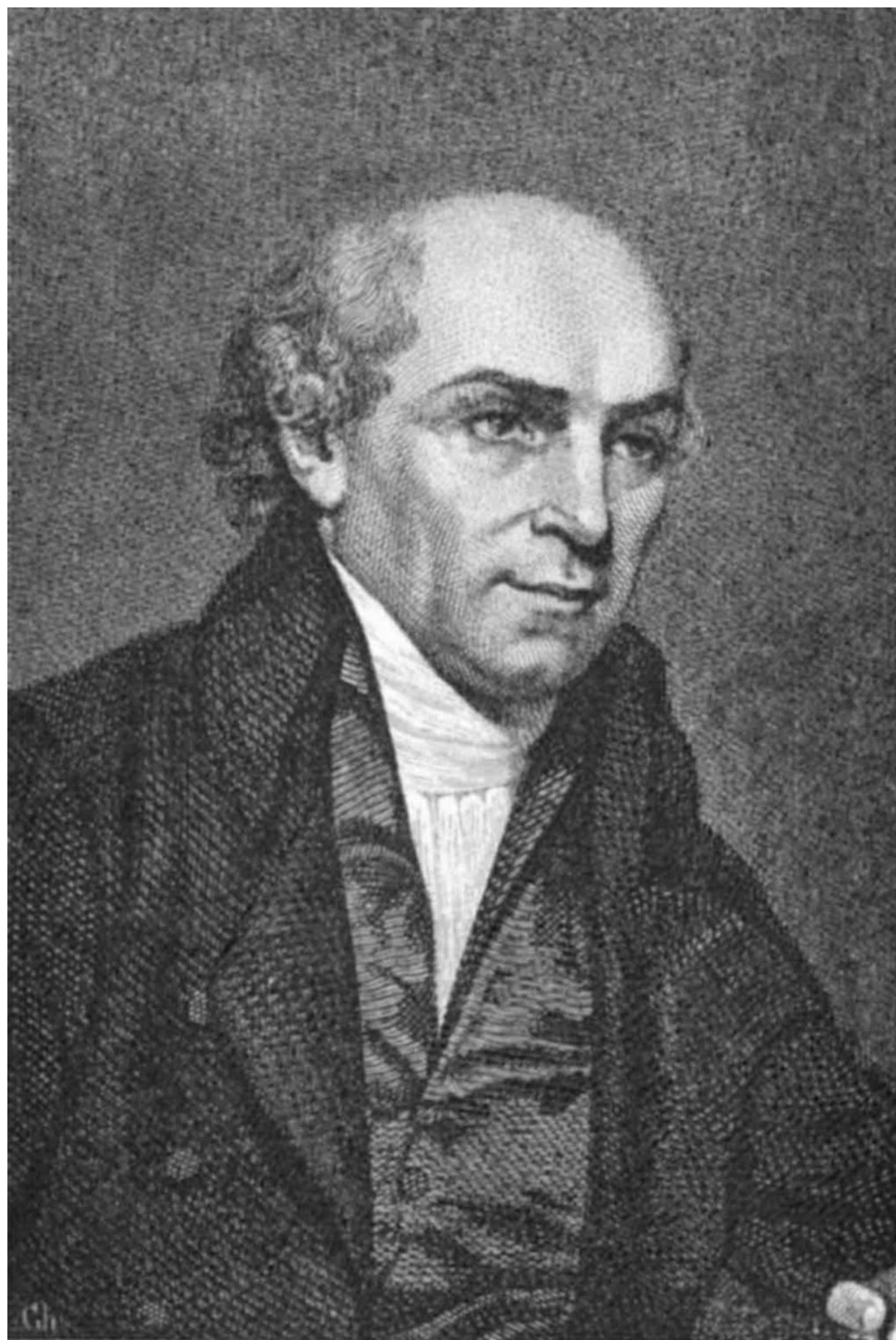
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William Carey landed on the Indian soil in the year 1793. He spent the remaining years of his life in India. He was a British missionary, a translator and a social reformer who is best known for having the practice of Sati abolished in India.

<https://t.co/kRiPwgjwcP>



We people don't have any idea how deep missionaries have infiltrated.

While Exploring Sanskrit wikisource, I found this- Bible translated in Sanskrit and uploaded there.

Most Hindus don't know about this site, I myself found this a few days ago, But they are already there.

pic.twitter.com/mzg5HPh468

— Vedic Wisdom... \u0950 (@VedicWisdom1) December 17, 2020

A supposed saviour of the Hindu women who were otherwise forced to immolate themselves on their dead husband's pyre, he is credited to having brought this inhuman practice to the notice of Government and championed to get it abolished.

This is the popular narrative. The truth is slightly different. Raja Ram Mohan Roy played an important role in getting Sati abolished. But even before that, it is important to know that Sati was never as widely practiced as William Carey made it out to be.

He was almost single-handedly responsible for grossly inflating the numbers of the number of women who became Sati annually. I have discussed this in depth in this thread.

<https://t.co/ERFkOkJc4P>

Continued from the previous thread. Here is the link <https://t.co/TjeG9G3T0m>

Long thread. Please be patient.

— Tanvangi (@Tanvangi17) July 16, 2020

While reading this thread by [@VedicWisdom1](#) yesterday, I remembered reading something while I was doing my research on William Carey for the Sati thread. A little digging later some startling facts have come up.

A translation of Bible in Sanskrit is not new. It has existed for centuries now. One of the first things that Carey did when he landed in India was to learn the native languages including Sanskrit. He then proceeded to translate the Bible in native languages, Sanskrit included.

Some of his letters reveal the amount of work that he put in to learn the languages just so that he could translate the Bible in local languages. Next he translated Ramayana into English. A couple of his letters +

... hint at his designs to translate even the Vedas into English for the good of the wretched infidels by exposing the wicked Brahmins and the lies that the Vedas teach. No idea if he actually succeeded in procuring the Vedas or not, but I think he didn't get to translate them.

From his available correspondence, he simply mentions having found a Brahmin who was willing to procure the copies of Vedas for some money in 1802. He may have actually gotten the Vedas because in 1803 he mentions his plan of printing them.

While reading his letters (which in themselves are quite enlightening about how a missionary's mind works and the amount of hatred he had for the "infidels" or "idolaters") I came across a passage describing the next set of letters that book was going to publish.



MISSION STRATEGY

Anyone who has ever lived on the mission field and labored to plant churches in a foreign setting recognizes the need for a plan or strategy to be successful. The genius and creativity of Carey and his associates becomes apparent as we study their mission program. Carey wrote frequently about ideas pertaining to missionary qualifications, the structure of the mission, language missions, translation and publication, incarnational missions (the concept of fitting in with the native population in order to reach them more effectively), indigenous missions (planting Indian churches rather than transplanted English ones), education, and cooperation with other missionaries and the government.

This section of the letters will be lengthy due to the focus of the collection, which allows Carey to speak to us on missions. The tried methods and dreams of Carey encourage missions in all ages. Consequently, many of the strategies Carey and his colleagues worked out under great stress are still utilized today in various forms. Who can imagine missions today without emphasizing vernacular Scripture or striving to develop a native church with native leadership? The Indian mission offers us a laboratory for observing strategy in action.

Laying a proper foundation for the work was critical for Carey. He believed that the Bible in the language of the people was that foundation and success in India might even be required to wait until the word of God was disseminated. Several conversions came not from direct contact with the natives, but rather from an encounter with the Bible.

Included in this section are examples of Carey's presentation of the Gospel to Hindus, Brahmans, Mohammedans, and the common people of India. Early on, Carey traveled the rural areas and gathered congregations wherever possible. He argued in favor of Christ over the idolatry and superstition he detected in India. The effectiveness of his approach could be debated but his sincerity and conviction cannot. The presentations of Carey give us an insight into his theology and perception of the target audience in India.

The success of the Indian mission was due to genius and creativity of Carey and other missionaries, their and especially Carey's insistence on publications in local languages, the concept of incarnational missions and indigenous missions. What are these terms? What do they mean?

Incarnational missions means the concept of fitting in with the local population in order to reach them effectively. Does that ring a bell? Fathers dressed in saffron robes? Yesu bhajan? Yesu Sahasranama?

Indigenous missions means planting Indian churches rather than transplanting English ones. Churches that look exactly like temples anyone? Or Hindu diety in the Gabhagriha but accompanied by a photo of Jesus anyone? Sounds familiar?

Neither have their methods changed nor have their strategies changed. They are still doing the same thing.

Reference:

The Journal and Selected Letters of William Carey

Serampore Letters: Being the Unpublished Correspondence of William Carey and Others with John Williams, 1800-1816

Image from Wikipedia