

# EXPOSITION

Monthly e-Bulletin from Virginia Beach Theological Seminary



## From My Window

William Carey (1761–1834), was a Baptist missionary for forty-one years in India, and is often referred to as “the father of modern missions.” As a young man, he was a shoe cobbler who had a love for learning. By the time he left for India at the age of 32, he had taught himself Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French, and Dutch. God blessed Carey’s linguistic abilities, and during his ministry he was able to translate the Bible into six Indian dialects so that the Scriptures became accessible to more than three-hundred million people. The accent of this man’s ministry was never on himself, but on Jesus Christ. His final words included this sentence: “Do not ever speak of Dr. Carey but speak of his Savior.” This caution is a model of Paul’s own life–pursuit— “To Him be glory ... in all generations forever!”



## VBTS Annual Golf Classic

On Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, VBTS hosted its annual Golf Classic to raise money to resupply our student scholarship funds. These scholarships go to current pastors, missionaries, and new students. In the past, the Lord has allowed the seminary to provide thousands of dollars to aid our students as they prepare for a careful ministry of the Word. Historically, the Golf Classic has been a significant instrument the Lord has used not only to raise public awareness of the availability of these scholarships for qualified students but also to replenish these funds. This month there were 111 golfers, 27 sponsors, and after all expenses, a record \$38,518 was put toward scholarships. We thank all the participants, and we praise God for blessing this effort!

## *Five Mission Myths of the Evangelical Church*

By Dr. Dan Seely, Pastor of Mission and Outreach, Colonial Baptist Church

**“Missionaries are the best and brightest among us.”** I have often heard this myth voiced, “I could never do what you do,” as if there were some special quality of people that become missionaries. In 1 Cor 1:26f Paul told the Corinthians, *God chose what is foolish in this world to shame the wise, and God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong . . . so that no human being might boast.* Look at the disciples—all were ordinary men from whom God received the glory. The book of Acts confirms this: *They observed the confidence of Peter and John, and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus (4:13).*

**“If God wants me to be a missionary, he will give me a special call.”** Those who request an unusual experience seem to desire an encounter like Paul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9), or a vision like Peter to go to the unreached (Acts 10). However, such thinking paralyzes many people from considering Christ’s written call to all his disciples, *Go and make disciples of all peoples* (Matt. 28:19–20). Though it is not Jesus’ intent for every single person to cross geographical or cultural borders, we are all called to *make disciples* wherever we are.

**“The safest place in the world is in the center of God’s will.”** NO . . . this myth needs to be totally dispelled! Safety is merely an illusion, a ‘god’ that has become the great idol of our culture right alongside of comfort. Jesus was clear on this issue, *A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you* (John 15:20). We cannot expect to be treated differently than our Savior; he was rejected and crucified, and many of his disciples were martyred. We do not take the gospel to the nations and make disciples because it is a safe endeavor. It is important to expose the lie of safety or even the parallel myth that “God will protect his children who are doing what he wants them to do.” No, God has promised to reward us, but his promise of reward is not a guarantee of bodily protection.

**“I would have to give up too much to be involved in mission.”** The self-centered desire to achieve the “American Dream” sets the bar way too low for any disciple. As Christians, our purpose in life must be more than obtaining a spouse, children, a secure job, a house, cars, etc.—in short, we will leave all these things behind when we die. Jesus put it this way, *Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it* (Mark 8:35). This truth must be embraced. As Jim Elliot famously interpreted Jesus’ words, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

**“Mission is a Western thing.”** In our current age we need to challenge one another with the idea that as Americans [We Are Not the Hero](#) (to borrow the title of a book). Certainly, we all love a good hero story, but when it comes to mission, God is the hero not us. Our job is simply to join with whatever God is doing, wherever we see him at work, and *not look back* (Lk. 9:62). Though our western culture pushes us toward independence and isolation from each other, Christ calls his church to work together, which implies partnering with believers from other cultures, and not assuming we must be the ones who are in the lead or who are in charge. Our call from Christ is to all his disciples, to reach all the nations. Is this your heartbeat?