A Name Worthy of a College

Many colleges derive their name from a place or a benefactor. William Carey College draws strength from a name that marks its commitment to the highest standards of Christian scholarship.

The life of William Carey, D. D. (1761-1834) defines the mission of William Carey College. Carey was devoted to a diversity of endeavors that characterize the practice of Christian faith in the modern world.

He was a missionary, evangelist, educator, reformer, linguist, scientist and businessman. As such, his life and work offer a model for operation of a Baptist college.

Identifying Facts Regarding William Carey

Missionary Emphasis

- Born 1761, self-educated cobbler and pastor from the English midlands.
- Heralded the formation of the Baptist Missionary Society in 1792 with his watchword "Expect great things; attempt great things."
- Wrote missions pamphlet *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens* (1792).
- Served as a missionary in India from 1793 until his death in 1834.
- Converted thousands of Hindus and Muslims to Christianity.
- Established Baptist mission stations throughout southern Asia.

Christian Social Reform

- Campaigned against caste social distinctions.
- Worked to secure prohibition of infant sacrifice and widow-burning.

Linguistic Diligence

- Published grammars and dictionaries of several Indian languages.
- Served as professor of Bengali and Sanskrit at Fort William College, Calcutta.

Scientific Achievement

- Edited two important botanical works, *Hortus Bengalensis* (1814) and *Flora Indica* (1820, 1824).
- Founded the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of India (1820).
- Became fellow of prestigious Linnaean Society of London.

Business Acumen

- Helped to start savings banks in India.
- Brought one of the first steam engines to India.
- Published India’s first periodical, *The Friend of India*, which later became a major newspaper, *The Statesman*.

Educational Striving

- Supervised printing of Bible in numerous Indian dialects.
- Founded Serampore College (1818).
- Pioneered the education of Indian women.
- Awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree by Brown University (1806).
1954-1963
In 1954-55, under the leadership of President I. E. Rouse, there are 26 faculty and 361 students. The college offers three degrees: the Bachelor of Arts, the Bachelor of Science, and the Bachelor of Music. Nine new buildings are constructed during this period 1954-1963.

1954—First dormitory for male students, Lawrence Hall, is constructed. With the new dormitory comes the beginning of male students living on campus.

1956—Dr. J. Ralph Noonkester is inaugurated as the second president of William Carey College. Dr. Donald Winters becomes chairman of the department of music and a major in Church Music is added.

1957—I.E. Rouse Library is constructed and dedicated in February of 1958.

1958—Accreditation is granted by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

1964-1973
By the fall of 1964, there are 683 students and over 50 full-time faculty. There are still three degrees offered through the seven academic divisions. There are now pre-professional programs in law, medicine, medical technology, and optometry. New construction continues with a music building, cafeteria, dormitory for men, and business building.

1964—William Carey College leads all Southern Baptist colleges in the number of alumni serving as missionaries.

1965—Carey is the first private college in Mississippi to comply with the Civil Rights Compliance Pledge and the first to admit black students.

1969—The college acquires the prestigious Mather School of Nursing in New Orleans and offers a bachelor’s degree in nursing. The nursing program in New Orleans is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Hospital.

1969—The Crusader baseball team wins the NAIA national baseball championship.

1972—The right to grant master’s degrees is approved in December.

1974-1983
The college now offers seven degrees: the Bachelor of Arts, the Bachelor of Science, the Bachelor of Fine Arts, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, the Bachelor of Music, the Master of Education, and the Master of Music. The academic areas are organized into the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Music, the School of Nursing, and the Graduate Division. In 1974 there are 72 full-time faculty and a student enrollment of 1,067.

1976—The college purchases the campus of the Gulf Coast Military Academy in Gulfport and begins a full program. Bobbye Wood, Miss Carey College, becomes Miss Mississippi.

1977—The music therapy program is granted accreditation by the National Association for Music Therapy. Carey celebrates its 75th anniversary and awards honorary doctorates to Eudora Welty, Leontyne Price, and Lucile Parker.

1978—The School of Nursing is granted accreditation by the National League of Nursing. A specialist program in education is approved.

1981—A Master of Arts in counseling is begun.

1982—The Sarah Gillespie Gallery is established on the Gulfport campus.

1982—Dianne Evans becomes Miss Mississippi and 2nd alternate to Miss America.

1983—Wanda Geddie becomes Miss Mississippi and 3rd alternate to Miss America.

1984-1993
In addition to the degrees offered in 1974, there are now the Bachelor of Science in Business, the Master of Business Administration, the Educational Specialist, the Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology, and the Master of Science in Counseling Psychology. There are four schools and two academic divisions: the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Business Administration, the School of Music, the School of Nursing, the Graduate Division, and the Division of Continuing Education. In 1984 there are 79 full-time faculty, and student enrollment has reached 1,746.

1989—Dr. J. Ralph Noonkester retires after 34 years of service as president.

1990—Dr. James W. Edwards is inaugurated as the third William Carey College president. The college changes its academic calendar to a trimester system.

1990—The Department of Religion becomes the Owen and Elizabeth Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies.

1990—The Lucile Parker Gallery opened on the Hattiesburg campus.

1994-2003
There are now six schools: the School of Arts, Humanities, and Sciences, the School of Business, the School of Education and Psychology, the School of Missions and Biblical Studies, the School of Music, and the School of Nursing. There are seven undergraduate degrees, two graduate degrees, and 24 majors. In 1994 there are 95 full-time faculty with a student enrollment of 2,139.

1994—The Marjorie and Earl Kelly Missions Plaza and the Estelle Willis Tower are constructed and dedicated to honor foreign missionaries.

1998—Dr. Larry W. Kennedy is inaugurated as the fourth president. The School of Nursing is relocated to the campus of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.


2002—Enrollment of church vocation students reaches an all-time high of 247.

2002—The first new building since 1974 is completed: the Fail-Asbury School of Nursing on the Hattiesburg campus.

2004
The sixth decade following the naming of William Carey College begins with a record enrollment of 2786. There are 112 full-time faculty.

• Two soccer fields and intramural field are opened.

• Major renovations are underway on the Hattiesburg campus.

• Smith Education Hall, a baseball complex, and a new nursing building in New Orleans are under construction.

• Dr. Larry Kennedy is awarded the prestigious Hattiesburg Hub Award.

• Myrick Carillon installed.