## Rescuing the Lost at Any Cost



Adoniram Judson was the father of the American Christian missionary enterprise as William Carey was of the British.

He was brilliant, reading at 3, taking navigation lessons at 10. Though his father was a minister, and despite his mother's prayers, as a teenager Adoniram became an atheist.

Then, one night in a country inn, he heard the moans and groans of a man who lay dying in the next room.

All night questions assailed his soul: "Was the dying man prepared to die? Where would he spend eternity?" The next morning Adoniram discovered that the man who died there that night was the young man who had led him into atheism. Now he was dead, and forever lost apart from God and anything good.

This one awful word terrorized his soul. "Lost! Lost! Lost!" Judson knew that he himself was lost too, and, setting all else aside, seeking the help he needed, he soon found Christ as his personal Savior.

His conversion not only saved his soul, it smashed his dreams of fame and honor for himself. His one pressing purpose became to "plan his life to please His Lord." And, deeply burdened for the lost and dying everywhere, deeply aware of their lost state for all eternity, he prepared to go to the mission field.

With his bride, he sailed for India. But, on arrival, he was not allowed entry. After terrible difficulties, they went to Burma. There they found not one Christian among its millions, and no friends, but constant danger to their lives. Soon after their arrival, they buried their new baby. For 6 years there was not a single convert. But, driven by their lostness, he vowed, "I will not leave Burma until the cross is planted here forever."

He was imprisoned for nearly two years as a British spy, often in incredible agony. Beaten and abused beyond description, he was starved and suffered horribly in heat and cold. At night he was suspended in anguish by ropes, his head below his feet.

Though his wife scarcely had food enough for herself and their little girl, she constantly bribed the guards and smuggled food and writing materials in to him.

There he translated much of the Bible into Burmese.

Though his wife and daughter succumbed to their sufferings, Judson continued in his determination to win the lost of Burma to Christ. He translated the whole Bible into Burmese and created a Burmese dictionary.

He returned only once briefly to America, seeking missionaries to follow in his train. He was soon back in Burma where he died proclaiming the lostness of all without Christ and His eternal salvation.

Due largely to this one man's commitment to win the lost to Christ no matter the cost, 30 years after his death, Burma had 63 Christian churches, 163 missionaries, and over 7000 believers

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