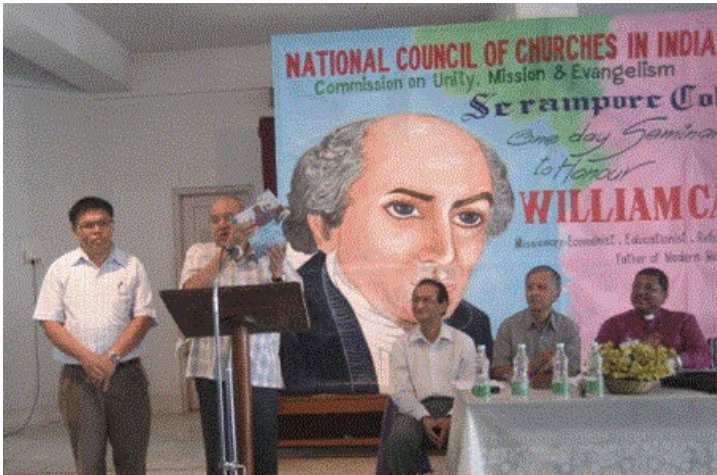


National:

Remembering William Carey on his 250th Birth Anniversary

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The

National Council of Churches in India, Commission on Unity, Mission & Evangelism along with Serampore College jointly organised a one day International Seminar on 5th March 2011 to commemorate the life and mission of William Carey.

Leading the inaugural worship, Bishop Ashoke Biswas, Diocese of Kolkata, CNI gave details about William Carey's unparalleled missionary zeal in fulfilling the commission of spreading the good news of the Kingdom of God in Bengal.

Dr. Bennie Crockett, Vice President of William Carey University (WCU), Professor of Religions and Philosophy, Co-ordinator of Carey Study Centre, Dr. Myroon Noonkester, Dean, School of Arts Professor and Chair, History and Co-Director of Carey Study Centre, and Dr. Jonathan Brooke, Professor of History from the William Carey University, Mississippi, USA and representatives, students and leaders from various theological seminaries in and around Kolkata participated in this seminar. The guests from USA also gave short speeches about how the William Carey University came into existence and how Carey Study Centre is being gradually developed with the encouragement and support of various persons and agencies, including Serampore College.

During the occasion, a book entitled, Mission and the Local Congregations, edited by Dr. Solomon Rongpi was released by the Rev. Dr. Ravi Tiwari, Registrar, Senate of Serampore College.

Paper presentations on "Contributions of Serampore to the Ecumenical Movement," "Educationist William Carey and His Contributions to Education in India," and "Together in Mission: Empowering Local Congregations" were made. The role of Serampore Missionaries in creating egalitarian society through proper education imparted by them and by their love and respect for the local people and their language were emphasised. Dr. Gaikwad gave a brief history of the inception of NCCI in 1914 and how it was indebted to William Carey for his ecumenical endeavours. He also narrated the birth of another ecumenical body, SCMI, which was inaugurated at Serampore by the Rev. John R. Mott in 1912. The importance of cultivating values and practices, gender and economic justice, congregational participatory polity, pluralistic and ecological harmony in local congregations was emphasized. While responding to Dr. Gaikwad's paper, Dr. Wati compared the times of Jerusalem Council with today's times, and how peoples' struggles for justice were not given due attention.

The participants in the Seminar were challenged and inspired to carry forward the legacy and principles of William Carey in today's complex socio-political circumstances and being true to Jesus Christ.

Dr. Solomon Rongpi

Executive Secretary – Commission on Unity, Mission & Evangelism

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