

will close the Carey Day. We hope to release two or three publications related to Carey's work.

Carey is widely regarded as a key figure in the rise of Bengali to be one of the world's great literary languages, and Rabindranath Tagore is its most famous exponent.

The Principal's email gave other current news:

We are now immersed in the heat of summer, which occasional rain cools down. University Exams and admission continue for the ASC.

Theology department as usual started their session with a retreat programme led by Rt.Rev. Samantaroy, Bishop of Amritsar, who was a student and then a teacher in the theology department in the 1970's and 80's. Now, the session is in full swing, Third Year BD students are having their field exposure education in

different parts of India. They will come back in October.

We will not have sport events for a while as the playing field was spoiled when the State Assembly Election was held. Tents were pitched on the ground and the ground is made uneven.

The Registrar of the **Senate**, Ravi Tiwari, has created a website which some of you may like to see, in honour of his father Yisudas's birth centenary: ravitiwari.in. The Senate itself has a new President, Rt Rev Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos (there's a name for English readers to savour!) and also an important new Centre. The South Asia Theological Research Institute functioned from Bangalore for ten years, but Serampore has now become a national centre for doctoral studies, taking special care of the concerns of north and north-east India. The Senate has to maintain a constant watch in order to keep high standards, especially in those parts of examinations which are marked locally by individual colleges.

Within the "family" of *Friends of Serampore* we have shared in prayerful concern for Colin & Ros Catchpole in Colin's serious illness, and for Martin & Gilliam Heath one of whose nephews has both wife and 4 year old daughter undergoing chemo and radio therapy.

So we end, trusting that you will continue with your interest and your praying - and your giving. As we told you in the last newsletter, for various reasons we were able to send £1700 more than usual. It will be much harder to send even our normal amount this year, so your further gifts are more needed than ever. Please make cheques payable to 'Friends of Serampore' (or, if you have made a Gift Aid declaration, to 'Broadmead Baptist Church') and send to us at the address given in the heading.

With warmest good wishes,

Edward

Rosemary

INCOME in 2010, summary			
B/f from 2009		3739.96	
Gift Aided donations and subs, via Broadmead Baptist Church, incl. tax refund of 491.25; also CAF Vouchers		2616.25	
Other donations, subscriptions and bank interest:		<u>1669.04</u>	<u>8025.25</u>
EXPENDITURE in 2010, summary			
To Serampore College for Theol Dept, incl. £641 earmarked for Scholarship		5993.00	
Journal subscriptions		71.37	
Expenses: Newsletters, postages and computer use, bank charge, etc		122.98	
C/f to 2011		<u>1837.90</u>	<u>8025.25</u>

A final look at **William Carey's achievements In India**, taken from the *Carey Family Newsletter*, 2010

- Many hundreds of Indians of all castes found a liberating faith in Jesus and were baptised. Caste was never recognised by Carey, Marshman and Ward.
- Carey believed native Christians were the most effective evangelists.
- Indian scholar Vishal Mangalwadi calls Carey 'the central character in the story of the modernisation of India'.
- Carey translated the whole Bible into 6 Indian languages and parts of it into 29 other languages.
- The Mission Press was used for widespread communication.
- Schools were established both for European and for Indian children.
- Higher education was provided at Serampore College.
- Medical work was developed.
- Carey campaigned for social justice in person, by pen or press, in India, Britain and the West Indies.
- He introduced lending libraries and the sharing of knowledge.
- He saw potential in horticulture, forestry and agriculture for improving the quality of life.
- Living in a community enabled a large proportion of their income to be used entirely for the Mission.
- In this way William Carey set a pattern for world mission which continues to this day.

FRIENDS OF SERAMPORE

Serampore College (and University), India

Founded by Carey, Marshman and Ward, 1818
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Newsletter July 2011

There are two main themes for this letter. The first is **the retirement of Dr Lalchungnunga as Principal** at the end of October. He writes:

We are counting our days before I retire at the age of 60. Hliri and I are mentally prepared to leave on 1st November. We have advertised the post of the Principal, last date of submission of application is 12 July. We have had four applicants so far. They seem to be quite qualified. We will look at the applications at the meeting of the Working Committee of the Council on 15 July, and take decision when to interview them. I expect we may have identified my successor by the end of September or beginning of October. Please pray that we will be guided to choose the right person whom God has anointed to head this historic institution.

We ourselves have no specific plan but wait on the Lord for direction. We think we will go 'home' to Mizoram on 1st Nov, settle into our small home at Aizawl, share messages at the Youth Rally in Guwahati, attend the annual Synod of our Church 7-11 December, and then leave for Texas to be there for the birthdays of our grandchildren (Elianna's on 14 Dec., Timothy's on 24 Dec. and Nathan's on 10 Feb.)

We think that we will be open to take up pastoral ministry, if any is there for us, in summer of 2012 - either in India or anywhere God leads us and people can accept us. We will appreciate if any of you Friends of Serampore can specifically pray about this. We feel by God's grace we can still be of some use to God for the next 5 to 10 years, our health permitting.

The College owes a great debt of gratitude to Lalchungnunga (and Hliri). The task has been immense, the institution as a whole comprising the Theology and Art-

Science-Commerce departments, and also the Senate with its fifty affiliated colleges. He has seen Serampore College through difficult times (when has it ever been otherwise?) and has remained a humble and devoted servant of Jesus Christ. The two have also become our strong personal friends.

So here are two specific requests for our prayers:

The appointment of the next Principal.
Chungnunga and Hliri's future.

The second main theme is **the 250th birth anniversary of William Carey** on 17 August, which will be celebrated very widely. Various descriptions of this "poor journeyman-shoemaker" come to mind:

The Father of Modern Missions.

The greatest Englishman India ever possessed, take him all in all.

Undereducated, underfunded and underestimated, William Carey overcame daunting obstacles in India and sparked the Great Missions Century.

You may also remember our telling of own realisation at Convocation last year that "Carey and Serampore" are thought of throughout the Indian churches (including the ancient branches) in the same way as "Columba and Iona" are in this country.

The *Baptist Times* recently devoted a centre-spread to Carey, including a section which they requested from us. There is a copy on www.friendsofserampore.org.uk - those of you who do not use the internet, please ask someone who does!

Lalchungnunga describes the celebrations that are planned in the College:

We have chosen a theme that will focus on the Socio-Cultural Transformation from Carey to Tagore. This year is the 250th anniversary of Carey's birthday and the 150th anniversary of Tagore's birthday. All the speeches, exhibition, Essay-writing competition and Painting Competition will focus on the theme. We plan to send out Professors of ASC and Theology Departments to give special lectures on Carey among the students of neighbouring colleges and schools, and among our first year students of ASC. Two hours of Cultural programme

