

# *Gleanings from the Missionary*

THE KOKENZIE FAMILY

June 2010

## ATTEMPT SOMETHING

One of the most significant movements in world evangelism occurred by the godly influence of missionary William Carey and four humble preachers that united with him. He pressed upon these fellow Baptists, "See...what Moravians are daring, and some of them British like ourselves, and many only artisan and poor! Cannot we Baptists at least attempt *something* in fealty [loyalty] to the same Lord?" These Baptists "felt themselves helpless" because their flocks "were illiterate and poor." One of them, Fuller, said, "There was little or no respectability amongst us, not so much as a squire to take the chair." Yet, in obedience and faith, he, Carey and the other three preachers resolved to commit themselves to the following statement: "Humbly desirous of making an effort for the propagation of the Gospel amongst the Heathen, according to the recommendations of Carey's *Enquiry*, we unanimously resolve to act in Society together for this purpose; and, as in the divided state of Christendom each denomination, by exerting itself separately, seems likeliest to accomplish the great end, we name this the Particular Baptist Society for the Propagation of the Gospel amongst the Heathen" (*William Carey*, S. Pearce Carey, 1993, pp. 82-84).

## SMARTER THAN EINSTEIN?

Albert Einstein, considered one of the world's most intelligent people, declared, "I cannot conceive of a personal God who...would directly sit in judgment on creatures of his own creation" (*Albert Einstein the Human Side*, Helen Dukas & Banesh Hoffman, eds., 1981, p. 66). Of course, this viewpoint directly contradicts the Bible. The Bible plainly teaches that God *does* sit in judgment, because He views man as sinful by choice; we are responsible for our actions. This truth was far too uncomfortable for Einstein to accept. Instead, Einstein rested on his own *intelligent* conclusion and along with him so have many of the world's scientific *elite*. Those of us, who disagree based on biblical grounds, are considered blind. We are often contrasted with Einstein, and determined to be blindfolded by Christianity. On the contrary, our light is far above what science or human intelligence could ever determine. Our Light is divine; the origin of our knowledge eclipses all scientific discovery. No genuine Christian would audaciously promote himself as more intelligent than Einstein because Christians know their viewpoint is not the result of intellect at all; rather, it has been revealed by God! By faith then, we realize God is large enough to not only create people, but also to create them as free agents so autonomous that they can actually choose to turn from their Creator. God had long warned humanity not to sin, but we did, and we are now responsible. In so doing, our sin has clearly illustrated that God could, in fact, create that which was independent of His will, and that He is equally just to sit in judgment on that creation for turning from it. We claim to know this not because we are smarter than Einstein, but because God told us so (Gen. 1:1; Josh 24:15; Rev. 22:17; Js. 1:13), and He knows more than all.

## THE ORIGIN OF THE EXPRESSION "HOLDING THE ROPES"

One of missionary William Carey's faithful and ardent supporters, Bro. Fuller, wrote, "Our undertaking [to support Carey] to India really appeared at its beginning to me somewhat like a few men, who were deliberating about the importance of penetrating a deep mine which had never before been explored. We had no one to guide us; and, whilst we were thus deliberating, Carey, *as it were*, said, 'Well, I will go down, if you will hold the rope.' But, before he descended, he, *as it seemed to me*, took an oath from each of us at the mouth of the pit, to this effect that 'whilst we lived, we should never let go the rope'" (*William Carey*, S. Pearce Carey, 1993, p. 108). How deeply grateful Carey was that these men, "with entire fidelity...kept [that covenant] in every case until broken by death" (*ibid.*). All missionaries share in the gratitude of Carey for those who steadfastly hold the ropes.