

## American Minute with Bill Federer Haystack Prayer Meeting & World Missionary Movement, Adoniram & Ann Judson to Burma

Inspired by **Great Awakening** preachers like **George Whitefield**, a Yale student named **David Brainerd** became a **missionary to American Indians**.

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He wrote in his diary:

"I could have no freedom in the thought of any other circumstances or business in life:

All my desire was the conversion of the heathen, and all my hope was in God: God does not suffer me to please or comfort myself with hopes of seeing friends, returning to my dear acquaintance, and enjoying worldly comforts."

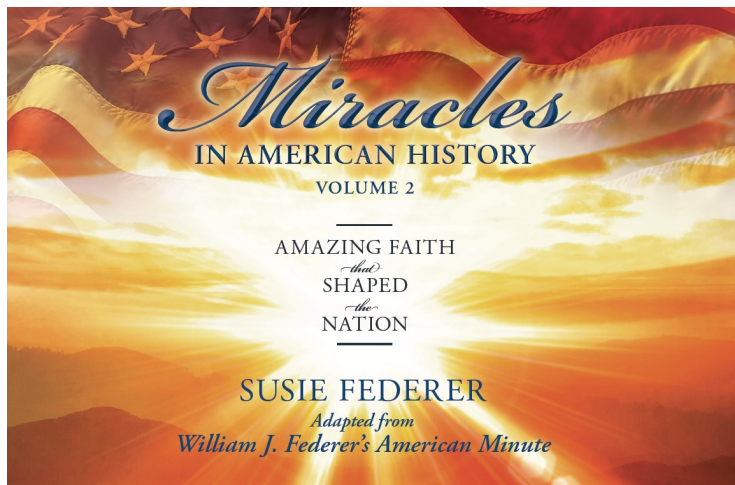
**David Brainerd** died of tuberculosis at the age of 29 in 1747.

Though only converting a small number, his life story was written down and published in 1749 by **Jonathan Edwards**, the future President of Princeton, titled "**An**



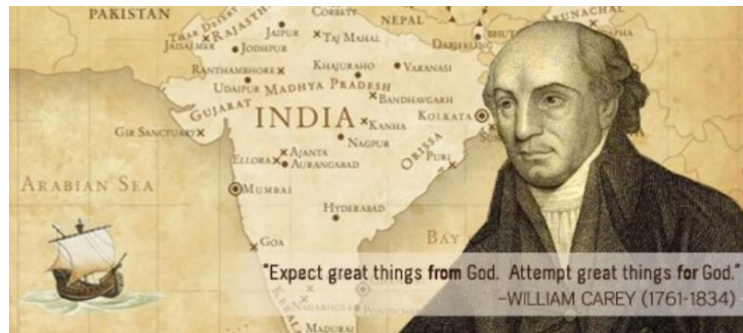
BRAINERD PREACHING TO THE INDIANS.

# Account of the Life of the Late Reverend Mr. David Brainerd."



## [Miracles in American History- Vol. TWO: Amazing Faith that Shaped the Nation](#)

It was read by millions and inspired many to become missionaries, including **William Carey**.



When **Carey** heard reports of **Captain Cook** discovering the **Hawaiian Islands** in 1778, **Carey** decided to dedicate his life to **world missions**, traveling from England to **India** in 1793.

**Carey** wrote:

**"Expect great things from God, Attempt great things for God."**



**William Carey's** life inspired many others.

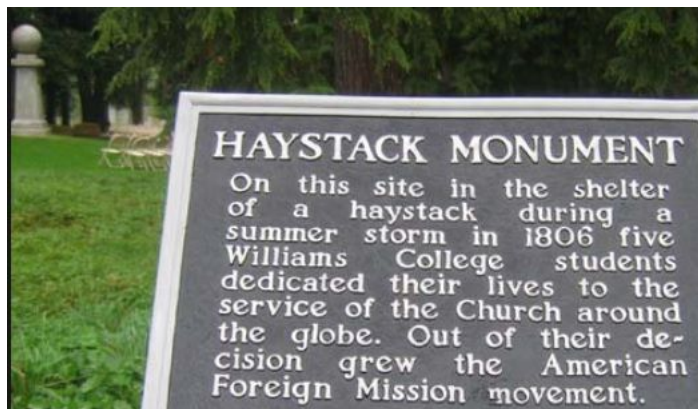
In the early 1800s, a **Second Great Awakening Revival** swept America.

In 1806, five **Williams College** students met by the Hoosic River in Massachusetts near a grove of trees to discuss **how to reach the world with the Gospel**.

Suddenly a **thunderstorm** poured down torrential rain and the **students hid next to a haystack till it passed**.



While there, they prayed and **committed themselves to world missions**.



The book ***Williamstown and Williams College*** by Arthur Latham Perry (1904) recorded:

"The brevity of the shower, the

strangeness of the place of refuge, and the peculiarity of their topic of prayer and conference all took hold of their imaginations and their memories."

**The Haystack Prayer Meeting** led to the founding of the **American Board of Commissioners**



**for Foreign Missions**, which in the next 50 years sent out **1,250 missionaries to India, China, Hawaii, southeast Asian countries**.

In 150 years, it sent out **5,000 to mission fields** around

the world.

Missionaries established schools, hospitals and translated the Bible into indigenous languages, even creating written languages.



The first missionary sent out by the **American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions** was **Adoniram Judson**, born in Massachusetts, August 9, 1788.

At age 16, Judson began attending a college founded in 1764 by Baptist ministers, the **College of Rhode**

**Island & Providence Plantations (Brown University).**

While there, he became friends with a **skeptic and deist** student named **Jacob Eames**.

**Eames** was a fan of the **godless French**

**philosophies** which emerged after the French Revolution and swept America's college campuses, **capturing the naive minds of impressionable**



students.

**Eames** convinced **Judson** to **abandon his parent's Christian faith and become a skeptic.**

In 1804, after graduating valedictorian of his class at age 19, **Judson** opened a small school and wrote grammar and math textbooks.



While traveling to New York City in 1808, **Judson** stayed at a little inn.

He was annoyed and not able to get any sleep because the **groans of a dying**

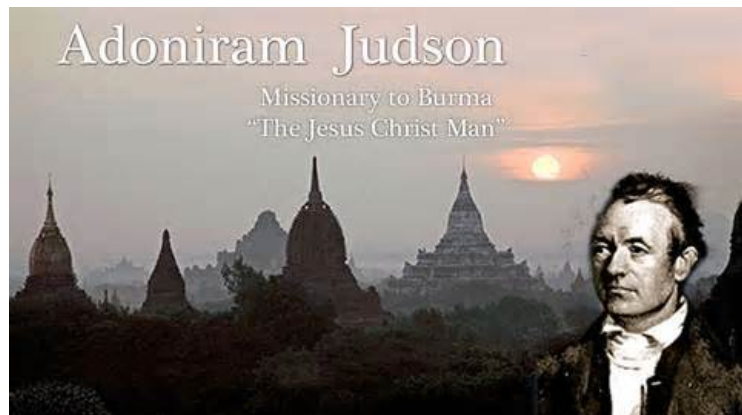
**man in a neighboring room** kept him awake all night.

Nevertheless, **Judson** ignored the cries, as his heart had become hardened by his skeptical college friend, **Jacob Eames.**

The next morning, when checking out, **Judson** inquired of the innkeeper who the man was who had died in the night.

He was petrified when he heard it was none other than **Jacob Eames**, his college friend.

This rude awakening led **Adoniram Judson** to reaffirm his **Christian faith.**



He would go on to become **one of America's first foreign missionaries**

and the **first significant missionary to Burma - modern day Myanmar.**



**Adoniram Judson** fell in love with **Ann Hasseltine**, also known as Nancy.

**Adoniram** wrote to **Ann's father**:

"I have now to ask whether you can consent to part with your daughter early next spring, to see her no more in this world;

whether you can consent to her departure for a heathen land, and her subjection to the hardships and sufferings of a missionary life;

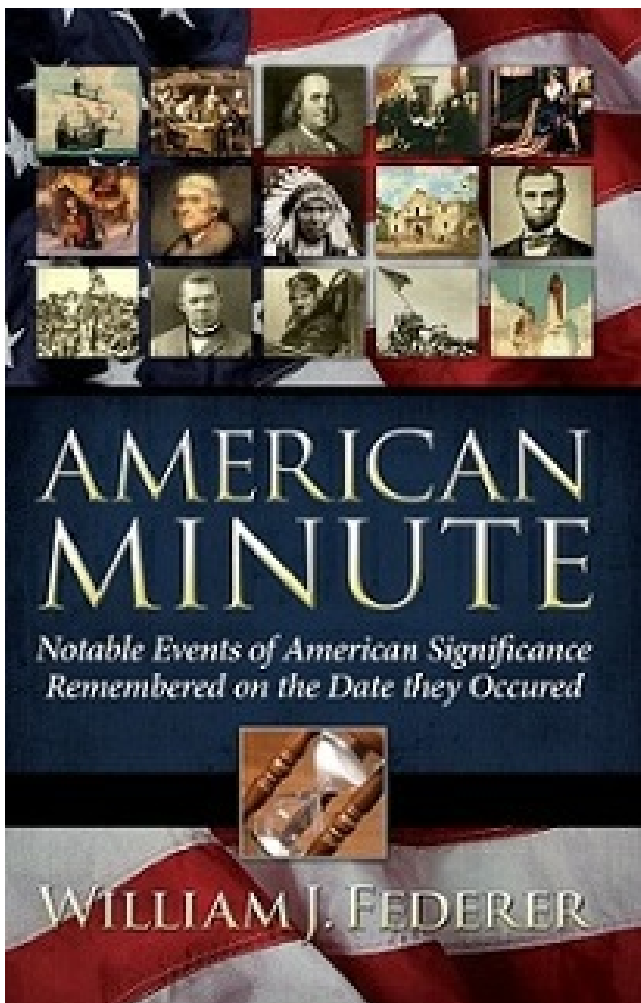
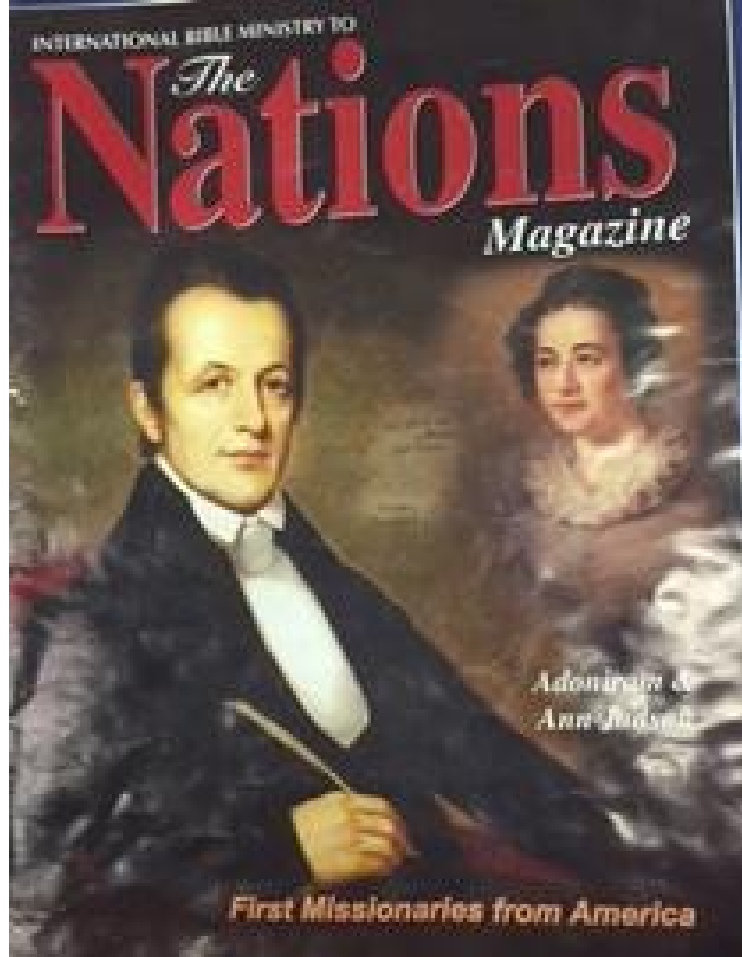
whether you can consent to her exposure to the dangers of the ocean; to the fatal influence of the southern climate of India; to every kind of want and distress; to degradation, insult, persecution, and perhaps a violent death? ..."

He continued:

"Can you consent to all this for the sake of Him who left his heavenly home, and died for her and for you; for the sake of perishing immortal souls; for the sake

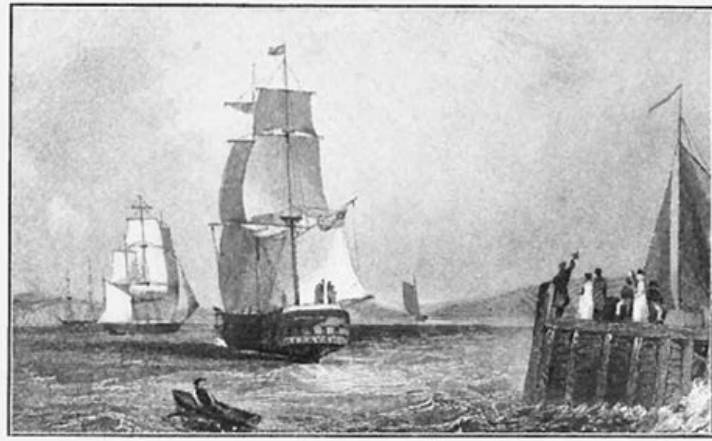
of Zion and the glory of God?

Can you consent to all this in hope of soon meeting your daughter in the world of glory, with a crown of righteousness brightened by the acclamations of praise which shall redound to her Savior from heathens saved, through her means, from eternal woe and despair?"

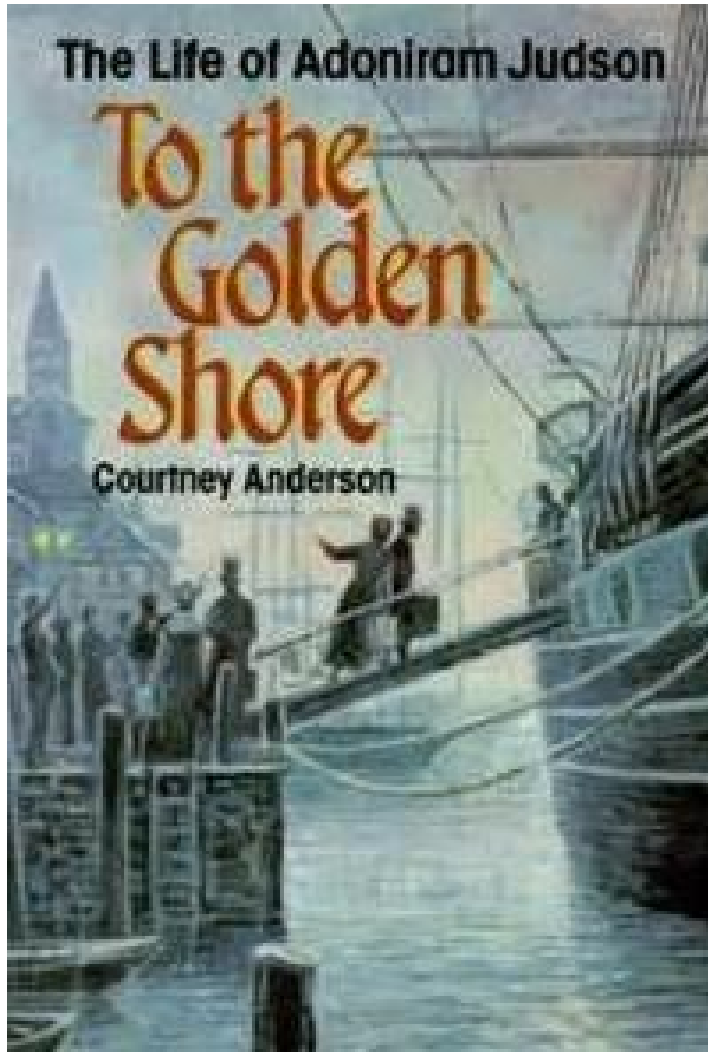


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Remembered on the  
Date They Occurred](#)

At age 23, **Adoniram**, and his wife Ann, age 22, sailed from New England on **FEBRUARY 19, 1812**, for Calcutta, India.



SAILING FROM SALEM ON THE "CARAVAN"



Another missionary who sailed with the **Judsons** was **Luther Rice**.

In India, they all met English Baptist missionary **William Carey**.

The **Judsons** and **Luther Rice** switched from **Congregationalist** to **Baptist**, which jeopardized their financial support.

They were forced to **leave India** by the

**British East India Company**, as it wanted favorable trade relations with the local authorities, who were non-Christian. If the Company was perceived as supporting missionaries, it could diminish their profits.

The **Judsons** sailed for **Rangoon, Burma**, and **Luther Rise**



returned to  
**America.**

**Rice** dedicated himself to raise money for missions, which led to the establishment of the **Southern Baptist Convention.**

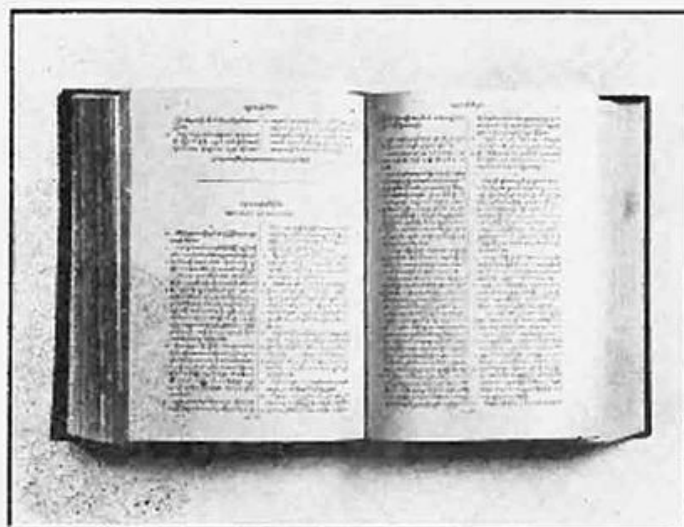


**Rice** helped start numerous **Baptist seminaries and universities**, including **The George Washington University** in Washington, DC, in

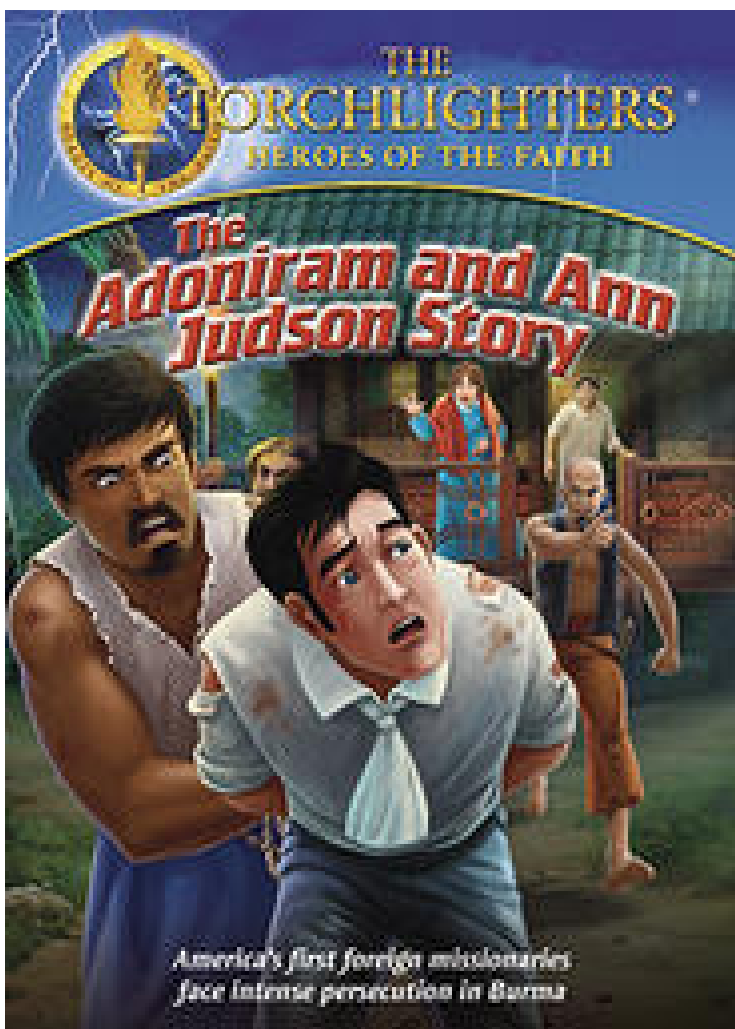
1821, where the main administration building is named **Luther Rice Hall.**

**Brown University** awarded him an **honorary doctorate.**

In **Burma**, **Adoniram and Ann Judson** translated **Bible Scriptures**, preached in **Burmese**, and started schools.



THE BIBLE IN BURMESE, TRANSLATED BY JUDSON



When war broke out between the **British** and **Burma**, **Burmese** officers burst into the **Judson's** home.

They threw **Adoniram** on the ground in front of his pregnant wife and tied him up with torture thongs.

Accusing him of being a spy for the **British**, they dragged him away and threw him into the **infamous Ava death prison**.

After 12 months, **Judson** was marched with other prisoners, ill and barefoot, to a primitive village near **Mandalay**.

All but one of the other prisoners died.



JUDSON IN PRISON AT QUANG-TRUNG.



MRS. JUDSON'S VISIT TO HER HUSBAND IN PRISON, WITH LITTLE MARIA

While **Adoniram** was in prison, his wife **Ann** was alone as **the only western woman in the entire country.**

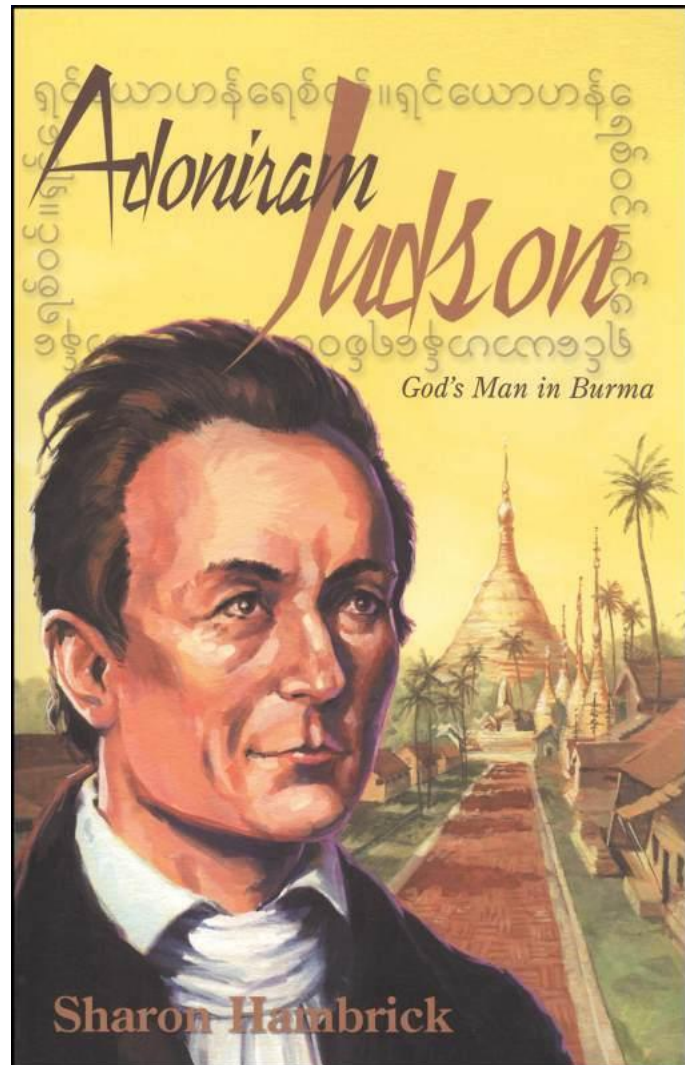
She lived in a tiny shack outside the

gate and brought him meager food, as the prison did not feed him.

Ann continually lobbied the authorities for his release.

After 20 months of brutal treatment, being in irons and even suspended by his mangled feet, **Adoniram** was finally released.

The **British** then pressed him into serving as an interpreter between the **British** and **Burmese**, where he gained respect from both sides.



**Adoniram Judson** compiled an **English-**

THE JUDSONS  
**BURMESE-ENGLISH  
DICTIONARY**

BY  
ADONIRAM JUDSON  
AND  
ANN JUDSON  
REVISED BY  
ANN JUDSON  
AND  
GEORGE BOARDMAN  
NEW YORK  
PUBLISHED BY  
G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS  
1890

**Burmese Dictionary** and translated the Bible.

Then, in 1826, **Adoniram Judson's** wife, **Ann**, died.

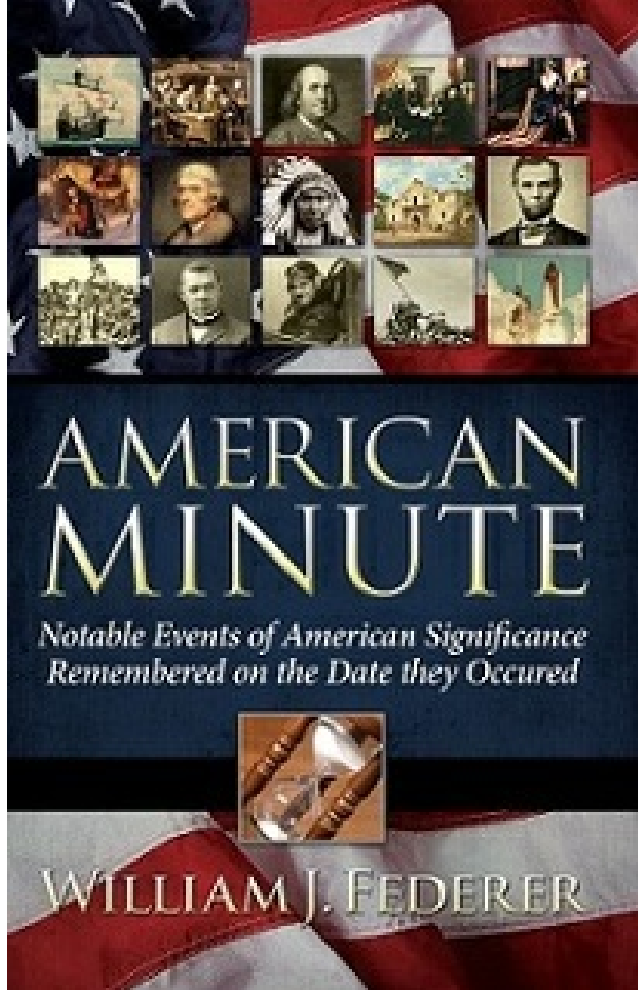
**Adoniram** sank into severe depression.

Later, he was joined by missionaries **George Boardman** and his wife, **Sarah**.



SAVONAR FOR SAVONAR, IN THE PRESENCE OF THE KING-SOLARAR.

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It took **Judson** 12 years to make 18 converts.

One of the first Christian converts was from the **Karen people**, a man named **Ko Tha Byu**.

He had been a murderer with a diabolical temper.

After being captured, he was sold into slavery. **Adoniram Judson** and **George Boardman** began witnessing to him, teaching him to read and write.



Mung Shway Mung.

**Ko Tha Byu** converted to Christianity and was baptized

on May 16, 1828. For the rest of his life he was a tireless evangelist to the **Karen people**.



The **Karen people** had been a hunted minority scattered in the jungles.

Astonishingly, their **ancient Karen people beliefs** were that there was an **all-powerful Creator of heaven and**

**earth** who made a **man**, then took **one of the man's ribs** and formed a **woman**.

The **Karen people** believed that as a result of temptation by a devil, the man and woman fell, but there was a promise that someday a messiah would come to their rescue.

The **Karen people** lived in expectation of a prophecy that white foreigners would bring them a sacred white parchment roll instructing them on the way to heaven.



**Ko Tha Byu** was put into the



Ko Tha Byn—Great-grandfather of the first Christian and first Pastor of the Baptist Church at Rangoon.

ministry by  
**Adoniram  
Judson.**

With **Ko Tha  
Byn's** help, from  
1828-1840,  
membership in the  
**Karen Baptist  
Church** grew to  
1,270.

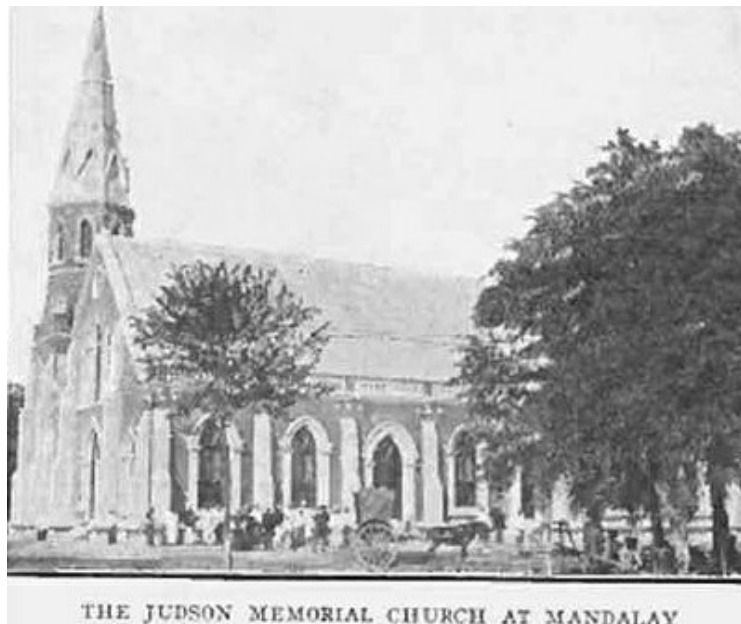
**Ko Tha Byu**  
served as **the first  
native Burmese  
pastor**, refounding  
the church at  
**Rangoon.**

A mission worker  
described him:  
**"Ko Tha Byu was**

an ignorant (uneducated) man; yet he did more good  
than all of us, for God was with him."

**Adoniram  
Judson** died in  
April 12, 1850.

His life's work  
resulted in **Burma**  
having **100  
churches, 123  
ministers** and  
over **8,000  
baptized  
Christians.**



The leader of the **Myanmar Evangelical Fellowship**

stated in 1993:

"Today, there are **6 million Christians in Myanmar**, and every one of us trace our spiritual heritage to one man - the **Reverend Adoniram Judson.**"

Each July, **Baptist churches** in **Myanmar** celebrate "**Judson Day.**"

In the United States, no less than 36 Baptist churches are named after **Adoniram Judson**, as well as **Judson University** in Illinois and the town of **Judsonia, Arkansas.**

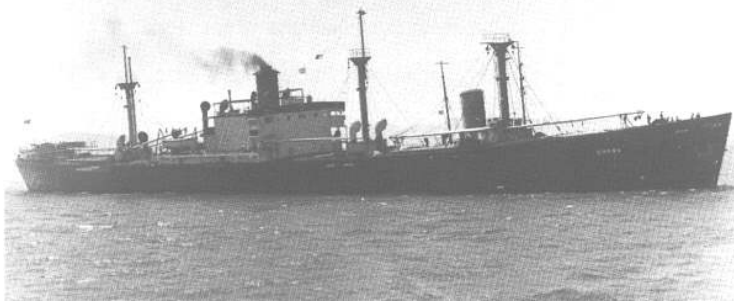


His wife, **Ann Judson**, is the namesake of **Judson College** in Alabama, as well as a dormitory at **Maranatha Baptist University.**

At **Brown University** there is a house named after **Adoniram Judson**, owned by **Christian Union.**

During World War II, a **U.S. Liberty Ship** was stationed in the **Philippines** named the **SS Adoniram Judson.**





Surviving 56 air raid attacks day and night for six days, the ship's captain said **"It was miraculous that the bombs did not hit the**

**ship."**

Expressing his conviction, **Adoniram Judson** wrote:

"How do Christians discharge this trust committed to them?"

They let three fourths of the world sleep the sleep of death, ignorant of the simple truth that a Savior died for them."

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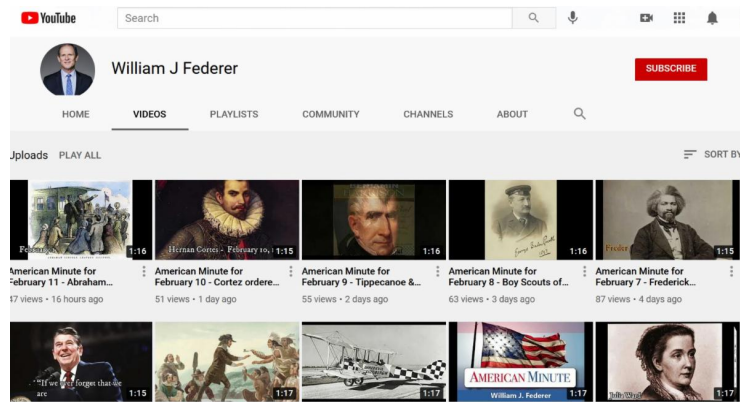
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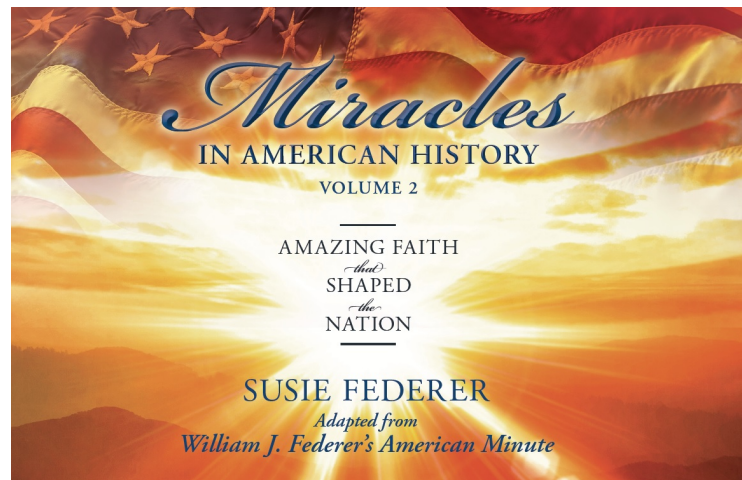


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