

FACES OF LUTHERAN MISSIONS IN INDIA

Carl Manthey-Zorn

Born: March 18, 1846, Sterup,
Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

Died: July 12, 1928
Cleveland, Ohio

Lutheran missionary who fought for divine inspiration of Holy Scripture and the necessity to proclaim the Gospel around the world.



CHRIST SHOWED GRACE TO HIS FAITHFUL SERVANT CARL MANTHEY-ZORN despite Zorn's rebellious life of unbelief as a university student. Although baptized into an Evangelical household, Zorn was educated by professors who believed the Scriptures to be myths that taught only morality. However, Zorn returned to the Christian faith after experiencing terrors of conscience and subsequently reading the Gospels for the first time. He enrolled at the Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Leipzig to train for mission work in India. Zorn was commissioned June 2, 1871, and began work in Poodookottai. In 1874 he presented a conference paper on the unity of what the Bible and Lutheran Confessions teach. Other missionaries strongly disagreed, and the leaders in Leipzig demanded Zorn retract what he had subsequently publicized. He returned his call documents and joined The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He served LCMS parishes in Sheboygan, Wisconsin and Cleveland, Ohio. A prolific devotional author and vocal advocate for international missions, Zorn was asked to preach at the commissioning service of the Missouri Synod's first foreign missionaries, Theodor Naether and T. Franz Mohn, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, St. Charles, Missouri, October 14, 1894.

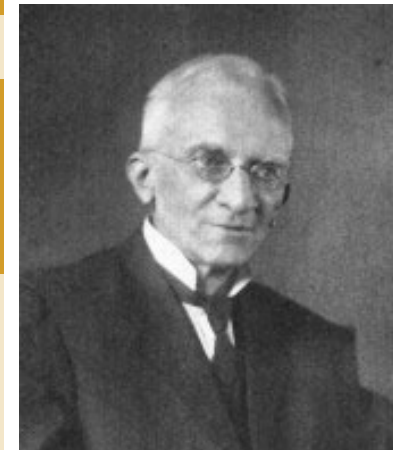
FACES OF LUTHERAN MISSIONS IN INDIA

Carl Manthey-Zorn

Born: March 18, 1846, Sterup,
Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

Died: July 12, 1928
Cleveland, Ohio

Lutheran missionary who fought for divine inspiration of Holy Scripture and the necessity to proclaim the Gospel around the world.



CHRIST SHOWED GRACE TO HIS FAITHFUL SERVANT CARL MANTHEY-ZORN despite Zorn's rebellious life of unbelief as a university student. Although baptized into an Evangelical household, Zorn was educated by professors who believed the Scriptures to be myths that taught only morality. However, Zorn returned to the Christian faith after experiencing terrors of conscience and subsequently reading the Gospels for the first time. He enrolled at the Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Leipzig to train for mission work in India. Zorn was commissioned June 2, 1871, and began work in Poodookottai. In 1874 he presented a conference paper on the unity of what the Bible and Lutheran Confessions teach. Other missionaries strongly disagreed, and the leaders in Leipzig demanded Zorn retract what he had subsequently publicized. He returned his call documents and joined The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He served LCMS parishes in Sheboygan, Wisconsin and Cleveland, Ohio. A prolific devotional author and vocal advocate for international missions, Zorn was asked to preach at the commissioning service of the Missouri Synod's first foreign missionaries, Theodor Naether and T. Franz Mohn, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, St. Charles, Missouri, October 14, 1894.

FACES OF LUTHERAN MISSIONS IN INDIA

Carl Manthey-Zorn

- **March 18, 1846** Born to Evangelical pastor Hans and Lina (Manthey) Zorn in Sterup, Germany.
- **March 20, 1846** Baptized in Evangelical congregation.
- **1848** Hostilities in Schleswig-Holstein between Danish and Prussian forces. Hans Zorn declared a traitor by Danish forces and flees to the south.
- **1852** Family flees to Hochspeyer in the Rhineland-Palatinate where Hans Zorn receives appointment at Evangelical congregation. Hans transfers to Odernheim in 1856.
- **1861** Carl enrolls in *Gymnasium* at Kreuznach. Begins fighting with other students on regular basis. Taught to approach the Bible as a mythological book of morality.
- **November 10, 1862** Upon death of Hans Zorn, the family moves to Erlangen.
- **1864 ?** After passing final exam in the *Gymnasium*, he enrolls in University of Erlangen and joins the *Burschenschaft Germania* (Friedrich August Craemer had also been a member), where he begins dueling with rapiers. Dueling finally stops after severe injury to his head in 1867.
- **1867** Becomes private tutor in Mecklenburg. Crisis of faith ends with belief in the Bible as God's Word.
- **1869** Decides to attend the Evangelical Lutheran Mission of Leipzig. Trains for service in India.
- **July 8, 1871** Assigned to work at the mission station in Poodookottai.
- **September 1874** Zorn and Zucker invite fellow missionaries to meet and discuss "proper unity in faith and doctrine based on Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions." The response from the Leipzig Mission is harsh. Zorn returns his call documents and joins the Missouri Synod.
- **October 14, 1894** Preaches at the commissioning service of Theodore Naether and T. Franz Mohn at Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Charles, Missouri.
- **July 12, 1928** Dies after suffering a stroke June 29, 1928.

WHAT WAS SO GREAT ABOUT ZORN THAT WE HAVE SPENT SO MANY PAGES telling the story of his life? It was not his precise theological learning. It was not the offices he held. It was not his many writings From a purely human standpoint, Zorn was a richly gifted and blessed individual. ... In his youth he was driven by sin. His sins ... flowed from human pride, and finally led him to revolt against his God. But just as with the apostle Paul, the Lord powerfully broke into Zorn's life and led him to know his sins. Then He poured an uncommonly rich measure of his grace and Spirit into this individual who had a unique and special combination of natural gifts ... and prepared him to suffer the scorn and misery he would endure for the sake of the Word. ... In uncommon measure, Zorn was a practical outworking of Luther's writing, "On the Freedom of the Christian Man."

—from a 1928 biography of Zorn's life by August Pieper

FACES OF LUTHERAN MISSIONS IN INDIA

Carl Manthey-Zorn

- **March 18, 1846** Born to Evangelical pastor Hans and Lina (Manthey) Zorn in Sterup, Germany.
- **March 20, 1846** Baptized in Evangelical congregation.
- **1848** Hostilities in Schleswig-Holstein between Danish and Prussian forces. Hans Zorn declared a traitor by Danish forces and flees to the south.
- **1852** Family flees to Hochspeyer in the Rhineland-Palatinate where Hans Zorn receives appointment at Evangelical congregation. Hans transfers to Odernheim in 1856.
- **1861** Carl enrolls in *Gymnasium* at Kreuznach. Begins fighting with other students on regular basis. Taught to approach the Bible as a mythological book of morality.
- **November 10, 1862** Upon death of Hans Zorn, the family moves to Erlangen.
- **1864 ?** After passing final exam in the *Gymnasium*, he enrolls in University of Erlangen and joins the *Burschenschaft Germania* (Friedrich August Craemer had also been a member), where he begins dueling with rapiers. Dueling finally stops after severe injury to his head in 1867.
- **1867** Becomes private tutor in Mecklenburg. Crisis of faith ends with belief in the Bible as God's Word.
- **1869** Decides to attend the Evangelical Lutheran Mission of Leipzig. Trains for service in India.
- **July 8, 1871** Assigned to work at the mission station in Poodookottai.
- **September 1874** Zorn and Zucker invite fellow missionaries to meet and discuss "proper unity in faith and doctrine based on Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions." The response from the Leipzig Mission is harsh. Zorn returns his call documents and joins the Missouri Synod.
- **October 14, 1894** Preaches at the commissioning service of Theodore Naether and T. Franz Mohn at Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Charles, Missouri.
- **July 12, 1928** Dies after suffering a stroke June 29, 1928.

WHAT WAS SO GREAT ABOUT ZORN THAT WE HAVE SPENT SO MANY PAGES telling the story of his life? It was not his precise theological learning. It was not the offices he held. It was not his many writings From a purely human standpoint, Zorn was a richly gifted and blessed individual. ... In his youth he was driven by sin. His sins ... flowed from human pride, and finally led him to revolt against his God. But just as with the apostle Paul, the Lord powerfully broke into Zorn's life and led him to know his sins. Then He poured an uncommonly rich measure of his grace and Spirit into this individual who had a unique and special combination of natural gifts ... and prepared him to suffer the scorn and misery he would endure for the sake of the Word. ... In uncommon measure, Zorn was a practical outworking of Luther's writing, "On the Freedom of the Christian Man."

—from a 1928 biography of Zorn's life by August Pieper