

6. Along with these home works of interdenominational underpinnings, the various denominations quickly formed movements of their own. 1816 saw the Presbyterian Mission Board that would become the Board of Domestic Missions in 1837. In 1802 the Massachusetts Baptist Association founded a missionary society but the real work in Baptist missions would be done by Luther Rice and John Peck. They attempted to unite all baptists in one great missionary enterprise through a general missionary convention launched in 1814. The group met on a triennial basis. The Methodist Missionary Society emerged in 1819. Virtually all of these societies had branch works specifically for Black and Indian communities.

7. With these works were the foundings of the New York Bible Society (ca. 1816) and the American Bible Society about the same time. These followed the prototype British and Foreign Bible Society (1804) and many others soon emerged. This body, in 1946, would help in the formation of the United Bible Societies, a worldwide organization for help in publication, distribution, etc., of not only the Bible but other aspects of Christian literature.

8. We cannot move into details but a prominent role in this area was the development of the "rescue mission" after 1820. It offered a means for assistance to the unfortunate in life and often was associated with metropolitan missionary agencies. David Naismith was a primary mover.

9. In Summary:

We cannot mention all the missions developed and rooted in the American culture. It is a very large number. Yet the church has and has had a lot to do that was not done as far as our expectations can tell. The frontier received great emphasis and the bordering countries received a certain stress. Yet American missionaries have gone into all the world as well and while their numbers could have been greater, what they have accomplished for God is considerable in human perspective while only eternity will fully reveal the divine perspective.

We do not deal with the total work of missions in this course of the great development of "faith missions" in detail. We have a missions course that undertakes this material.

c. Interdenominationalism

Apart from the ecumenical interest, interdenominationalism has been a major thrust in the American scene: not the merging of churches but the cooperative effort of churches. It has shown itself in attempts at societal correction with the best results in these areas: