

HAYSTACK BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
September 22-24 in Williamstown
You are invited!

It All Began with Prayer, a Storm and a Haystack

On an August afternoon in 1806, five Williams College students met in a field to talk, to pray and, like so many young people, to dream of a better world. When a sudden thunderstorm interrupted, they sought shelter under a haystack—and there resolved to offer their lives to carry their faith into service into "all the world." This gathering came to be called the Haystack Prayer Meeting, launching the modern mission movement.

By 1810, America's first foreign mission society, the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions, was formed by Congregationalists in Massachusetts. In 1812 it sent its first five missionaries to India. By the end of the century missionaries had been sent to the Near East, including Turkey and Palestine, the Sandwich Islands, China, and Africa.

What did these missionaries do? They translated the Bible into difficult and often previously unwritten languages. They built educational systems in their lands of ministry and were often called upon to advise foreign governments. They established schools and hospitals in all the mission fields. They trained native leaders to continue the work of the ministry. After 150 years, the American Board had sent out nearly 5,000 missionaries to 34 different fields, and it all began with five young men praying in a haystack.

Sunday, September 24, 2006 is Haystack Sunday! Celebrate 200 years of our mission heritage-find out more at www.globalministries.org/index.php. Haystack hymn and other worship materials available at <http://haystack.williams.edu> or www.macucc.org

Fri., Sept. 22, 8 pm Global Music with C. Michael Hawn
Sat., Sept. 23 Film, Speaker Lamin Sanneh, Workshops,
Panel Discussion, Vespers at Haystack Monument
Sun., Sept. 24, 2:30 pm Celebration Worship at Thompson Memorial Chapel
with Bart Campolo

LOCAL CHURCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AND WELCOMED!
For registration, lodging information, and driving directions
Call 413-458-4273

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