

- a. Who is George Liele (1750-1828)
  - i. Was an enslaved man and while enslaved, became the first ordained African-American Baptist preacher in America.
  - ii. Even though William Carey is considered “the father” of the modern missionary movement, George Liele left America and preached the gospel in Jamaica ten years before Carey left England for India
  - iii. Even before Lott Carey and Adoniram Judson left America, Liele left Georgia for Jamaica in 1782, making him the first American missionary
    1. Thirty years before Adoniram Judson
    2. Forty years before Lott Carey
  - iv. And although Adoniram Judson is often cited as the first Baptist missionary from the United States, this designation really belongs to George Liele.
  - v. Liele launched a missionary movement that reached from Georgia to Jamaica; from Jamaica to Sierra Leone and Nova Scotia
  - vi. When Liele landed in Jamaica it was a British colony. These men and women had no real knowledge of Jesus Christ and the gospel. Liele planted a church.
  - vii. Despite persecution, and Liele being thrown into prison for preaching the Gospel and public baptisms, he was eventually set free. Despite facing these hostilities, during those eight years of preaching, he was able to baptize five hundred people and establish a church
  - viii. By 1832, as a result of Liele’s ministry, there were over twenty thousand believers.
  - ix. Liele’s ministry also made a significant social impact. His work spiritually and socially helped to eradicate slavery in Jamaica.
  - x. Because George Liele’s life, legacy, work and place in history can and should be an inspiration to all believers committed to fulfilling the Great Commission, NAAF is committed to launching initiatives to honor the legacy of America’s first foreign missionary