

CARL MANTHEY-ZORN

Faithful Lutheran Missionary & Author

BORN: **MARCH 18, 1846** Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

DIED: **JULY 12, 1928** Cleveland, Ohio

BY THE GRACE OF CHRIST, Carl Manthey-Zorn was found faithful in the face of growing attacks on the integrity of Holy Scripture from unionism and rationalism as he strongly advocated Lutheran missions around the world.

Born to an evangelical pastor and the daughter of the Duke Manthey of Augustenburg in Schleswig-Holstein, Carl was given the family name Manthey-Zorn upon the request of the Duke, who was without a son.

Zorn was tutored privately until he was sent to Sobernheim at age 10. At age 15 he enrolled at the Gymnasium at Kreuznach, where rationalism was the norm and Christian doctrines were ridiculed.

After the death of his father, the family moved to Erlangen. The influential director of the Leipzig Mission, Carl Graul, lived across the street. Upon graduation from the gymnasium, Zorn was enrolled in the University of Erlangen.

Zorn left Erlangen to tutor the children of a family in Mecklenburg. It was at this time, in a crisis of faith, he began to read the Gospels for the first time. Finally, he confessed that the Bible was truly the Word of God and that Jesus was his savior — the Savior of sinners. Zorn then bought a copy of Luther's Small Catechism and the Augsburg Confession. Early in 1869 he decided to begin training for mission work in India at the Leipzig Mission.

Even at the Leipzig Mission there were teachers who were "old Lutherans" and there were others who were theologians but did not believe in the historical Jesus presented by Holy Scripture. Despite the differences in belief among the instructors, Zorn faithfully continued his studies and was involved in a student group that studied the Lutheran Confessions. The group invited Director Julius Hardeband to explain more about the Book of Concord and first heard about C.F.W. Walther

and the Missouri Synod. Zorn then read a copy of Walther's *Church and Office*.

Graduating in 1870, Zorn became engaged to Mariechen Hengstenberg. He was ordained February 19, 1871, receiving special permission to be ordained in Erlangen. During the rite of ordination, both Zorn and his friend Heinrich Grubert recited by name all individual Lutheran confessional documents they confessed were unadulterated explanations of the Word of God — something unheard of in that day. Zorn was commissioned for his mission work in India on June 2, 1871.

Zorn arrived in Tranquebar and was assigned to work in Poodookottai (modern-day Pudukkottai). In September 1874 Zorn submitted conference papers on the proper unity of doctrine based on Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. Leipzig Mission missionaries and leaders were not happy with these papers.

Soon returning his call to the Leipzig Mission, Zorn arrived in New York City on July 4, 1876. Zorn was called to a congregation in Sheboygan, Wisc. He then accepted a call to Zion Lutheran Church in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1881. He authored dozens of devotional books and was a vocal advocate for LCMS International Missions. He preached at the commissioning service of Theodor Naether and T. Franz Mohn at Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Charles, Mo., on October 14, 1894. Zorn died in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1928.

For more information about the 175th anniversary of the LCMS, visit lcms.org/175.



DISCOVER MORE

Hans Zorn "Carl Manthey-Zorn: Early Years and Theological Preparations for Service in God's Kingdom," Part One, *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* 31, no. 3 (October 1958): 79–87; Part Two, *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* 31, no. 4 (January 1959): 110–16; Part Three, *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* 32, no. 1 (April 1959): 23–29; Part Four, *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* 32, no. 2 (July 1959): 39–47.



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NO OTHER NAME

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