

Enriching your Faith through Reading *Biographies*

....A Four Week Exploration



Missionaries



Statesmen



*Pastors and
Preachers*



Public Figures

"Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith." Hebrews 13:7

"Brothers, join in imitating me, and fix your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us." Phillipians 3:17

Christian biography, well chosen, combines all sorts of things pastors need but have so little time to pursue.

- *Good biography is history and guards us against chronological snobbery (as C. S. Lewis calls it).*
- *It is also theology—the most powerful kind—because it burst forth from the lives of people like us.*
- *It is also adventure and suspense, for which we have a natural hunger.*
- *It is psychology and personal experience, which deepen our understanding of human nature (especially ourselves).*

Good biographies of great Christians make for remarkably efficient reading."

John Piper on Why pastors should read biographies.
<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/brothers-read-christian-biography>

"In spite of much that militates against quietness, there are people who still read books. They are the people who keep me going. I write especially for those who bring to their reading a mind not hidebound by the sensibilities of our own time, but prepared to contemplate the Eternally Relevant; to seek in this book specifically the truth and the hidden meaning of a single life."

Elizabeth Elliot, introduction to *A Chance to Die: The Life and Legacy of Amy Carmichael*

*"It is very noticeable how, when God is preparing a workman for a certain definite service, He often leads him out of the beaten path into a path peculiarly his own **by means of some striking biography** or by contact with some other living servant who is doing some such work and exhibiting the spirit which must guide if there is to be true success."*

A.T. Pierson describing the impact of A.H. Franke's biography in *George Muller of Bristol*

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My website lists recommended books and has a spreadsheet of books I own in case you would like to borrow one.

Resources

Online Resources for Reading Biographies

Free eBooks

<http://www.desiringgod.org/blog/posts/adoniram-judson-biography-free-ebook>

<http://www.desiringgod.org/blog/posts/david-brainerd-biography-free-ebook>

<http://www.desiringgod.org/blog/posts/martin-luther-biography-free-ebook>

John Piper yearly biographical sketch prepared for January Pastor's Conference:

<http://www.desiringgod.org/biographies>

YWAM Heroes of the Faith Series

<http://www.ywampublishing.com/c-70-christian-heroes-then-now.aspx>

Recommended Biographies: Preachers and Spiritual Leaders

These books are all available on Amazon; often a used hardback version is the least expensive.

Tyndale: The Man Who Gave God an English Voice by David Teams

This book on William Tyndale is a fascinating look at the intense struggle to put the Bible into the hands of the common man, a struggle that resulted in Tyndale's martyrdom. Tyndale's translation was the first English Bible to draw directly from Hebrew and Greek texts. It has been estimated that 83% of the New Testament in the King James Version is based on Tyndale's work, and 76% of the Old Testament.

Here I Stand – A Life Of Martin Luther by Roland Bainton

I was raised in the Lutheran church and read this biography as a teenager (and unbeliever). I reread it as an adult and found it to be a riveting, powerful, and well researched exploration of the life of man called to confront the heresies of the day, and who has had enormous influence on the life of the church and the extension of the kingdom of God.

George Whitefield: God's Anointed Servant in the Great Revival of the Eighteenth Century by Arnold Dallimore

This is a shortened accessible version of a two volume work on Whitefield by Arnold Dallimore. The story is clear and direct, the quotes powerful, and the glory is all God's in how this man used to bless and bring the fire of revival in England and America. A must read for anyone who wants to understand the Great Awakening.

A Short Life of Jonathan Edwards by George Marsden

This is a second and shorter book by George Marsden on the life of Jonathan Edwards, intended to provide access to Edwards' story for everyone. This volume presents Edwards' life story, with a particular emphasis on how his personal story fits into the larger story of America and the issues defining the birth of the nation.

George Muller of Bristol: His Life of Prayer and Faith by A. T. Pierson

This biography of Muller was written shortly after his death by a man who knew and loved him and was a well known writer and preacher. While it is a bit quaint in style, the content and spiritual discernment demonstrated by the author result in a powerful and vivid impression of Muller's

character. Who would have known (unless they were intimately acquainted with Muller's journals) that reading a biography was a key influence in his ministry to orphans. A biography that testifies to the power of biographies!

Spurgeon: A New Biography by Arnold Dallimore

This is a great introduction to the life and impact of the "Prince of Preachers." Here you will understand some of the legacy that produced a pastor at age 19 and the sorrows that made his words enduring and powerful. This book is brief and readable and will challenge your heart to follow and persevere as Spurgeon did.

Recommended Biographies: Missionaries

To the Golden Shore: the Life of Adoniram Judson by Courtney Anderson

On February 12, 1812, Ann and Adoniram Judson sailed from Salem aboard the brig Caravan as two of the first missionaries to go out from North America. This book begins with chronicling their early life and how the Holy Spirit drew them and prepared them for their calling. The author understands the importance of theology in their lives and draws out the impact of doctrine on their outlook and approach to ministry. But the most compelling aspect of this wonderful biography is the persistence of the man himself...enduring prison and torture and death of two wives and many children. Nothing deterred him from the call. The single most amazing event in the book is the way God preserves the first translated version of the Bible in Burmese as it is packed in a pillow case and hidden in plain view in a prison, protected from prying eyes. The combination of an amazing pioneer missionary and a great author makes this book impossible to put down.

Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret by Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor

This book about the great pioneering missionary to China's inland regions is written by his son and wife, who had a deep and personal knowledge of events in Hudson Taylor's life that lend richness and credibility to the content. But even without this, Hudson Taylor's life stands on its own as a magnificent testimony to the faithfulness of a mighty God who never disappointed the one who put his trust in Him. You don't have to even be interested in missions to love this book, because it has so much to say about the power of an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ that applies to all of us wherever we are in life.

A Chance to Die: The Life and Legacy of Amy Carmichael by Elizabeth Elliot

A Chance to Die is a wonderful portrayal of Amy Carmichael, the beloved Irish missionary and writer who spent fifty-three years in south India without furlough founding the Dohnavur Fellowship and mothering countless children, including many young girls rescued from temple prostitution. Elizabeth Elliot, an amazing missionary and writer herself, is well suited for the task of describing Amy's life, honestly looking at both her strengths and weaknesses, and ultimately rejoicing in the faith that kept Amy's heart focused on her Heavenly hope.

Dr. Ida: The Inspiring Story of Dr. Ida Scudder, Fifty Years a Medical Missionary in India by Dorothy Clark Wilson

Dr. Ida's father was an early medical missionary in India and she grew up watching him serve. But as a young woman at boarding school in the US, she wanted to leave all this behind. It is wonderful to see how God worked to turn her heart around and called her as a woman to become a doctor to treat women who were dying because their husbands would not allow them to be seen by a man. Dr. Ida was a pioneer in many ways: one of the first women to attend medical school, she eventually founds a medical school in India and enables many young women in India to follow in her footsteps.

A Passion for the Impossible: The Life of Lilius Trotter by Miriam Huffman Rockness

I had never heard of Lilius Trotter (1853-1928) before I bought this book (on the recommendation of a friend). I was not disappointed either in the person of Lilius or in the book that reveals her sensitive heart and rock solid faith. Her life cut across many currents of Christian history: a child of wealth and privilege in London society, she served under DL Moody, attended Spiritual retreats

with George MacDonald, worked in London in a hostel that became part of the YWCA movement, and through her artistic talents, developed a deep friendship with John Ruskin, the premier art critic in Victorian England.

But despite her many abilities and opportunities, the true love of her life was Jesus Christ, and He led her to leave everything behind and go to Algeria with two female colleagues. These unlikely ladies—knowing no Arabic and none in robust health—pioneered a work in some of the hardest ground imaginable. The author combines an artistic flair for description with many quotes from Lillias' journals, resulting in an evocative picture of the love affair this woman had both with her God and the beauty of the desert and the tenacious people that live there.

The Hospital by the River: A Story of Hope by Dr. Catherine Hamlin

Catherine Hamlin and her husband, Reg, came to Ethiopia on a short-term contract and remained for life. Having a baby in Ethiopia is often a life-threatening experience for poor rural women. Many experience prolonged labor that results in internal tears, called fistulas, causing the women to be incontinent and suffer social rejection. The Hamlin's life work centered in a hospital providing hope to these women. This is a great biography because it showcases not only the quiet faith of these two doctors, but also helps to understand the price of poverty, especially in the life of women.

In the Presence of My Enemies by Gracia Burnham

Gracia Burnham and her husband Martin were missionaries in the Philippines when they were captured by Abu Sayyaf, a terrorist group, and held hostage. Only Gracia survived. This book recounts her story of God's sustaining grace and provides insight into the minds of her captors.

Recommended Biographies: Public Figures

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand

Unbroken is a great example of a biography that is more extreme than fiction. Louie is a fascinating character and Laura draws him in such an engaging way, especially his escapades as a youth who is the town terror, that you begin to feel like he is one of the kids in your neighborhood. His surprising entrance into long-distance racing in high school and astonishing success demonstrate how much can be hidden inside the most troublesome teenager. World War II brings an end to Louis' Olympic medal dreams as he joins the many other young men and women protecting his country. I love the way Laura weaves broader American history throughout the description of events in Louis' life. Louis fought many different battles during the war, the most difficult being the battle with his bitterness when the war was over. Louis eventually meets the only person who has fought that battle successfully and lets us enter into His victory: Jesus Christ.

Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery by Eric Metaxas

Wilberforce emerged at a critical point in history to express the heart of God toward the oppressed and change the direction of nations. This biography is engaging, readable and will leave you praying for God to raise up more men like Wilberforce to lead this generation into freedom.

C.S. Lewis: Eccentric Genius, Reluctant Prophet by Allistair McGrath

C.S. Lewis is one of my favorite authors. I love the way he makes truth fresh and vivid and cuts through the fog surrounding so much writing. This is a great biography of Lewis if you really love him and want to understand the influence on his life and the context of his writing.

Adoniram Judson: Life Events



To the Golden Shore: the Life of Adoniram Judson by Courtney Anderson

"In spite of sorrow, loss, and pain, our course be onward still; We sow on Burmah's barren plain, We reap on Zion's hill."...Adoniram Judson

1788 Born at Malden, Massachusetts, August 9 to believing parents.

1804 - 1807 Entered Brown University at age 16 and graduated three years later with a B.A. having lost his faith.

1808 While walking in rebellion, experienced the "coincidence" of his friend's death in the room next to his at an inn. Entered Andover Theological Institution, October 12.

1809 Joined the Congregational Church of Plymouth, May 28. Read "Star in the East" about the need for the gospel in the East; read *An Account of an Embassy to the King of Ava* about Burma.

1810 Joined with men from the "haystack" prayer meeting who were determined to become missionaries; met Ann Hasseltine.

1811 Sent to London to confer with London Missionary Society, January 11 to August 7; Appointed missionary to the East, September 19.

1812 Married Ann Hasseltine, February 5, ordained at Salem, February 6 Sailed from Salem, February 19 for Calcutta. During the sea voyage, became convinced of the truth of believer's baptism and was baptized in Calcutta, September 6.

1813 Left Calcutta for Isle of France, later sailed to Rangoon, Burma arriving July 13.

1815 Son Roger born, who dies 7 months later.

1819 Began public worship in Burmese language; baptized MOUNG NAU, first Burman convert.

1823 Completed New Testament in Burmese, July 12.

1824 - 1825 Arrived in Ava, the location of the King's court, in Jan. Imprisoned as spy, June 8. Mary [Maria] Elizabeth born, January 26, Ann works to free her husband, who was finally freed in December, used as a translator in treaty negotiations.

1826 - 1827 Death: Ann Judson's dies on October 24 while he is traveling; daughter Maria dies, April 27; News of his father's death on Nov 25, 1826 reaches him in July

1828 Renounced his doctorate, gave away possessions, experienced a deep depression.

1833 Baptized the 100th believer among the Karen tribe.

1834 Married Mrs. Sarah Boardman, April 10, had 7 more children over the next 10 years.

1835 Completed Old Testament translation from original Greek and Hebrew, Dec 29.

1845 Left for America, Sarah died while on the way; arrived in Boston on October 15.

1846 Married Emily Chubbuck June 2 and sailed for Maulmain, July 11.

1849 Completed English-Burmese dictionary, January 24.

1850 Died at sea April 12.

Amy Carmichael: Life Events



A Chance to Die: the Life and Legacy of Amy Carmichael. Elizabeth Elliot

While serving in India, Amy received a letter from a young lady who was considering life as a missionary. She asked Amy, "What is missionary life like?" Amy wrote back saying simply, "Missionary life is simply a chance to die." Amy served in India for 55 years without furlough and wrote many books about the missionary work there.

December 16, 1867 Born in Millisle, Northern Ireland as the oldest of 3 sisters, 4 brothers. Father: mill owner, raised in the Presbyterian church

1883 - 86 Moved to Belfast and exposed to poverty. Father dies in 1885

1887-1889 Heard China Inland Mission founder Hudson Taylor at the Keswick Convention. Began working among "Shawlies," poor mill girls who wore shawls instead of hats.

1889 Founded Welcome Hall for them, motto "That in all things He might have preeminence."

1893 - 94 Unable to go to China, Amy is called to serve in Japan as a Keswick missionary. Leaves Japan because of serious health problems; travels to Ceylon, returns to England.

1895 - 1899 In Oct, 1895, leaves for India. Joined Thomas Walker of Tinnevely District. 1897 formed evangelizing Woman's Band. 1898 took in first woman refugee. 1899 took in first girl.

1900 Moved to Dohnavur. Published *Things as They Are*, initially rejected for publication because it was "too discouraging."

1901 Rescued first Temple child, Preena. "We are skirting the abyss, an abyss which is deep and foul beyond description, and yet is glorified, to Hindu eyes, by the sanction of religion."

1902 Started mission, at first an orphanage, eventually Dohnavur Fellowship.

1904 First temple baby (13 days old) rescued.

1903-1912 Decade of growth, but not accepted by officials or nominal Christians in India; she was a thorn in their flesh. In 1912 Walker died. Recognition and honor from Queen Mary began respectability.

1918 took in first baby boy, the "firstfruits" of seven years of travail.

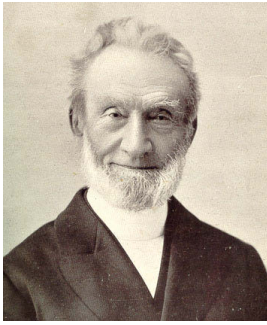
1925 -1929 Broke ties with all mission societies and in 1927 were officially registered as the Dohnavur Fellowship, with right to own property. Hospital added in 1929.

1931-1951 Crippled by fall, gradually failing health. Wrote 16 books, publishing *Gold Cord* (1932), *Poignant Rose from Brier* (1933), *Windows* (1937), *Though the Mountains Shake* (1943).

1948 Immobilized by a fall.

1951 January 18 died and was buried at Dohnavur.

George Muller: Life Events



George Muller of Bristol: His Life of Prayer and Faith by A. T. Pierson

The basis of his confidence: "God is almighty, the hearts of all men are in his hands,⁶² and when God chooses to influence their hearts they will give."

"The only way to learn strong faith is to endure great trials. I have learned my faith by standing firm amid severe testings."

In the course of his life, George Muller:

- Received gifts of no less than 1,500,000£
- Educated and sent out 123,000 pupils
- Circulated 275,000 Bibles in different languages
- Contributed 255,000£ to missions and supported 189 missionaries

1805 Born at Kroppenstaedt, Prussia on Sept 27.

1821 Arrested at age 16 for stealing; in and out of trouble with money.

1825 Converted to Christ in November.

1829 Arrives in London to train with London Society for promoting Christianity among the Jews; Meets Henry Craik that summer, who will be a life-long associate.

1830 Ends association with London Society in January, Baptized by immersion, Marries Mary Groves in Exeter (Oct 7).

1831 Mrs. Müller gives birth to stillborn baby (Aug 9).

1832 Begins reading biography of A.H. Franke, founder of Orphan Houses of Halle; Müller and Henry Craik accept invitation to pastor Gideon Chapel in Bristol; Daughter Lydia is born (Sept 17).

1834 Established Scriptural Knowledge Institution for Home and Abroad (Feb); Son Elijah born. (March 19) who dies the following June.

1836 Opens first children's orphan home on Wilson Street, Bristol (April).

1837 *A Narrative of Some of the Lord's Dealings with George Müller* - Part 1 published

1849 First Ashley Down, Bristol, orphanage opens for three hundred children (June).

1857 - 1870 Second (1857), Third (1862), Fourth (1869), and Fifth (1879) Ashley Down homes open, eventually caring for 2000 children with over 200 staff.

1870 Wife Mary Müller dies. (Feb 6).

1871 James Wright (Müller's successor) marries Müller's daughter. (Nov 16); George Müller marries Susannah Grace Sangar. (Nov 30).

1875-92 Worldwide preaching tours. Travels over 200,000 miles to 42 countries.

1890 Death of daughter Lydia.

1895 Second wife, Susannah, dies.

1898 Died in Bristol, England. (March 10).

On 26 March 1875, at the age of 70 and after the death of his first wife in 1870 and his marriage to Susannah Grace Sanger in 1871, Müller and Susannah began a 17-year period of missionary travel:

From	To	Itinerary
26 March 1875	6 July 1875	England
15 August 1875	5 July 1876	England, Scotland and Ireland
16 August 1876	25 June 1877	Switzerland, Germany and Holland
18 August 1877	8 July 1878	Canada and the United States (including a visit to the White House)
5 September 1878	18 June 1879	Switzerland, France, Spain and Italy
27 August 1879	17 June 1880	United States and Canada
15 September 1880	31 May 1881	Canada and the United States
23 August 1881	30 May 1882	Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Asia Minor, Turkey and Greece
8 August 1882	1 June 1883	Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bohemia, Russia and Poland
26 September 1883	5 June 1884	India
18 August 1884	2 October 1884	England and South Wales
16 May 1885	1 July 1885	England
1 September 1885	3 October 1885	England and Scotland
4 November 1885	13 June 1887	The United States, Australia, China, Japan, the Straits of Malacca, Singapore, Penang, Colombo, France
10 August 1887	11 March 1890	Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, Ceylon and India
8 August 1890	May 1892	Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Italy

Charles H. Spurgeon: Life Events



Spurgeon: A New Biography by Arnold Dallimore

"All the hope of our ministry lies in the Spirit of God operating on the spirits of men."

1834 Charles Haddon Spurgeon, born Jun 19 at Kelvedon (1st of 17 children).

1835 Taken at 14 months to live with his father's parents in Stambourne. His grandfather was a Congregational minister. He spent much time with his grandfather and at the age of 3 began looking through his library of Puritan books.

1841 Brought home (in Colchester) by his parents (7 years old).

Jan 6, 1850 At age of 15, is converted to Christ through the message of "Look unto Jesus and be saved, all the ends of the earth." On May 3, he was baptized.

1851 Sent out as a lay preacher and preaches his first sermon, at Taversham. Becomes pastor at Waterbeach Chapel in Cambridge at the age of 17.

Feb 1854 Invited to preach at New Park Street Church in London, and becomes their pastor at age 19. Congregation approximately 200 members.

1855 Publication of sermons begins. First service at Exeter Hall. which seated 5,000 and was too small for all the people. Works with first ministerial student.

1856 Marries Susannah Thompson on Jan 8. Twin sons Charles and Thomas born Sept 20.

Oct, 1856 Preaches at Surrey Gardens Music Hall (seats 10,000) and a panic over false fire alarm kills seven people, almost ending his ministry.

1857 Pastors' College founded.

1861 Preaches to largest indoor crowd: 23,654 at Crystal Palace, London. The Metropolitan Tabernacle, with seating for approximately 5,600, opens debt-free.

1865 -1867 Begins publishing a monthly magazine, *The Sword and the Trowel*. Finds Metropolitan Tabernacle Colportage Assoc. to distribute Christian literature.

1867 D. L. Moody attends services. Began construction of Stockwell Orphanage for boys.

1868 James Spurgeon, his brother, becomes associate pastor. Wife Susannah becomes an invalid.

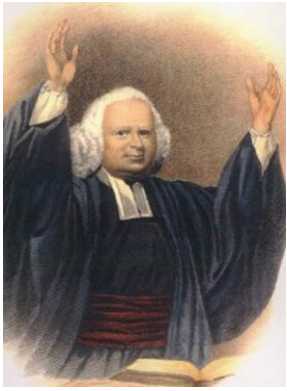
1875 Mrs. Spurgeon's Book Fund inaugurated to provide Christian books for pastors.

1879 Girls' Orphanage founded.

1887 The "Down-Grade Controversy" begins in Aug; Spurgeon withdraws from Baptist Union in Oct. Baptist Union votes to censure Spurgeon.

1891-92 Last sermon at Tabernacle on June 7. Dies at Mentone, France, on Jan. 31.

George Whitefield: Life Events



George Whitefield: God's Anointed Servant in the Great Revival of the Eighteenth Century by Arnold Dallimore

"I believe I never was more acceptable to my Master than when I was standing to teach those hearers in the open fields."

1714 Born in Gloucester, England, December 16. Father dies two years later

1722 Mother, Elizabeth, remarries

1726 George enrolls at St. Mary de Crypt grammar school, where he enjoys reading plays and acting. Later drops out to help his mother with the inn.

1728 George's mother leaves her husband. Family conflicts cause George to leave the Bell Inn and cease "drawing wine for drunkards."

1730 Returns to his studies at St. Mary's. On Christmas, receives the Lord's Supper for the first time and determines to be more watchful over his thoughts, words, and actions.

1732 Enrolls at Pembroke College, Oxford University. Pays expenses by working as a servitor (errand boy for other students). Begins praying 3 times a day and fasting weekly.

1733 Invited to breakfast by Charles Wesley and introduced to the Holy Club's members. Borrows from Wesley *The Life of God in the Soul of Man* by Henry Scougal, which "showed me that I must be born again, or be damned!"

1734 Seeks salvation through severe discipline and good works, which causes a breakdown of his health from which he never fully recovers.

1735 Becomes first of the Oxford Methodists to experience a full assurance of faith; Begins evangelizing, with converts organized into a society.

1735 Leads the Holy Club (the Wesleys had become missionaries to Georgia). Completes his degree, is ordained a deacon in the Church of England, and preaches his first sermon. Returns to Oxford to pursue graduate studies, but then leaves to substitute preach for various friends. Decides to become a missionary to Georgia.

1737 While voyage is delayed, his preaching electrifies Bristol and London; thousands pack churches to hear him. Publishes six sermons, while opponents publish against him.

1738 **First** trip to America; Spends three months in Georgia.

1739 Ordained a priest but finds many pulpits are now closed to him. Begins preaching outdoors, and soon tens of thousands hear of Christ in the fields. Some nobility, including the countess of Huntingdon, are drawn to Whitefield. In August, sails for America (**second** trip) and preaches to throngs in New York and Philadelphia. Meets Ben Franklin.

1740 In Georgia, selects a site for Bethesda, his orphanage, and preaches at every opportunity. *April*: Preaches in northern cities like Philadelphia and small towns like Fagg's Manor, where 12,000 hear him. *Midyear*: Back in Georgia. *Fall*: Preaching tour takes New England by storm.

1741 Arriving in England in March, meets with great hostility, stirred largely by John Wesley's attacks against his Calvinism. Publishes a counterattack against Wesley. Preaches extensively in England, Scotland, and Wales. *Nov. 14*: Marries widow Elizabeth James.

1742 Itinerates in several parts of England. *June*: Begins five months of ministry in Scotland, and his sermons are "attended with much power" and often "a very great but decent weeping."

1743 Helps form the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Association, serving as first moderator.

1744 His 4-month-old son, John, dies of sickness and is buried February 8. George is attacked in bed and almost killed. *August*: Sails with his wife for America, arriving desperately ill in October, but soon resumes preaching.

1745-1748 Whitefield's **third** visit to the Colonies, though beset with opposition, inspires a great wave of revival. In early 1748, ministers for a month or two in Bermuda.

1748-1751 Lady Huntingdon appoints Whitefield her chaplain, lessening financial perils of his work. Whitefield ministers throughout England, Wales, Ireland, and Scotland, with extended ministry at the Moorfields (London) Tabernacle. Persecution slackens.

1751-1752 **Fourth** visit to the Colonies, arriving in Georgia in October with a group of destitute children. Cancels plans for an extensive preaching tour when the Orphan House's financial needs send him hurriedly back to England.

1752-1754 Tours Wales, visits Edinburgh for the seventh time, and returns to London for the opening of a new, brick Tabernacle.

1754-1755 **Fifth** trip to the Colonies, with preaching from Boston to Georgia. *Sept. 1754*: Receives honorary M.A. from the College of New Jersey (now Princeton).

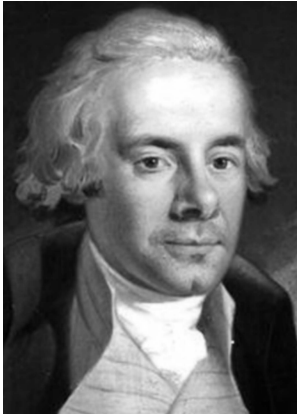
1755-1763 Preaches often in London, as well as in Bristol, Gloucester, Edinburgh, Dublin, Glasgow, many places in Wales, and countless towns and villages. Travels briefly to Holland for his health.

1763-1765 **Sixth** trip to the Colonies. Weak in health, ministers with difficulty in New York, Boston, and other places, generally with greater acceptance than ever.

1765-1769 Devotes attention to London ministries, also traveling to Edinburgh and elsewhere. *August 1768*: Wife, Elizabeth, dies. Visits Trevecca, Wales, to help open Lady Huntingdon's College.

1769-1770 **Seventh** and final trip to the Colonies is a difficult voyage. Arrives in Charleston and preaches for 10 days to large congregations. May 1770: Begins tour from Philadelphia, preaching as often as his frail body permits. *Sept. 29*: In New Hampshire, preaches final sermon and dies the following morning. Some 6,000 gather for funeral.

William Wilberforce: Life Events



Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery by Eric Metaxas

"You may choose to look the other way but you can never say again that you did not know."

1759 Born in Kingston-upon-Hull, Yorkshire.

1768 His father dies; sent to live in Wimbledon with an aunt and uncle who are Methodists and friends of George Whitfield. Meets and forms a strong bond with John Newton.

1770 Brought back to Hull by his mother and grandfather who are concerned about the bad religious influences on his life.

1776 Enters St. John's College, Cambridge where he studies and parties (until 1780). Becomes good friends with William Pitt, future Prime Minister of England.

1780 Elected Member of Parliament (MP) for Hull (21 years old).

1784 Becomes MP for Yorkshire based on a dramatic (miraculous) speech.

1784-85 Discusses religion with his friend Isaac Milner (former tutor) and experiences a deep conversion. Visits John Newton on Dec 4, 1785, who encourages him to stay in politics, saying "God can use you there."

May 12, 1787 Vows with William Pitt (PM) and William Grenville (future PM) to bring the cause of abolition to the house of Commons.

Oct 28, 1787 Writes in diary: "God Almighty has set before me two great objects: the suppression of the slave trade and the reformation of manners." Helps found Society for the Reformation of Manners.

May 12, 1789 After studying 850 pages of a committee report, Wilberforce introduces his first bill to abolish the slave trade.

Feb 24, 1791 Receives letter from John Wesley a few days before he died. "Unless God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils, but if God be fore you, who can be against you?" April 1791 abolition again defeated.

April 12, 1797 *A Practical View of the Prevailing Religious System of Professed Christians in the Higher and Middle Classes in this Country, Contrasted with Real Christianity* is published. The first print of 500 sold in a few days and it was reprinted 5 times within six months. Asserted that real Christianity is expressed in care for the poor and enslaved.

May 30, 1797 Marries Barbara Spooner, who he had met one month previously.

1804 Helps found the British and Foreign Bible Society and the Church Missionary Society.

1806 William Pitt dies, in the midst of Napoleon takeover in Europe.

Feb 23, 1807 On the 18th year of voting on abolition, British Parliament abolishes slave trade with a vote of 283 to 16.

1811 Now 52 with 6 children, he retires as Yorkshire MP and becomes representative of a small district (Bramber) with few responsibilities.

1813 Helps convince Parliament to permit missionaries to India, opposed by East India Society, changing Britain's approach to other nations.

1822 Helps form the Anti-Slavery Society.

1823 Launches campaign for emancipation of slaves.

Feb 22, 1825 Retires from the House of Commons.

July 26, 1833 Emancipation Act is passed: all slaves in the British Dominions granted freedom.

July 29, 1833 Wilberforce dies and is buried at Westminster Abbey.

A partial list of organizations (other than anti-slavery) Wilberforce was instrumental in founding:

Society for the Suppression of Vice in 1802 to prevent profanation of the Lord's Day and profane swearing; publication of blasphemous, licentious and obscene books and prints; selling by false weights and measures; keeping of disorderly public houses, brothels and gaming houses; procuring; illegal lotteries; cruelty to animals.

Association for the Better Observance of Sunday. Its goal was to provide all children with regular education in reading, personal hygiene and religion.

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The organization was founded in 1824 (without the "royal" prefix) by a group of 22 reformers led by Richard Martin MP, William Wilberforce MP, and the Reverend Arthur Broome in "Old Slaughter's Coffee House", St Martin's Lane, near the Strand. The society was the first animal welfare charity to be founded in the world.

Society for Missions to Africa and the East (as it was first called) was founded on 12 April 1799, CMS has attracted over nine thousand men and women to serve as mission partners during its 200-year history.

Hudson Taylor: Life Events



Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret by Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor

"To move man, through God, by prayer alone."

1832 Born at Barnsley, England, May 21.

1849 Hudson Taylor converted at age 17.

1853 Sails for China for the **first time** under Chinese Evangelization Society, Sept 19 and lands in Shanghai, March 1, 1854.

1857 Resigns from Chinese Evangelization Society in June. Marries Maria Dyer, a missionary located at Ningpo, the following January 20.

1860 - 1865 Return to England. Hudson Taylor appeals for helpers in January and the Taylors sail for England, July. In Jan. 1862, Mr. and Mrs. Meadows, Taylor's first helpers, sail for China. In April 1865, three more workers sail for China. Hudson Taylor experiences a crisis at Brighton, June 25. On June 27, he founds China Inland Mission and publishes *China's Spiritual Need and Claims* in October.

1866 Hudson Taylor sails for China, the **second time**, with Lammermuir party, May 26.

1870 After bearing six children, Mary Taylor (nee Dyer) dies at 33 years of age, July 23, one week after their infant son.

1871 - 1872 Hudson Taylor sails for England in August and marries Miss Jennie Faulding, November 28. The Taylors sail for China, the (Hudson's **third time**), October 9, 1872.

1874 - 1875 Hudson Taylor falls and hurts spine in May and they return to England, October 14. His appeal for 18 workers is published in January 1875.

1876 Hudson Taylor sails for China, the **fourth time**, without Mrs. Taylor, September 7 and returns to England a year later (Nov 1877).

1878 Mrs. Taylor sails for China, for famine relief work, May 2 and Hudson follows Feb 24 1879 (**fifth time**).

1880 Hudson Taylor's first visit to Kwangsin River, August.

1881 Mrs. Taylor returns to England for 9 years, Oct. His eldest son, Herbert, arrives China, Dec 10.

1883 - 1885 Hudson Taylor sails for England, February and returns (**sixth time**) in 1885. The Cambridge Seven leave for China, February 5, 1885.

1886 Taylor visits 9 provinces; first Chinese pastor; appeal for The Hundred in November.

1887 Hudson Taylor sails for England in January, same time the Hundred leave England to China.

1888 Hudson Taylor, with his son, Dr. Howard Taylor, sails for North America, June 23. He sails from Vancouver for China, the **seventh time**, with first North American contingent, October 5.

1889 Returns to England, May 21, visits North America in July; visits Sweden, Norway, and Denmark in Nov.

1890 New C.I.M. premises in Shanghai opened, February 18. Hudson Taylor sails for China for **eighth time**, without Mrs. Taylor, March. First Australian worker for C.I.M. arrives in Shanghai, April 29. Hudson Taylor visits Australia for first time, August and returns to China with first Australasian party, November 20 to join Mrs. Taylor on December 21.

1891 Sailing of first Scandinavian China Alliance party, January.

1892 - 1894 Taylor travels to Vancouver, then England, Germany twice. Returns to US in 1894 and then to China (**ninth time**). Journeys through heart of China that summer.

1896 Hudson and Mrs. Taylor leave China for India; they return to China, then to England, visits Sweden, Norway, and Germany.

1897 Hudson Taylor sails, via America, for China, the **tenth time**, with Mrs. Taylor, November 24.

1898 - 1899 Travels widely in China, much political unrest. Leaves Sept 26 1899 before outbreak of Boxer Rebellion. Empress Dowager issues her famous anti-foreign decree, November 21.

1900 Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, with Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor, visit New Zealand, January. The Boxer outbreaks begin in May. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor reach England, and proceed to Switzerland, June 18.

1904 Mrs. Hudson Taylor [Jennie Faulding] dies in Switzerland, July 30.

1905 Hudson Taylor sails for China for the last (**eleventh time**), February 15 and dies at Changsha, Hunan, China; 73 years of age, June 3.

"In the study of that divine Word I learned that, to obtain successful laborers, not elaborate appeals for help, but first, earnest prayer to God to thrust forth laborers, and second, the deepening of the spiritual life of the church, so that men should be unable to stay at home, were what was needed. I saw that the apostolic plan was not to raise ways and means, but to go and do the work, trusting in His sure word who has said, 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.'"

When Hudson Taylor died in 1905, China Inland Mission had:

- 849 missionaries, including missionaries' wives and associates
- 1,282 native workers
- 205 stations and 632 sub-stations
- 35,726 communicants; 188 schools, with nearly 3,000 pupils, and 44 hospitals and dispensaries

C. S. (Clive Staples) Lewis: Life Events



C. S. Lewis: Eccentric Genius, Reluctant Prophet by Allistair McGrath

"Some day you will be old enough to start reading fairy tales again."

1898 Born on Nov 29 in Belfast, Ireland, to Albert J. Lewis (1863-1929) and Florence Augusta Hamilton Lewis (1862-1908). His brother Warren Hamilton Lewis had been born on June 16, 1895.

1905 The Lewis family moved to "Little Lea," in outskirts of Belfast.

1908 Lewis's mother died of cancer on August 23. In September Lewis was enrolled at Wynyard School, Watford, Hertfordshire. His brother had been enrolled there in May 1905.

1910 -1917 Lewis became ill with serious respiratory difficulties, sent to prep school in Malvern, England, abandoned his childhood Christian faith.

1914 -1917 A private student of W.T. Kirkpatrick, "The Great Knock," in Surrey.

1916 In February, Lewis read George MacDonald's *Phantastes*, which powerfully "baptized his imagination" and impressed him with a deep sense of the holy.

1917 - 1919 Commissioned an officer in the infantry; reached the front line in the Somme Valley in France on his 19th birthday; wounded and eventually discharged Dec. 1919.

1919 -1924 Resumed studies at University College, Oxford, where he received a First in Honour Moderations (Greek and Latin Literature) in 1920, a First in Greats (Philosophy and Ancient History) in 1922, and a First in English in 1923.

1924 Elected a Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, served as tutor in English Language and Literature for 29 years .

1929 Became a theist: "In the Trinity Term of 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed...." His father died on September 24.

1931 Lewis became a Christian after a talk with J.R.R. Tolkien and Hugo Dyson. The next day, recorded in *Surprised by Joy*: "When we [Warnie and Jack] set out [to the Zoo] I did not believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and when we reached the zoo I did."

1933 - 1949 "The Inklings" begin meeting to discuss literature and writing. Members included J.R.R. Tolkien, Warnie, Hugo Dyson, Charles Williams, Owen Barfield, Weville Coghill and others.

1941 May 2 until Nov 28, 31 *Screwtape Letters* published in weekly installments.

1942 – 1944 Lewis' series of talks on BBC radio eventually published as *Mere Christianity*.

1945 *The Great Divorce* is published in weekly installments in The Guardian.

1950 *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, 1st of 7 Narnia books, is released.

1956 Civil Marriage to Joy Davidman in April. In Dec, Joy thought to be dying, a hospital bedside marriage performed in accordance with the rites of the Church of England.

1960 Joy dies on July 13 at the age of 45.

1963 Lewis died a week before his 65th birthday on Nov 22; the day President Kennedy was assassinated and Aldous Huxley died.