

Biographies of Authors Cited in the Bibliography

Paul the Apostle

From Paul himself we know that he was born at Tarsus in Cilicia (Acts 21:39), of a father who was a Roman citizen (Acts 22:26-28; cf. 16:37), of a family in which piety was hereditary (2 Timothy 1:3) and which was much attached to Pharisaic traditions and observances (Philippians 3:5-6). As he belonged to the tribe of Benjamin he was given at the time of his circumcision the name of Saul, which must have been common in that tribe in memory of the first king of the Jews (Philippians 3:5). As a Roman citizen he also bore the Latin name of Paul. It was quite usual for the Jews of that time to have two names, one Hebrew, the other Latin or Greek, between which there was often a certain assonance and which were joined together exactly in the manner made use of by Luke (Acts 13:9). It was natural that in inaugurating his apostolate among the Gentiles Paul should have adopted his Roman name, especially as the name Saul had a ludicrous meaning in Greek. Young Saul learned how to make tents (Acts 18:3) or rather to make the mohair of which tents were made. He was still very young when sent to Jerusalem to receive his education at the school of Gamaliel (Acts 22:3). Possibly some of his family resided in the holy city; later there is mention of the presence of one of his sisters whose son saved his life (Acts 23:16). From that time it is absolutely impossible to follow him until he takes an active part in the martyrdom of Stephen (Acts 7:58-60; 22:20). His journeys and adventures may be found in Acts.

Jerome

Jerome was born at Stridon, a town on the confines of Dalmatia and Pannonia, about the year 340-2 and died at Bethlehem, 30 September, 420. He went to Rome, probably about 360, where he was baptized, and became interested in ecclesiastical matters. From Rome he went to Trier, famous for its schools, and there began his theological studies. Later he went to Aquileia, and towards 373 he set out on a journey to the East. He settled first in Antioch. From 374-9 Jerome led an ascetical life in the desert south-west of Antioch, and was ordained priest at Antioch. He traveled to Constantinople and Rome. He made bitter enemies and was compelled to leave Rome. By way of Antioch and Alexandria he reached Bethlehem, in 386. He settled there in a monastery and led a life of asceticism and study. Jerome owes his place in the history of exegetical studies chiefly to his revisions and translations of the Bible (i.e., the Latin Vulgate).

Augustine of Hippo

Augustine of Hippo (354-430) was born on 13 November, 354 at Tagaste, now Souk-Ahras, about 60 miles from Bona (ancient Hippo-Regius), which was at that time a small free city of proconsular Numidia which had recently been converted from Donatism. Although eminently respectable, his family was not rich, and his father, Patricius, one of the curiales of the city, was still a pagan. However, the admirable virtues that made Monica the ideal of Christian mothers at length brought her husband the grace of baptism and of a holy death, about the year 371. He lost his faith and later converted back to Christianity. At forty-two, became a bishop and occupied the See of Hippo for thirty-four years. He understood well how to combine the exercise of his pastoral duties with the austerities of the religious life, and although he left his order, his episcopal residence became a monastery where he lived a community life with his clergy, who bound themselves to observe religious poverty. The episcopal house of Hippo became a veritable nursery which supplied the founders of the monasteries that were soon spread all over Africa and the bishops who occupied the neighboring sees. Augustine earned the title of patriarch of the religious, and renovator of the clerical, life in Africa.

Cyprian of Carthage

Nothing is known of the birth and early life of Cyprian of Carthage (Thaschus Cæcilius Cyprianus), Bishop and martyr. At the time of his conversion to Christianity he had, perhaps, passed middle life. He was famous as an orator and pleader, had considerable wealth, and held, no doubt, a great position in the metropolis of Africa. He was not a thinker, a philosopher, a theologian, but eminently a man of the world and an administrator, of vast energies, and of forcible and striking character. His conversion was due to an aged priest named Caecilianus, with whom he seems to have gone to live. Caecilianus in dying commended to Cyprian the care of his wife and family. While yet a catechumen Cyprian decided to observe chastity, and he gave most of his revenues to the poor. He sold his property, including his gardens at Carthage. His baptism probably took place c. 246, presumably on Easter eve, 18 April.

John Chrysostom

John Chrysostom (Chrysostomos, “golden-mouthed” so called on account of his eloquence), Doctor of the Church, was born at Antioch, c. 347 and died at Commana in Pontus, 14 September, 407. He is generally considered the most prominent doctor of the Greek Church and the greatest preacher ever heard in a Christian pulpit. His natural gifts, as well as exterior circumstances, helped him to become what he was. He attained considerable Greek scholarship and classical culture, which he did not disown in his later days. He became a deacon and priest at Antioch and the bishop of Constantinople. He was falsely accused of crimes, exiled to an area near modern day Armenia, and eventually dies after a forced march.

Tertullian

Tertullian (Quintus Septimius Florens Tertullianus), an ecclesiastical writer in the second and third centuries, was born probably about 160 at Carthage, the son of a centurion in the proconsular service. He was evidently by profession an advocate in the law-courts, and he shows a close acquaintance with the procedure and terms of Roman law. After writing more virulently against the Church than even against heathen and persecutors, he separated from his religious order and founded a sect of his own. The remnant of the Tertullianists was reconciled to the Church by Augustine. A number of the works of Tertullian are on special points of belief or discipline. According to Jerome he lived to extreme old age. He wrote against the abuse of Imperial power, against heresy, and for catechumens.

John Cassian

John Cassian, a monk and ascetic writer of Southern Gaul, and the first to introduce the rules of Eastern monasticism into the West, was born probably in Provence about 360 and died about 435, probably near Marseilles.

Thomas Aquinas

Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 7 March 1274) was an Italian Dominican priest of the Roman Catholic Church, and an immensely influential philosopher and theologian in the tradition of scholasticism. He came from one of the noblest families of the Kingdom of Naples, with the title of “counts of Aquino”. He was the foremost classical proponent of natural theology, and the father of Thomism. His influence on Western thought is considerable, and much of modern philosophy was conceived in development or refutation of his ideas, particularly in the areas of ethics, natural law, metaphysics, and political theory. Thomas Aquinas is held in the Catholic Church to be the model teacher for those studying for the priesthood and the highest expression of both natural reason and speculative theology. He is one of the 35 Doctors of the Church, he is considered the Church's greatest theologian and philosopher.

Martin Luther

Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483 in Eisleben in the Holy Roman Empire - in what is today southern Germany. He was the second son born to Hans and Margarete (Lindemann) Luther. He later entered the Augustinian Monastery at Erfurt. In 1513, he began his first lectures on the Psalms. In these lectures, Luther's critique of the theological world around him began to take shape. Later, in lectures on Paul's Epistle to the Romans (in 1515/16) his critique became more noticeable. It was during these lectures that Luther finally found the assurance that had evaded him for years. The discovery that changed Luther's life ultimately changed the course of church history and the history of Europe. He had discovered (or recovered) the doctrine of justification by grace alone.

Matthew Henry

Matthew Henry (18 October 1662 – 22 June 1714) was an English commentator on the Bible and Presbyterian minister. He was born at Broad Oak, a farmhouse on the borders of Flintshire and Shropshire. His father, Philip Henry, had just been ejected under the Act of Uniformity 1662. Unlike most of his fellow-sufferers, Philip possessed some private means, and was thus able to give his son a good education. Matthew went first to a school at Islington, and then to Gray's Inn. He soon gave up his legal studies for theology, and in 1687 became minister of a Presbyterian congregation at Chester. He moved again in 1712 to Mare Street, Hackney. Two years later (22 June 1714), he died suddenly of apoplexy at the Queen's Aid House (41 High Street) in Nantwich while on a journey from Chester to London.

Thomas à Kempis

Thomas à Kempis , C.R.S.A., (Thomas van Kempen or Thomas Hemerken or Haemerken, litt. “small hammer”); (c. 1380 – 25 July 1471) was a canon regular of the late medieval period and the probable author of *The Imitation of Christ*, which is one of the best known Christian books on devotion. His name means “Thomas of Kempen”, his hometown, and in German he is known as Thomas von Kempen. He also is known by various spellings of his family name: Thomas Haemerken; Thomas Hammerlein; Thomas Hemerken and Thomas Hämerken. He was born at the Lower Rhine town of Kempen, Germany, in the sovereign Prince-Archbishopric of Cologne about A.D. 1380.

John Nicholas Lenker

John Nicholas Lenker - (November 28, 1858–May 16, 1929). B. Sunbury, Pennsylvania; educ. Wittenberg Coll. and Hamma Divinity School, Springfield, Ohio, and Leipzig, Ger.; ordained 1880; pastor Grand Island, Nebraska, 1882–86; with Bd. of Christian Extension of Gen. Syn. 1886–94; prof. Trin. Sem. of the United Dan. Ev. Luth. Ch. in Am. (see Danish Lutherans in America, 5), Blair, Nebraska, 1900–04; settled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1904, and served as pastor and miss. in and near the city; founded Luther Press. Founded and ed. Northern Review; other works include Lutherans in All Lands; Lutherans in All Lands, Supplement; Die Lutherische Kirche der Welt; tr. of M. Luther's works into Eng.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (4 February 1906 - 9 April 1945) was a theologian, martyr, a spiritual writer, a musician, a pastor, and an author of poetry and fiction. The integrity of his Christian faith and life, and the international appeal of his writings, have received broad recognition and admiration, all of which has led to a consensus that he is one of the theologians of his time whose theological reflections might lead future generations of Christians into creating a new more spiritual and responsible millennium. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German theologian famous for his stand against Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party. His beliefs and convictions ultimately cost him his life in a Nazi concentration camp. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was one of the most famous theologians and martyrs of the 20th century.

John Piper

John Stephen Piper (born January 11, 1946) is a Calvinistic Baptist Christian preacher and author currently serving as Pastor for Preaching and Vision of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Sam Walter Foss

Sam Walter Foss was born in rural Candia, New Hampshire. He lost his mother at age four, worked on his father's farm and went to school in the winter. He graduated from Brown University in 1882, and would be considered illustrious enough to warrant having his name inscribed on the mace. Beginning in 1898, he served as librarian at the Somerville Public Library in Massachusetts. He married a minister's daughter, with whom he had a daughter and son. Foss used to write a poem a day for the newspapers, and his five volumes of collected poetry are of the frank and homely "common man" variety.

William H. Gross

No biography of William H. Gross could be found on the Internet.

Dwight L. Moody

Dwight L. Moody (February 5, 1837 – December 22, 1899), also known as D.L. Moody, was an American evangelist and publisher who founded the Moody Church, Northfield School and Mount Hermon School in Massachusetts (now Northfield Mount Hermon School), the Moody Bible Institute and Moody Publishers.

Thomas L. Constable, Th.D.

Thomas L. Constable, Th.D. is the founder of Dallas Seminary's Field Education department (1970) and the Center for Biblical Studies (1973), both of which he directed for many years before assuming other responsibilities. Today Dr. Constable maintains an active academic, pulpit supply, and conference-speaking ministry around the world. He has ministered in nearly three dozen countries and written commentaries on every book of the Bible. Dr. Constable also founded a church, pastored it for twelve years, and has served as one of its elders for over thirty years.

Edward W. A. Koehler

Edward W. A. Koehler (1875-1951) was a faculty member at Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Illinois (now Concordia University) from 1919 to 1951.

Henry C. Thiessen

Henry C. Thiessen taught at Dallas theological Seminary and served as chairman of the Faculty of the Graduate School at Wheaton College.

Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

Dr. Ralph F. Wilson is an Evangelical Christian who is the director of Joyful Heart Renewal Ministries. He has an intense interest in using the Internet to teach the Bible and train disciples.

Marjorie Thompson

Marjorie Thompson is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. She has served as director of the Pathways Center for Spiritual Leadership and as spiritual director to Companions in Christ, a program outgrowth of

the Pathways initiative of Upper Room Ministries. Companions in Christ is a small group resource for spiritual formation in local congregations, suited to ecumenical use. Marjorie has exercised a ministry of teaching, writing and spiritual guidance for many years.

Petey Prater

Petey Prater is a retired nurse who writes the Web site Prayer Power from Beaverton, OR, where she has lived for thirty-five years, all of them in the same home. She is married to Don, her husband of forty-eight years, who is an engineer. In addition to her Prayer Power column Petey has co-written or contributed to several books and published poetry, devotionals and articles. Many have appeared in LIVE, Daily Bread, Pathways to God, and Bible Advocate. She belongs to Oregon Christian Writers where it has been her joy to co-chair the intercessory prayer team for over 10 years. A weekly prayer meeting has convened in her home for over forty-five years. These corporate and personal prayer times provide much of the insight for her prayer column.

Peter M. Berg

No biography could be found of Peter M. Berg other than a very short obituary.

Bryan Vinson, Sr.,

Bryan Vinson, Sr., was editor of Truth Magazine. Not much more information could be found on the Internet.

Thomas Watson

Thomas Watson (c. 1620 - 1686) was an English, Nonconformist, Puritan preacher and author. He was educated at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. In 1646 he commenced a sixteen-year pastorate at St. Stephen's, Walbrook. He showed strong Presbyterian views during the civil war, with, however, an attachment to the king, and in 1651 he was imprisoned briefly with some other ministers for his share in a plot to recall Charles II of England. He was released in 1652, and was reinstated as vicar of St. Stephen's Walbrook. He obtained great fame and popularity as a preacher until the Restoration, when he was ejected for Nonconformity. Notwithstanding the rigor of the acts against dissenters, Watson continued to exercise his ministry privately as he found opportunity. Upon the Declaration of Indulgence in 1672 he obtained a license to preach at the great hall in Crosby House. After preaching there for several years, his health gave way, and he retired to Barnston, Essex, where he died suddenly while praying in secret.

Charles H. Spurgeon

Charles Haddon (C.H.) Spurgeon (19 June 1834 – 31 January 1892) was a British Particular Baptist preacher. Spurgeon remains highly influential among Christians of different denominations, among whom he is known as the "Prince of Preachers". He was a strong figure in the Reformed Baptist tradition, defending the Church in agreement with the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith understanding, and opposing the liberal and pragmatic theological tendencies in the Church of his day.

C. Hassell Bullock

Clarence Hassell Bullock (born 1939) is an American professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College in Illinois and current president of the Evangelical Theological Society. He received his B.A. in English from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama in 1961. Afterward, he earned a B.D. from Columbia Theological Seminary in 1964, and he then went on to earn his Ph.D. in Old Testament from the Jewish Institute of Religion at Hebrew Union College in 1970. He has served as both a pastor and a professor. He was ordained by the Presbytery of Birmingham in 1972 and since, he has served as the part-time pastor at nine different churches in Illinois as well as the full-time pastor at First United Presbyterian Church of Trussville in Trussville, Alabama. As an educator, Bullock has taught at Bible and theology-related schools in seven different foreign countries, including Israel, Jamaica, Romania, and Japan. In the United States, he has also taught at Birmingham Extension Seminary and Lee College.

H.C.G. Moule

Handley Carr Glyn Moule was the youngest of eight sons of the vicar of Fordington, Dorchester. He was educated at home with his brothers prior to attending university at Cambridge, where he excelled in his studies. He was ordained in 1867 and was curate at Fordington before being appointed as sub-dean of Trinity College, Cambridge in 1873. He became first principal of Ridley Hall Theological College, Cambridge, in 1881, and Norrisian Professor of Divinity in 1899. In 1901, he succeeded B.F. Westcott as Bishop of Durham. Moule was a convinced evangelical, but was understanding of other views. He represented evangelicals at the Round Table Conference on Holy Communion (1900) and, in 1908, chaired the missionary section of the Pan-Anglican Congress. He was closely associated with the Keswick Convention. Although he was a profound scholar, he could speak and write for ordinary people. He wrote many hymns and poems; and his works include expositions and commentaries on nearly all the Epistles, as well as books on devotion and a down-to-earth work on theology, *Outlines of Christian Doctrine*.

Hans-Joachim Kraus

Hans-Joachim Kraus (December 17, 1918 in Essen - November 14, 2000) was a German Reformed theologian. He was known for his historical work on the historical-critical biblical scholarship and commitment to Jewish-Christian dialogue.

Dr. Vic Reasoner

Dr. Vic Reasoner is a Methodist theologian and pastor. He is also involved with the Fundamental Wesleyan Society and the Arminian Magazine.

Michael Stoltzfus

Michael Stoltzfus is an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Valdosta State University. He teaches courses in the areas of world religions, religion and culture.

Fulton J. Sheen

Fulton John Sheen (born Peter John Sheen, May 8, 1895 - December 9, 1979) was an American archbishop of the Roman Catholic Church known for his preaching and especially his work on television and radio. For 20 years he hosted the night-time radio program The Catholic Hour (1930–1950) before moving to television and presenting Life Is Worth Living (1951–1957). Sheen's final presenting role was on the syndicated The Fulton Sheen Program (1961–1968) with a format very similar to that of the earlier Life is Worth Living show. For this work, Sheen twice won an Emmy Award for Most Outstanding Television Personality. Starting in 2009, his shows were being re-broadcast on the EWTN and the Trinity Broadcasting Network's Church Channel cable networks. Due to his contribution to televised preaching Sheen is often referred to as one of the first televangelists.