

**Church History**

**Mentor: Martin Allen (4/2004)**

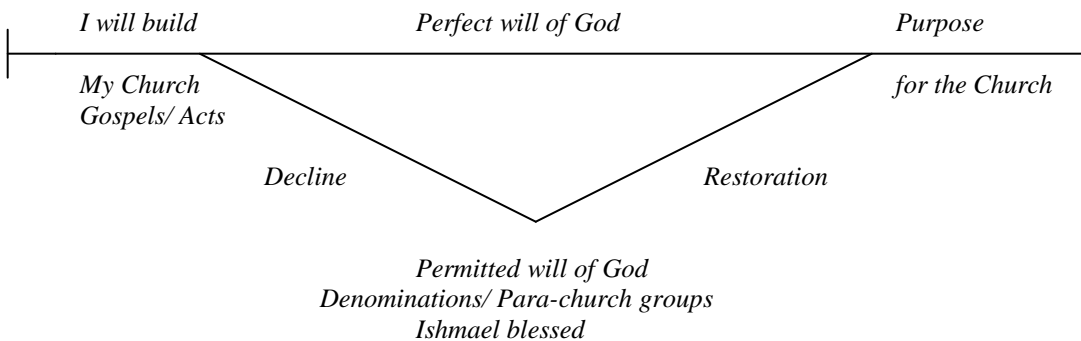
**Course Content**

- A) Introduction to Church History
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**A) INTRODUCTION TO CHURCH HISTORY**

**Why study History?**

- a. *History is His-Story* (See Heb. 1:2; 12:1; Col. 1:16-17; Acts 17:26).
- b. *History is Salvation-oriented* (See Acts 17:26-31).
- c. *History is Church-oriented* (See Col. 1:17-18; Eph. 1:10; 22).
- d. *The first true history was Hebrew history.* It accurately describes origins and the development of civilisation from God’s (Truth’s) perspective.
- e. *Time is a creation, with a beginning, middle and end* (Gen. 1:1). Historical, present and future time is to be understood and used to bring wisdom (See 1 Chr. 12:32; Lk. 19:43-44; Eph. 5:15-18).
- f. *Understanding the past helps us to make sense of the present and guides our future decisions.* We avoid mistakes and imitate the successes of others (See Mt. 7:17; Rom. 11:16; Mt. 3:10). We become wise (Ps. 90:12).
- g. *Christianity and the Bible is a historical faith.* It deals with real people, a real God, in examinable situations. It is honest and not mythological and makes us honest.
- h. *God works in seasons and patterns* (Gen. 1:14; Matt. 16:3). Patterns help us to predict and prepare (2 Pet. 3:9-10).
- i. *Church history is the measure of our personal and corporate progress.*
- j. *To discover our roots is to find our foundation.* Many Christians don’t and suffer (Jer. 50:6). What tree do you belong to? (Mat. 12:33).
- k. *When did Church History commence?* See Eph. 1:3-5 and then Mat. 16:18; Acts 2.
- l. *What was the original intention of God for the Church?* That we should be like Him in His perfection (Mat. 5:48) and that the Church should reveal the Almighty in His perfection to all creation, visible and invisible (1 Pet. 1:12; Eph. 3:10). See also Eph. 1:22-23; 3:9-10; 19; 4:11-16). It was to be the ‘show-piece’ of eternity, planned by the Father, won by the Son, prepared by the Holy Spirit.
- m. *However, Church History records that this has not always been the case.* Due largely to the enormous spiritual battle working through the unrestrained flesh of church leaders (See Acts 20: 28-31 and 2 Cor. 11:13-15).
- n. *Church history tells two stories* (i) Of visible Church and (ii) Of invisible (or hidden) Church.
- o. *Jesus wanted One Church from the beginning* (John 17). Over the centuries, man has taken the Church on a downward track, away from its position in the perfect will of God, but God’s grace is restoring it back to its original position.



**B) THE EIGHT MAIN PERIODS OF CHURCH HISTORY**

<b>Main Periods Of Church History</b>	<b>The Age of...</b>
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<b>1) The Early Church: AD 30-312</b> a) The Age of the Apostles: AD 30-100 b) The Age of the martyrs: AD 81-312	ADVANCE
<b>2) The State Church: AD 313-590</b>	ACCEPTANCE
<b>3) The Papal Church: AD 590-1517 ff.</b> a) Of Popes Alone: AD 590-1002 b) Of Popes and powers: AD 1002-1300	ANTAGONISM
<b>4) The Age of the Renaissance: AD 1303 – 1517</b>	AMBIGUITY
<b>5) The Reformation Church: AD 1517 – 1648 ff</b>	AWAKENING
<b>6) The Age of Rationalism: AD 1648-1789</b>	ARGUMENT
<b>7) The Age of Revolution: AD 1790-1900 ff.</b>	ASPIRATION
<b>8) The Age unto Restoration: AD 1900 ff.</b>	ATTAINMENT

*Quote: “The people of God must never forget that they are a pilgrim people who have no abiding city in time. Throughout the history of the Church a variety of movements have protested against static religion...in so far as such movements are of the Spirit, the institutional Churches withstand them at their peril.”*

### **1) THE EARLY CHURCH: THE AGE OF ADVANCE**

#### **a) The Age of the Apostles: AD 30-100**

##### **i. The development of the Church**

- It begins by Jesus giving notice to His disciples of His intentions (Matt 16:18)
- He trained, equipped and gave instructions through the Holy Spirit to a hand-picked team (Acts 1:1-2).
- He expected them to reproduce this perfection in His Church, the body of those who believed in Him (Mat. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Eph. 4:11-14). This plan was sabotaged but will be fulfilled (See diagram above).
- At first all the Christians were in Jerusalem and Christianity might have stayed there, but for two things: a) Persecution (Acts 8:1-5; 9:31-36) and b) Special Revelation (Acts 5:33-42; 6:7).
- Acts 10 and the conversion of Cornelius describes a momentous change that would result in the Gospel being taken to the Gentiles.
- Following the conversion of the Apostle Paul, there was a greater move, right out of the land of Israel and ‘overseas missions’ began (Acts 13:1-3).
- The Gospel was taken to Rome – the most important place on the earth at that time – the civilized centre of the earth, and a thriving church began, with members even from Caesar’s household.
- Thus the history of the early church describes an age of advancement of the gospel through the apostles, by the Holy Spirit. These ‘Acts of the Holy Spirit’ have never ceased.
- However, during this time, Christianity was just looked upon as another sect, but soon the toleration was to change as her voice became louder.

##### **ii. The Structure of the Early Church**

- Simplicity, community, evangelism, love and diversity was its hallmarks.  
*Quote from A.E. Horton: “The early churches were very simple in their workings. Each church had several leaders who were called elders, or bishops, (that is overseers or superintendents). These elders taught and guided the believers in the assembly. But they were not like masters of the church. And they did not do all the work of preaching. The Holy Spirit gave each believer some gift for working, whether for preaching the gospel, or for teaching believers, for caring for others like shepherds (pastors), or for helping in other ways. Each believer was supposed to help according to God’s will for him. There were also deacons (that is, servants) who served the church in giving out help to the needy like the seven in Acts 6.”*
- The unrestricted (invisible) church was home (cell) based (Acts 5:42).
- The first leadership conference or council took place in AD 49 (Acts 15). It was a momentous triumph for salvation by grace and all had a chance to speak.
- They were One Church called simply, ‘Christians’ (Acts 11:26).

#### **b) The Age of the martyrs: AD 81-312**

##### **i. General historical developments**

- Under the Roman Emperor Nero great persecution and suffering took place for true believers and heresies began to creep in. Peter was martyred in AD 65 and Paul in AD 67 (2 Tim. 2:1-3).
- The last of the 12 Apostles - John writes in a corrective and forward-looking manner from his captivity on the Isle of Patmos in AD 96.
- The ‘Pax Romana’ (the geographical extent of the ‘Peace of the Roman Empire’) was held by Roman troops from Scotland to the Rhine, and the Danube to the near East, as far as the borders of Persia and the edge of the Sahara. Rome was thus the centre of the world and throughout its vast territories, Roman citizens could move with freedom.
- Territorially the Empire reached its height under Emperor Trajan (AD 98-117).
- The Emperor (or Caesar) was considered to be a god and everyone was compelled to worship and obey him as such. He became known as ‘Pontifex Maximus’ – Chief Priest of the cult of the Roman gods. Christians refused to worship him and so were charged with treason, cannibalism, atheism and incest.

- Emperors Nero and Domitian actively promoted the official persecution of Christians. In his power-crazed mania, Nero burned Christians alive and positioned their burning corpses in his palace grounds to act as lights in the night for his guests! Profession of Christianity was a capital offence. Tertullian wrote, “*If the River Tiber reaches the walls, if the River Nile does not rise in the fields, if the sky does not move or the earth does, if there is plague, the cry is at once: ‘The Christians to the lion!’*”
- However, with an increasing tolerance for Christianity, came further decline from the hallmarks of the Early Church. Bishops of towns and cities became supreme law-makers.
- Distinctive clothing was implemented and church ceased to be ‘invisible’ ie, within homes and consisted of regular meetings in specified places.
- The ‘Catholic’ (meaning universal) church started to be known as the ‘Roman Catholic Church’.
- The first church building was built in approx. AD 250.

ii. **Significant Men and Groups**

- a. **Marcion (AD 140)** Began to teach his own brand of Jewish-Christianity. He banned all of the OT and most of the NT proclaiming that God the Father is evil but Jesus is the highest God. He established many communities, threatening the true faith.
- b. **Montanists (AD 172)** They called Christians to embrace a demanding asceticism and urged Christians to relish martyrdom with their banner, ‘*Do not die in bed – die as a martyr.*’ They banned marriage and marital relations in favour of chastity and had many food ‘issues’. They were Pentecostal in their reliance on the Holy Spirit, yet fanatical but not heretical and were heavily martyred.
- c. **Irenaeus (AD 170)** He was a great theologian and taught the unity of the Godhead; the incarnation of Christ and redemption. He spoke out against the Gnostic heresies.
- d. **Tertullian (b. AD 150)** He was the first to write theology in Latin and was one of the most powerful historical writers of the time. He was very influential in establishing theology in the west. He later joined the Montanists, thus separating himself from the Catholic Church in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century.
- e. **Clement and Origen (Died AD 220 and 254 respectively)** Taught theology in a school in Alexandria and put over the Gospel in such a manner as understood by people familiar with the highest forms of Greek culture, thus establishing the intellectual respectability of the new faith.
- f. **Cyprian (AD 246)** Although born in great wealth and prestige in Northern Roman Africa, he dedicated himself to celibacy, poverty and the Bible and became Bishop of Carthage. He opposed the bishop of Rome and was persecuted and martyred. However, he introduced the policy of penance and pressed for the unity of one (man-organised) Church. This greatly influenced the church in the west but in a largely negative way.
- g. **Gnostics** They believed that man could only be saved by a secret knowledge and were largely heretical perversions of Christianity. They viewed the physical world as evil and only the spiritual world as good, thus they denied the physical resurrection of Christ’s body. This gave many people, licence to commit licentiousness while others hated any form of sexuality. They became a threat to true Christianity and John had to write against their philosophies in I John 2:26-27; 3:18-19; 4:1-3.

2) **THE STATE CHURCH (AD 312-590): AGE OF ACCEPTANCE**

i. **General historical developments**

- In AD 312, Emperor Constantine entered Rome and a great change in the relations between Christianity and the world began.
- In AD 313 the ‘Edict of Milan’ allowed freedom of religion for all but eventually, Christianity was made the State Religion to unite the Roman Empire.
- The Emperor was made the head of the Church and given the Roman pagan name of Pontifex Maximus.
- Constantine called himself ‘Bishop of bishops’ and was not baptised until he was old as he wanted to appease the majority of his constituents who were pagans.
- He also formerly worshipped the Sun god and used elements of this pagan belief in his Christian teachings, the most notable being the origin of Christmas.
- By bringing union between the Roman Empire and the Christian Church, Constantine greatly influenced Christianity as a whole.
- By 324 he had made himself master of the Roman world, ushering an epoch of world peace and prosperity. He established a ‘New Rome’ in the Eastern regions of the Empire (Byzantium) called Constantinople, which became the centre of the Eastern Christian tradition.
- Thus two parts of Christendom were produced – the Eastern Orthodox Church based in Constantinople and the Roman Catholic Church based in Rome. Christianity was now fashionable - and as a consequence, become ever more decadent!
- Many historians feel that the acceptance of Christianity during the fourth century as the official state religion seriously damaged spirituality, as Christian leaders became confidants of emperors. It is seen as the point of the fall of the church from its apostolic purity.
- In AD 378 the Bishop of Rome took on the title, ‘Pontifex Maximus and considered himself to be the ‘living image of Christ’. Thus eventually the word Pontifex became Pope (meaning Father) which is in direct violation of Matt. 23:9.
- Thus the 4<sup>th</sup> C. saw the rapid growth of the institutional church. However, the Western section of the Roman Empire was beginning to crumble under repeated attacks from the German barbarian tribes (Vandals, Visigoths and Lombards). Over the course of the next 2 centuries, its western half collapsed. However, the Byzantine Empire in the eastern sector and centred on Constantinople, survived for another 1000 years.

- ii. **Significant Men and Groups**
- Arius:** Preached the heresy that Jesus was a created being. A conference was held at Nicea in AD 325 and Athanasius championed the truth. The Nicean Creed was produced that has since significantly effected the Church's statement of doctrinal truth and Arius was outlawed but received back 2 years later by Constantine.
  - Monasticism, Hermits and Pole Climbers:** With the influx of many people into the church during the 4<sup>th</sup> C, standards were rapidly being eroded. As a reaction to this the first monks appeared, attempting to separate themselves from the world. They practiced vows of poverty, solitude, chastity and clerical law.
  - Augustine of Hippo: (Algeria, 354-430)** He was one of the greatest figures of the time and wrote his famous *Confessions* and *The City of God*. He tried to de-paganise the Roman Catholic Church, thus influencing the minds of many Medieval and Reformation churchmen.
  - Pope Leo 1:** He became the Bishop of Rome in 440 and became the first Pope. He taught that Peter was the head of all the other apostles and thus the head (Pope) of the Roman Catholic Church. In 410, Rome was sacked by Visigoths, then Vandals, then Huns. Leo persuaded Attila the Hun to turn back in 452 and gained respect as a civil ruler.
  - Patrick:** Probably born in Roman Britain, he successfully converted Ireland to Catholicism and became their patron saint. He promoted monasticism but encouraged the Celtic missionary spirit, which produced great numbers of monks who evangelised Western Europe during the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Centuries. He died in AD 461.
- iii. **Trends of this period in the West (Rome centred)**
- With the Age of Acceptance came an influx in idolatry – substituting someone or something else to God as the source of grace and salvation (1 Tim. 2:5). It blended paganism with Christianity.
  - Mary was worshipped and seen as the, 'Mother of God'. This may have been influenced by the desire to appease the pagans who worshipped Artemis (Diana) or the Egyptian goddess Isis. Such 'Queens of Heaven' were transferred to Mary (See Jer. 44:15-30 and also Lk. 4:8; John 4:23-24; Rev. 22:8).
  - Images and pictures – called icons – of saints and Jesus also worshipped. Churches were built over the tombs of martyrs and began to influence church architecture. Even the remains (relics) of past saints (and those about to die) were coveted as superstitious idols. Their tombs became shrines and people worshipped at them believing that healing and all manner of good fortune would come their way in this life and the next (Eg. Lourdes in France).
  - Communion was done in utmost secrecy and was perceived as being only for those who had been baptised and who had sworn allegiance to the Church.
  - Transubstantiation was taught (Heb. 10:10-14).
  - Purgatory was also taught as a means of escaping the fires of hell without the need for the application of the Gospel. It involved the sinner spending time in a place where punishment for sins was given until the sinner was cleansed. Indulgences could be bought from the priest to reduce this dreaded time!
  - Godly literature was burned by the Catholic Church so as to prevent the spread of true Christianity.
- iv. **Outline of the Church in the East (Persian centred)**
- The Orthodox Church was basically simpler and its scriptural character was retained for longer. However, it still held to many Roman Catholic unbiblical practices.
  - In 428, Nestorius – the bishop of Constantinople, a devout Christian and a fiery preacher, was ousted and fled to Persia for opposing the Catholic view of Mary. He produced a church group called the Nestorians. They were hated by the Western Byzantine Empire.
  - Through them, great missionary expeditions were organised and China and Mongolia received the scriptures. They became strong in China.

### 3) **THE PAPAL CHURCH (AD 590-1517): AGE OF ANTAGONISM**

The power of the government weakened and the Pope became the world's supreme ruler. Many so called "infallible" claims to world dictatorship and deity were made at this time. The divisions between Eastern and Western portions of the Empire grew stronger.

#### **A) The life and times of the Early Popes of the Roman Catholic Church (AD 590-1002)**

##### ***(i) Significant Men and Groups***

- Mohammed (570-620):** Father of the Moslems, he was a fanatic and hater of idolatry, he forced his Islamic religion on the whole of Northern Africa and virtually obliterated Christianity from this region.  
*Quote from C. Meyer: "Beginning in 632, the Arabs, followers of Mohammed, went from conquest to conquest. In 638 they occupied Jerusalem then Persia, Mesopotamia and Egypt fell to them. In North Africa they swept on and crossed into Spain at what is called Gibraltar. Christianity was virtually extinguished in Arabia, Egypt and North Africa."*
- Gregory "The Great" (590-604):** As Pope, he greatly increased the power of the Roman Catholic Church. He sent Augustine (not Augustine of Hippo) in 597 with 40 men to Britain to make it Roman Catholic. He was successful and was appointed the first Bishop of Canterbury.
- Charlemagne (Charles the Great AD 768-814):** His father Pepin was advisor to the Emperor. Pepin won some lands in Italy, which were stolen by the Lombards and he donated these to the Pope! This region became the "Vatican State" and was under no government. Charlemagne was crowned Emperor on Christmas Day 800 in Rome. The Pope was chief religious head of the Empire and the Emperor was the chief administrative head of the Church. So began the so-called "Holy" Roman Empire!

- d. Emperor Leo (AD 717-741): Of the Byzantine Empire. Launched an attack on the use of icons – images and pictures (iconoclasm), due to what he perceived was God’s judgment on the idolatry that had plagued the Church and Empire. The Bishop of Rome condemned his actions but in 754 a synod declared all icons as idolatrous. His son continued this trend by outlawing monks and saint worship – excommunicating, mutilating and exiling any who resisted! However, on his death his wife, Empress Theodora restored the use of icons and thus revived idolatry; between 842-867 she orchestrated the death of 100,000 true Christians – the ‘Paulicians’ who largely held to NT teachings. For 200 years, godly men preached the gospel in the face of terrible opposition.

**(ii) General historical developments**

Little major historical developments occurred. However, the Church declined significantly and one historian wrote, “*The 10<sup>th</sup> Century proved to be the darkest intellectually and morally of Christian history hitherto. At its close, misery and wickedness overspread all the lands of Christendom. At Rome the abominations perpetrated at the Papal court exceeded – if that were possible, the vices of the heathen emperors of former times.*”

**B) The Power of the Popes (AD 1002-1300)**

A battle began to be waged between the power of the Church and the Empire. Many Popes contended for supremacy so as to control Christianity.

**(i) Significant Men and Groups**

- a. Emperor Henry 3<sup>rd</sup> considered himself the ruler of the Holy Roman Empire in 1040 and sacked three Popes and appointed a 4<sup>th</sup> Pope, his cousin – all so that he could be in control!
- b. Pope Gregory the 7<sup>th</sup> (1073) declared papal power to be absolute and all secular powers were forced into submission to him. This meant that he could depose kings and emperors. He enforced chastity on all priests and officially recognised transubstantiation.
- c. However, Henry 4<sup>th</sup> tried to sack Pope Gregory and he was immediately excommunicated. He later ‘repented’ in humiliation and took over Rome again.
- d. The 11 - 13<sup>th</sup> C European military crusades: These were driven by religious motives and were started by Pope Urban 2<sup>nd</sup> when in 1095 he appealed for protection for the Eastern Church against the invading Muslim Turks and to free the Holy Lands from Islamic control. By 1099 the crusaders had taken back Jerusalem.
  - o There were a total of 8 crusades.
    - § A peasant’s crusade in 1095, were slaughtered before reaching the Holy land.
    - § A Children’s crusade in 1212, comprising of illegitimate and slave children (conceived from the rapings of previous crusades) were used.
    - § Jerusalem was finally taken back by Moslems in 1244.
  - o One motive of the crusades was to draw attention away from the Vatican’s corruption and to rob the many rich Jews across Europe, calling them ‘Christ killers’.
  - o The Vatican encouraged people to crusade by offering them free indulgences, a by-pass from purgatory and a guarantee into heaven! Noble knights in shining armour led by King Richard the Lion-heart from England saw their task as a holy mission.
  - o However, the crusades never really achieved their desired aim to free the lands once occupied by the Roman Church, but they were a striking illustration of both the unity and the religious zeal of medieval Europe.
  - o After the Crusades, Ottoman Turks conquer Constantinople in 1453 and St. Sophia Church became a mosque.
- e. The Waldensians: Established by Peter Waldo (converted in 1160) from S. France. They became known as the ‘Poor men of Lyons’ due to their vow of poverty. They were NT believers and very influential preachers, despite much opposition from the opulent, worldly and threatened Church. They saw the Roman Catholic Church as the ‘whore of Babylon’. Seen as dissenters they were branded as heretics and condemned to inquisition and secular punishment. However, by the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> C, they had spread to all parts of Europe except England. They rejected all the paraphernalia of the Catholic Church and so were heavily persecuted and hounded by the Inquisitors. Their stand influenced the Reformation and their beliefs and practices became absorbed into the rising protestant streams that emerged at that time.
- f. Three Popes: Eugenius 3<sup>rd</sup>, Alexander 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Innocent 3<sup>rd</sup> (1198 – 1216): These Popes initiated severe persecution against the groups they considered heretics. Innocent 3<sup>rd</sup> was the first Pope to call heresy ‘treason’ thus making it lawful for them to be killed. He gained supremacy and by 1208 he had exterminated one million Waldensians and other similar groups.
- g. St. Francis of Assisi (d. 1226): Truly converted and became one of the world’s favourite religious leaders. He started the Franciscan Order called the preachers of penance. He prayed and fasted for long periods and is said to have had ‘stigmata’ (Christ’s bleeding wounds).
- h. Thomas Aquinas (d. 1274): Roman Catholicism’s greatest scholar and propagandist. He claimed that the RC Church had power to forgive or retain sins through the priesthood (still official doctrines). He championed ‘Scholasticism’ – the combining of reason and revelation (Greek logic and Christianity – the basis of humanistic theism).

This period and into the 1500’s saw the building of the great cathedrals.

**4) THE AGE OF AMBIGUITY: THE RENAISSANCE CHURCH (AD 1303 – 1517)**

**(i) General historical developments**

- This was marked by paradoxes, atrophy and awakening. Organised religion was on the decline; Greek humanism revived and there was a revival in the desire for learning.

- The Renaissance - meaning 'Rebirth', involved a massive desire for knowledge that affected every academic discipline including art, music, theology etc.
- It was furthered by the most significant discovery in 1000 years – the printing press invented by Johannes Gutenberg in 1450.
- This gave rise to two opposites. First the translation of the Greek NT revealed the great discrepancies between true Christianity and the corrupt Church. However, it also gave rise to humanism – 'humans could reach their full potential through learning'. Universities were started to accommodate this desire.
- The Black Death (Bubonic Plague), first struck in 1347 killing a third of Western Europeans in 3 years.

## (ii) Significant Men and Groups

- Pope Boniface 8<sup>th</sup>: Emphasised the rights of the Pope to rule over kings and nations and 'backed' it with scripture using Jer. 1:10. He said in 1303, '*It is necessary for every human being to be subject to the Roman Pontiff for salvation*'. (This has never been rescinded.) At this time he also said, "*The Roman Pontiff judges all men, but is judged by no-one... we declare, assert, define and pronounce that to be subject to the Roman Pontiff is to every creature necessary for salvation... That which was spoken of Christ, "Thou has subdued all things under His feet" may well be verified in me... I have the authority of the King of kings. I am all in all, and above all, so that God Himself and I the Vicar of God, have but one Consistory... What therefore can you make of me but God?"*" Under his rule, there was a massive burning of Christian 'heretical' literature. There was now widespread ignorance, absenteeism and sexual immorality amongst the clergy.
- Johannes Tauler (c.1338): A friend of Emperor Ludwig of Bavaria, withstood the pope. He wrote, '*The Prince of this world has nowadays been sowing weeds among the roses, insomuch that the roses are often choked.*' The General of the Jesuits (1576) and Pope Sixtus V (1590) prohibited his books.
- Pope Boniface 9<sup>th</sup> and Charles 4<sup>th</sup> (1348): They lashed out at these dissenters after Emperor Ludwig's death. Many persecutions occurred in Europe and Switzerland. Many fled to Bohemia (where they were influenced by Jerome and Huss) or England (where they were influenced by Wycliffe.)
- John Wycliffe (d 1384): A prominent English reformer of the late middle ages. He was an Oxford don (tutor) and great academic scholar. He was outraged at the corruption in the Church and made several attacks against such errors as transubstantiation and the mediation of priests. He lived for years as a pauper and was hounded by both the Roman Catholics and the King of England while he was translating the Latin Vulgate Bible into English (The Wycliffe Bible).
- The Lollards: Meaning, 'mutterer' or 'babblers', were the followers of Wycliffe. They taught that the scriptures were paramount and Romanism was anathema. Many were jailed, tortured and hung under King Henry 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Their teachings prepared the way for the coming Lutheranism in the next century.
- The Great Schism: Fuelled by greed, delusions of grandeur and self-interest, two popes established themselves and excommunicated each other! In 1409, the Council of Pisa elected a new Pope and banished the other two who refused to move; so now there were three! A fourth Pope was elected. Eventually, at the Council of Constance (1414-1418), Martin 5<sup>th</sup> was elected as Pope. Of the remainder, one of them was deposed, one resigned and the last 'disappeared'!
- Joan of Arc (1412-1431): A peasant girl of 17 who became a French heroine after receiving 'divine visions' and successfully commanding and leading 10,000 troops in battle. The Church burned her at the stake for witchcraft, but a few years later, they reversed the decision and made her a saint!
- John Huss (d 1415): Was professor at the Charles University of Prague in Bohemia and became the confessor to the Queen. He was 'converted' by reading Wycliffe's writings and became a powerful preacher. He emphasised personal piety, purity of life, that only God can forgive sin and the authority of the scriptures above the papacy. He condemned the corruption in the clergy and all the Catholic paraphernalia. All of Bohemia stood by him. However, he was betrayed in 1415, tortured and burned at the stake, but his heroic death inspired the people to establish the Hussite Church, which lasted until 1620.
- Erasmus of Rotterdam (1467 – 1536): He was a monk and a professor at Cambridge University in England. He published the Greek NT in 1516, which formed the basis for Tyndale's translation into English and Luther's into German.
- Thomas a Kempis (d. 1471): Wrote the best known devotional book for Christians in the Middle Ages called 'The Imitations of Christ'. It was aimed at teaching the Christian the way to perfection through imitating Christ. Being searching, scriptural and utterly centred upon Christ, it became one of the most widely read books in the world. (*Read quote from his book p.356*).
- Savon Arola (d. 1498): A revivalist preacher and Dominican friar, he started a one-man campaign in 1482 in Florence, Italy against the Church's decadence. Pope Alexander 6<sup>th</sup> summoned him to Rome but he refused and was excommunicated and condemned as a heretic. He was hung in 1498 and was a forerunner of the Reformation.

## 5) THE AGE OF AWAKENING: THE REFORMATION CHURCH (AD 1517-1648ff)

### (i) Significant Men and Groups

- Martin Luther (1483-1546): Was the most pivotal figure in the history of Christianity and father of the Great Protestant Reformation.
  - He was born in Germany and became a monk of the RC Church and a professor of Biblical Studies at the University of Wittenburg.
  - He was angered at the RC doctrine of salvation by works and the immorality of the priests in Rome.
  - He saw the truth of Rom. 1:17, '*The just shall live by faith*', and was born again. He didn't want to leave the RC Church and believed that the Pope would uphold him.

- However, in 1517 a monk called Tetzel arrived in Wittenburg selling indulgences as a ‘holy trade’. His outraged response was to nail his 95 theses expounding his doctrinal revelations, to the Wittenburg church door.
  - Pope Leo 10<sup>th</sup> took little notice, but Europe was never to be the same again. He gave two stirring addresses:
    - a) *“Address to the Nobility of the German Nation on the Liberty of the Christian Man”* and *“Babylonian Captivity of the Church”* and this sealed the beginning of the Reformation.
  - Refusing to recant, he was later excommunicated in 1521 at the Diet of Worms and condemned as a heretic. His benefactor - the German Emperor, had him taken to Wartburg Castle for safety where he translated the NT and the OT into German.
  - He married in 1525 and the word, ‘Protestant’ was first used to describe a people who ‘protest’ against the RC Church and others who did not support their views such as Zwingli on the Lord’s Supper.
  - In 1545, he writes, *Against the Papacy at Rome, An Institution of the Devil*.
  - BUT: Luther grew almost as dogmatic as the Pope and in reality, he only discovered and made public what other persecuted groups had been practicing for centuries!
  - *The Reformation Tenets:*
    - § Sola gratia: ‘by grace alone is one saved’
    - § Sola fide: ‘by faith alone’
    - § Sola Christus: ‘by Christ alone’
    - § Sola Scriptura: ‘by the Word of God alone’
  - *Luther reacted against:*
    - § Indulgences (money used to build St. Peter’s Basilica)
    - § Penance
    - § Pope’s authority being greater than the Bible
    - § Transubstantiation
    - § The Papal abuse of power and their corruption
- b. *William Tyndale and the English Reformation(d. 1536):* He was an English scholar who began to teach the true gospel in England and send trained men all over the country doing the same. The Catholic majority hated him but he managed to translate the Bible into English (illegal since 1408) against the orders of the English Catholic authorities. He was in hiding in Europe while translating but in 1536 they found him, strangled him and burned his body for translating the Bible! His last gasp was, *“Lord! Open the King of England’s eyes.”* Two years later, his prayer was answered as Henry 8<sup>th</sup> ordered that a Bible be placed in every English church. He is singly responsible for some 90% of the KJV 1611.
- c. *King Henry VIII:* The cause of the English Reformation was not theological but largely carnal and political. King Henry 8<sup>th</sup> required a divorce, which the Pope couldn’t grant. Initially Henry 8<sup>th</sup> was given the title, ‘*Defender of the Faith*’ by the Pope for writing a book against Luther in 1521, but later he took England out of being an exclusively Catholic country and established the Church of England (Anglicans). He thus secured his divorce and made himself the head of the church by an act of Supremacy in 1534. Thomas Cranmer became Archbishop of Canterbury. A godly man, he was responsible for shaping the Protestant Church of England. The king required every church in England to have a Bible in English, but later revoked his decision.
- d. *Queen Mary (Bloody Mary):* She tried to restore Catholicism in England and had the three most noted and loved theologians – Cranmer, Latimer and Ridley, burned at the stake in Oxford in 1556. She died a hated woman and was succeeded by the much loved and respected Queen Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup> who restored Anglican Protestantism. However, Broadbent writes of this time: *“As the Church of England grew stronger, all forms of dissent were relentlessly persecuted, especially Puritans, Presbyterians, Baptists and Independents. The gaols were crowded with them and these were foul beyond description. Unknown numbers died of diseases, misery and ill-treatment which then accompanied imprisonment.”*
- Back in Europe:***
- e. *Zwingli (AD 1484-1531):* He was head of the Swiss reformation and taught much of the Lutheran doctrines except he differed on the eucharist. Eventually half of Switzerland became Protestant at Zurich in 1523. Zwingli instituted the death penalty for non-conformists – especially the “Brethren” who held to public baptisms. He was killed with many in a bloody war with the RC.
- f. *Anabaptists (a reproachful nickname meaning ‘re-baptizers’):* Of course, this had been practiced by many of the NT ‘hidden church’ groups for centuries.
- They didn’t focus on just one large organisation, but formed a loose grouping of movements. In 1524 in Germany many Brethren churches became independent from the Lutheran state church (1<sup>st</sup> of the free churches).
  - Saw themselves as missionaries to the people of lukewarm piety. They taught a passionate form of discipleship refusing to take part in wars, or defend themselves against their persecutors. The Moravian group practiced community.
  - They desired not to reform but restore the Church to its NT roots. This led to their conviction of the separation of Church and State.
  - Great growth occurred but they were hated and persecuted by all – including Zwingli, because their lifestyle convicted and challenged their hearts and supposedly threatened the stability of ‘Christian’ Europe! They were tortured and killed by King Ferdinand of Bohemia in 1527, which involved a united force of Catholics and Protestants!!
  - Meno Simon (1492-1559) led a brave group of Anabaptists in the Netherlands called the Menonites. He lived an outlaw’s life. Other radically saved groups who practiced brotherhood were the Bruderhof and the Hutterites.

- The Anabaptist groups have lasted to the present day but alas, in various forms of legalism.
- g. John Calvin (d.1564): He was born in France but lived in Geneva, Switzerland. He was converted through Luther's writings and began to try and marry Church and State under a Protestant banner.
  - Like Zwingli, he persecuted any who would not conform to his beliefs!
  - In 1536 he wrote one of the world's greatest theological books, "*Institutes of the Christian Religion*" and he is known as one of the world's greatest theologians for his doctrine of grace, which focused upon the extreme view of predestination and the sovereignty of God to the exclusion of man's free will.
  - Calvinism can be summed up by the acronym: TULIP.
  - Calvinism has significantly influenced the development of a significant number of Protestant denominations.
- h. ROME'S COUNTER GROUPS: Two major streams formed to attack Protestantism: a) Counter Reformation Groups: Born again Catholics were freshly stirred to godly endeavour such as the Franciscans, Dominicans and Augustinians. b) Counter Attack Groups:
- i. Ignatius Loyola (AD 1491-1566) was a Spanish monk who started the ruthless Jesuits (meaning 'the Society of Jesus') in Paris 1534.
  - He owned a castle in Spain and after being wounded, he dedicated his life to becoming a 'Soldier of Christ' with undying devotion and passion to the Lord.
  - He wrote 'Spiritual Exercises' and with 6 followers, swore allegiance to the Pope as 'Commander in Chief'. Loyola was the 'General'.
  - They had a 3-fold ambition: to educate, evangelise and to exterminate Protestants! From the beginning of the Jesuits in 1540 to 1580, 900,000 were killed in Europe.
  - Francis Xavier was also a leading light in this movement and an influential missionary. He was appointed the Pope's ambassador and travelled widely preaching and converting people to the Catholic faith.
- j. The above 4 groups also led the RC Church in great expansion between 1550-1650 and produced many new Catholics from Mexico, Central America, South America, The Philippines, parts of Africa, India, China and Japan.
- k. The Roman Inquisition: Started by Pope Paul 4<sup>th</sup> (1555) – a product of one of the 'Reformation' groups of the Catholic Church. The 13<sup>th</sup> C Inquisition tried to prevent Catholics leaving. This one tried to get the 'heretics' back (viewed as traitors against God and the foulest of criminals)! As Protestantism swept through Europe, Rome mobilised her forces; by the end of the Inquisition, many millions had been killed (more than the Jews in WW 2).
- l. The Huguenots of France (Calvanist Protestants – AD 1559): They operated a Presbyterian form of Government. The Duke of Guise – a leader of the Catholic party, massacred unwary worshippers and civil war began. However, an arranged marriage between the Huguenot leader and the King of France brought 'peace' and was celebrated in Paris. Less than a week later, Catholic leaders and their troops fell upon the Huguenots killing most. This was called Saint Bartholemew's massacre. Wars continued for another 20 years with Louis 14<sup>th</sup> taking further repressive measures against the Huguenots. Eventually in 1598 all Huguenots were expelled from France.
- m. Jacob Arminius (AD1560-1609): He wrote to balance Calvin's doctrine on predestination and his teachings were embodied in the Methodist revival to come. Like Calvin, his theology would also be used develop many denominational streams.
- n. The Pilgrim Fathers: Some Christians in England were not satisfied with Elizabeth's Church and desired to purify it from within. They were called Puritans. Elizabeth and later King James 1<sup>st</sup> were adamantly against such reforms.
  - This led to the Separatist Movement led by Roberts Browne and Harrison who no longer regarded the Anglican Church as a true church and this marked the beginning of the English Independent or Congregational Church.
  - Suppressed and hounded, many of them left England for countries abroad such as Holland. Some, in 1620, emigrated to New England in North America (called the New World) in a small ship called the Mayflower and became known as the Pilgrim Fathers.
  - Between 1620-40, 20,000 Puritans left for the New World.
- o. The Thirty Years War: This lasted from 1618-1648 and devastated European countries. Essentially it was a war between Catholics and Calvinists, starting out as a religious war and ending up as a political one of governmental power seeking. It marked the end of the religious wars and 'froze the religious map', thus ushering in a new age. Christendom's denominations were largely a product of this age.

## **6) THE AGE OF RATIONALISM: THE AGE OF ARGUMENT 1648-1789**

With the establishment of the Church of England and England's separation from Europe, much of this period's church history centred here.

### **(i) Significant Men and Groups**

- a. King Charles 1<sup>st</sup> (AD 1625-49) and Oliver Cromwell (d. 1658): King Charles 1<sup>st</sup> was the son of James 1<sup>st</sup>. Married Henrietta Maria – a strong French Catholic. With Jezebel-like zeal, she pushed for Romanism in England.
  - The king considered that he need only answer to God and not the Parliamentary Government; Scotland's Presbyterian Church left the Church of England and King Charles 1<sup>st</sup> found himself alone against a Protestant/ Puritan government headed up by Oliver Cromwell.
  - Civil War broke out in 1642 in England between the Royalists and the Parliamentarians. Using his new 'Model Army', Cromwell defeated the Royalists.
  - The king was beheaded in 1649 and the Commonwealth was established. In 1653, under the Counsel of State, freedom of religion was granted for all who, ...'abuse not this liberty to the civil injury of others and to the actual disturbance of the public peace.'



- Puritans then controlled England giving little tolerance for Catholics and Anglicans.
- Cromwell then went on to Ireland to brutally suppress revolt and later turned on the Scottish Presbyterians.
- b. George Fox (1624-1691) and the Society of Friends (Quakers): Fox was converted in Derby, England after much dissatisfaction with the status quo. He was jailed in 1650 for preaching illegally (no unordained person could do so) and at his trial told the judge he should tremble at the fear of God (thus "Quaker").
  - He preached fearlessly and within 3 years of his conversion, the Quakers numbered 50,000. No social barriers, they emphasised the development of the inner life and a strong personal relationship with God. They had a significant ministry among red Indians of N America.
  - They called themselves "Friends" (of Jesus), were pacifists, refused to pay tithes to the State Church, and were anti-slavery.
  - They were jailed by the thousands and many were killed.
  - They revived the truth of the reality of the indwelling Holy Spirit after having to rectify extremes of expression to make them Biblical.
- c. Congregationalists: - 120 Churches met in 1658 and issued a declaration of their independence. The flood of 'free' Churches was underway!
- d. John Bunyan (1628-88): - wrote "The Pilgrims Progress" and the "Holy War" - most widely read books after Bible. The son of a poor man, his sinful youth ended with a genuine conversion.
  - In 1662, the "Act of Uniformity" was passed which required every minister of any Church to declare assent to everything in the Book of Common Prayer and that every minister should obtain episcopal ordination. This only accentuated non-conformity.
  - Soon the prisons were again full of Baptists, Independents and Quakers, a situation that continued for over 100 years. Not until far into the nineteenth century were such groups again allowed their rights as citizens of their native country.
  - Refusing to acknowledge the Church of England and receive his license to preach, Bunyan spent 12 years in Bedford jail where he wrote his books.
  - He was elder and then pastor of Bedford Baptist Church, but wrote, *"I will not let Water Baptism be the rule, the door, the bolt, the bar, the wall of division between the righteous and the unrighteous... The Lord deliver me from superstitious and idolatrous thoughts about any of the ordinances of Christ and of God"*. And: *"Since you would know by what name I would be distinguished from all others, I tell you, I would be, and I hope I am, a Christian, and choose, if God should count me worthy, to be called a Christian, a believer, or other such name which is approved by the Holy Ghost."*
- e. Jean de Labadie (1610-1674) – He was little known; born in Bordeaux, France and educated under the Jesuits. He left having been converted, and was henceforth hounded by them. Everywhere, he attacked the lax state of Catholic and Reform Churches. He established 'brotherhoods' and adopted the 'Independent' form of Church government. The Dutch and French Reformed Churches eventually excommunicated him (1669). He said that there is no authority in the Church but that of the Spirit and the Word of God. A House group Church was established, and a "community of goods" was organised. At the communion celebrating this change all were baptised in the Holy Spirit and spoke with tongues.
- f. The Unitarians: -This unorthodox group date back to early 16th century, but in the mid 17th century its rationalistic approach especially appealed to some Baptists and Presbyterians. Their theology denied the Trinity and questioned the divinity of Christ in favour of an interpretation of the Bible that excluded original sin.
- g. The Moravians: Christian David and Zinzendorf: - David (b.1690 of R.C. parents in Moravia) was converted as a young man and is said to have *'burned with zeal like an oven'*. He preached everywhere under fierce persecution.
  - Count von Zinzendorf joined him and eventually they established a model village, Herrnhut (meaning 'The Lord's Watch') where they received a Baptism of the Holy Spirit and practiced a brotherhood of love.
  - They were opposed, but in 1732 the whole body was turned into a Missionary Society of the bravest sort, travelling to the West Indies, Tibet, Africa, the South Pacific and the Eskimos.
  - They became established in England in 1738 and greatly influenced the Wesley brothers who visited Herrnhut and experienced the love feasts, the watch night and the class-meetings that became part of Methodism.
  - The Moravians have been described as the *'vital leaven of European Protestantism'* due to their passion to unite the Body of Christ.
- h. John Wesley (1703-1791) – Probably the second most pivotal figure in church history. In Oxford University in 1729 a little group of students met together to strengthen themselves "in their most holy faith".
  - Called "the Holy Club" or "Methodists", their founders included John and Charles Wesley (hymn writer).
  - After their ordination to the C.of E., John and Charles sailed for Georgia, America. On the ship John met some Moravians, but on his return to England (after failing in the New World) he cried, *"I went to America to convert the Indians; but oh! who shall convert me!"*
  - Through another Moravian, Peter Bohler, both John and Charles at last found salvation (1738). John's famous salvation quote is: *'My heart was strangely warmed'*.
  - Everywhere John preached "free salvation by faith in the blood of Christ", he was refused permission to return.
  - After his visit to the Moravians at Herrnhut and Count Zinzendorf, he returned to join forces with George Whitefield.
- i. George Whitefield (b.1714, converted 1735). One of the "Holy Club", he trained as an actor. Whitefield's great preaching brought huge revival results in Gloucester, Bristol and London.
  - Soon all pulpits were closed to him so he took to preaching outside.

- Wesley started doing the same. Wesley became an Armenian and thus differed from Calvinist Whitefield, but God blessed them both.
  - Great miracles occurred as Wesley and Whitefield travelled around England on horseback preaching the Word.
  - Whitefield also travelled 7 times to (Calvinist) America with the same results. He encouraged the great American theologian and revivalist Jonathon Edwards, and died in New England in 1770.
  - John Wesley continued; his converts numbered multi-thousands. He organised them into cells and assemblies, trained men to teach them and then moved on.
  - His booklet publications united them in intent and deed; his special method of systematic teaching led to the name of 'Methodist' being applied to the new believers, who were for the most part of the "lower-classes".
  - Wesley averaged 8000 miles a year on horseback over his preaching life and he preached 4-5 times daily. He covered nearly 250,000 miles in his lifetime, preached 40,000 sermons and wrote 233 books! His journals read like another "Acts of the Apostles".
  - John had tried to keep all within the C. of E. but inevitably this old wineskin couldn't contain the new wine that was being poured out. England was thus preserved from religious decay.
- j. Howell Harris (1714-73) – Was a "Calvinist Methodist" in Wales. He was a Revivalist preacher who inspired several revivals throughout South Wales. Generally, his style was more "deeds rather than creeds", but the doctrines he focused on of the "Pure Heart" ("Entire Sanctification") and of the "Second Blessing" were distinctly Wesleyan.
- k. The Mystics: ("Quietists") of Roman Catholicism. These sought a real inner communion with God and were always persecuted and hounded by the Jesuits due to their doctrinal threat that revealed no need for priests and other trappings.
- Molinos (1640-1697) was confessor to Pope Innocent XI but died in the Inquisition.
  - Teresa of Avila, a Carmelite nun received dramatic visions and greatly influenced true Christianity among the Catholics in Spain.
  - Madam Guyon (1648-1717) - imprisoned repeatedly by Louis XIV; died in the Bastille. Her writings live on.

### **American Churches**

- l. Jonathon Edwards (1703-58): He possessed a great mind and was instrumental under God for catalysing and guiding the "Great Awakening" which started in 1735.
- In 1741 he preached his famous sermon, '*Sinners in the hands of an angry God*' and became a missionary to the Indians.
  - Tens of thousands were swept into the kingdom under his ministry, and the face of New England and American Christianity was forever changed and delayed the coming of liberalism until the 19<sup>th</sup> C.

## **7) THE AGE OF REVOLUTION (1790-1900 following): AGE OF ASPIRATION OR "THE MISSIONARY AGE"**

### ***i) General Historical Background***

- People were feeling weary of the strife of the 17th century and desired a more peaceful and innovative existence.
- New theories of creation were being formed. Francis Bacon; Galileo; Sir Isaac Newton and others emphasised *real knowledge is observable knowledge*. This began to question Christianity's spiritual knowledge.
- God began to move simultaneously in Europe, Britain and N. America, where morals and morale were especially low.
- In the mid 18th century a new-found peace combined with new scientific inventions, led to the INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION.
- Rural dwellers crowded into the cities and slums' developed, and a vast increase in sin. Times and work hours became long and hard.
- The Moravians were already active in missions and their influence was about to be felt in ever widening circles.

### ***ii) Significant Men and Groups***

- a. William Carey (1761-1834): – Known as the "Father of English Missions", he was a shoemaker and self-educated Baptist preacher. Against much opposition he urged that missionaries be sent to the heathen and at last, in 1793, Carey himself and his family were sent to India. In 1792 he preached "*Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God*". He studied oriental languages and became one of the world's leading scholars in Sanskrit and other oriental languages. In 1795 the London Missionary Society began and it was inter-denominational!
- b. William Wilberforce (1759-1833): He was converted in 1785 and from 1784-1812 was MP for Yorkshire, retiring from politics in 1825. From 1789 onwards he pressed for the abolition of slavery, which he finally achieved with the help of Cardinal John Newman in 1807. As leader of the "Clapham Sect" he opened the way for missionaries to go to India in 1813 with government protection.
- c. The History of Pentecostalism – John Wesley is considered the great grandfather of Pentecostalism since he taught a second blessing should be the experience of the Christian.
- The Methodist stream of holiness ran through the Holiness Movement of the nineteenth century. They often referred to receiving this second blessing as being 'Baptised with the Holy Spirit'.
  - This moved into a new realm when revival broke out in Azusa Street, Los Angeles in 1906 and forged a link between Baptism in the Spirit and Speaking in Tongues. It launched 20<sup>th</sup> century Pentecostalism. Many 100s came from all over the world to the Azusa Street meetings and took what they received back with them. This either split churches or they changed.
  - Many new churches formed but this wasn't a new denomination, but a new stream comprised of several denominations, which sprung up during the early 1900's.

- Viewed under a 'Charismatic Churches' banner, Pentecostal groups now comprise the largest and fastest growing group of churches in the world on every continent.
- d. Russian Churches: Persecuted Mennonites left Prussia in 1788 for Southern Russia. They were followed by Lutherans. Government Aid changed these to a State Church and the Church became corrupt.
- The Greek Orthodox Russian Church often opposed the preaching of the scriptures to the masses but not nearly to the extent of the R.C. church. Cyril Lucas (1572-1638), the most learned man of his day; became patriarch of Alexandria and then of Constantinople. He finally left the Church Fathers and determined to follow the scriptures only. That is, he became a Reformer. "I can no longer endure," he said, "to hear a man say that the comments of human tradition are of equal weight with the Holy Scripture". He was banished 5 times and eventually killed through Jesuit intrigues.
  - In 1812 Czar Alexander I encouraged the establishment of the British and Foreign Bible Society in Russia. This provoked much opposition from the Orthodox Church toward the "STUNDISTS" (free believers). These practised baptism by immersion, partook of the Lord's Supper without clerical 'sovereignty' and the gifts of the Holy Spirit were widespread.
  - Many other churches grew amid Orthodox Church persecution. Onken (1800-1884) - started Baptist Churches in Germany, S.E. Europe and Russia amidst great persecution. The Nazarenes were started by S.H. Frohlich (b. 1803) in Switzerland and Denckel took his pacifist doctrine to Russia, amidst brutal persecutions.
  - After the murder of Czar Alexander II, great persecutions arose against all but the Orthodox Church. Believers' meetings stopped; arrest and punishment followed with banishment to Siberia or the Caucasus. This meant degradation, deprivation and cruelty, but this only served to spread the gospel.
  - In 1893, a decree of the Orthodox Church Holy Synod outlawed all Stundists. Their children were to be removed; they were not allowed to be employed, they lost their civil rights and were imprisoned and exiled. Repressive measures grew. Renewed persecution emerged with the 1917 Communist Revolution under Lenin and so it has continued in varying degrees ever since.
- e. George Muller Of Bristol (1805-1898) and Dr. Thomas Barnardo (1845-1905) - established British orphanages relying solely on the provision of God. Both men were Brethren Christians and tirelessly campaigned for and provided very practical help for homeless children during the Victorian period.
- f. David Livingstone - Born 1813 in Blantyre, Scotland into a poor family. He knew he was called to missions, and although not a competent scholar, he studied medicine.
- From 1841-56 he worked under the London Mission Society in South Africa with famous preacher Robert Moffat. He married Mary Moffat and between 1851-56 walked across Africa, establishing his reputation as a great explorer.
  - He lived for Jesus, believing that the Bible, education and commerce could work together to relieve the terrible conditions he found in Africa. His mission society did not see it so, and thus in 1858 he returned to lead a British government expedition to explore the Zambezi. He called it, "*God's highway into the interior*". It failed and he was recalled in 1863.
  - Undaunted, Livingstone returned in 1866 to investigate slavery throughout sub-Saharan Eastern Africa and to expose it to the world as "*the open sore of Africa*".
  - He died in 1873 in Tanzania where his heart was buried. His body was carried back to the coast and buried in Westminster Abbey, London.
- g. William & Catherine Booth, Founders Of The Salvation Army. They began as Methodist Christians during the Victorian period in England and established a tent mission to the poor of London in 1865, believing that the first way to minister to people's practical needs was to touch them with the gospel.
- They stood against alcohol, prostitution etc, and so were often physically attacked by those earning money from those sectors.
  - Booth was very authoritarian, established uniforms, officer's ranks and gave all in the army a strong cause.
  - They popularised hymns with their brass bands and appealed to the masses with their down-to-earth hands on approach to Christianity.
  - Yet he frequently spoke out against mere social reforms to help the poor and emphasised the need to start with the spiritual needs of man.
  - Their preaching was fiery and were persecuted by the established church, sometimes stoned and abused, but this only stirred up their passion for the lost more.
  - It was the only 19th century movement to really touch the poorer masses and multitudes came to the Lord.
- h. Hudson Taylor (1832-1905) - Converted at 17, he went in 1853 as a missionary to China and later founded the China Inland Mission – a truly inter-denominational foreign mission, relying solely on God. It was to become a prototype for the faith missions that were to follow during this century. He never appealed for financial support – spurred on by the faith example of George Muller. His motto was, "*God's work done God's way in God's timing will never lack God's provision*". His innovations to the work of foreign missions were that he a) Accepted non-college candidates, b) required missionary "contextualization", c) enforced on-field direction of missions, and d) emphasised back-home communication.
- i. C.H. Spurgeon (1834-92). Baptist initially: converted at 16, began preaching immediately. Became established in the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London (seating 6000) from 1861-1891. Spurgeon withdrew from the Baptist Union (1887) due to their accepting aspects of liberal theology. His sermons were published and sent everywhere and he was known as the '*Prince of Preachers*'. Probably the finest of his day.

#### **Other Important Names**

- j. John Darby (d. 1882) - fiery founder of the "PLYMOUTH BRETHREN".

- k. Charles Finney (d. 1875) – A truly great American revivalist preacher who saw thousands come to Christ.
- l. Dwight L. Moody (1837-99) – A great American evangelist and profoundly popular communicator who helped restore America after its Civil War. Teaming up with Ira Sankey (a famous musician) he packed huge halls with people needing Jesus. He also started two Bible Schools and the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. These latter two were products of the holiness movement, based on Wesley's teachings, and which later gave rise to the Pentecostal tradition at the turn of the century with the Welsh revival, Azusa Street revival and others.
- m. Samuel Crowther (1806-1901), the outstanding African Christian leader of his time, of the Yoruba tribe in Nigeria. At 15 years he was captured by slave raiders, but the ship was intercepted by a British warship and he was taken to Sierra Leone where he was converted and baptised. An outstanding scholar, he later became convinced that the evangelization of inland Africa must be achieved by Africans. Ordained in London in 1843, he became a great evangelist, translator and negotiator. In 1864 he became the first African Anglican Bishop.
- n. Charles Darwin (1809-82), His theory of Evolution in *The Origin of Species* in 1859, following Charles Lyell's *The Principles of Geology* in 1830's, brought profound changes in the philosophical minds of western civilization. His theory inflicted many with doubt in the Creator and the creation story. It paved the way for secular humanistic thoughts, which in turn, had a significant effect on education.
- o. German Philosophers who changed the way the world thinks: Hegel (1770-1831); Feuerbach (1804-72); Marx (1818--83) - expelled from Germany in 1848, going to London where he wrote *The Communist Manifesto* (1848) with Engels, and *Das Capital* (1867) against capitalism; Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) - his "God is dead" philosophy was later taken up by the Nazis; Theological Liberalism emerged attempting to show Jesus Christ as the Liberator from legalism.

### "Different Fish" Categories

- a. Latter Day Saints/Mormons: Started 1830 as "Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints" by Joseph Smith (d.1844) of Pennsylvania who published "The Book of Mormon". He died at the hands of a mob, and was succeeded by Brigham Young. They were polygamists and initially racist; they taught that Adam has become God, and needed to sin to understand good and evil! They teach that Jesus was the product of a sexual union and the brother of Lucifer and that we are becoming gods too. They hold that baptism is vicarious and heaven is a (male-oriented) paradise of polygamy, and eternal pregnancy!
- b. Christian Science: Founded by Mary Baker Eddy (d.1910) an American. It is a mixture of transcendentalism and mysticism. They teach that God is mind and therefore a "divine principle". Evil and death are illusions.
- c. Jehovah's Witnesses: Russellites, commenced 1884 in USA. Also called the "Watchtower Society" and called JW's in 1931 by their president, Joseph Rutherford. They believe in a Trinity but Christ is a created being and not therefore equal to God. The "world order" ended in 1914 and Armageddon follows. Salvation is by works, especially witnessing.
- d. Seventh Day Adventists: Founded by William Miller (d.1849). At 34 years, he was converted, and fascinated by Daniel and Revelation.
  - The Lord would return, he predicted in 1843, and many people followed him. He published a magazine called the "Signs of the Times" and when his first date failed, he settled for 18th April 1844. Many people sold/left everything, but this date also failed. Another date was set, 22nd October 1844, but this also failed and his followers were greatly ashamed and derided.
  - Miller was excommunicated from the Baptists, but wrote a humble apology. These days they are more 'main line' in their theology.
  - The different groups all took the name "Adventist", but the largest was the "Seventh Day" type who said that Sunday is the "Mark of the beast", and true Christians follow the vegetarian principles of the garden of Eden.
  - Ellen White (d.1915) was the SDA's "prophetess" who wrote many books.

## 7) THE AGE UNTO RESTORATION (1900 following): THE AGE OF ATTAINMENT

### A. THE AGE OF AMALGAMATION ("ALL-INCLUSIVENESS"), 1900-1960

#### i) General Historical Background:

A great diversity of theological thinking led to a reduction and complication of Biblical truth in order to appease and amalgamate the explosion in political, social, medical and revolutionary philosophies.

- The 18th and 19th centuries now gave rise to Nationalism (from the American and French Revolutions plus the romantic movement), Communism and Individualism, which threatened to erode Christianity - actually "Christendom" only.
- Sigmund Freud (1856-1939, half Jewish) proclaims all psychological problems are the result of suppressed libido/sexual wishes, and religion as the "universal obsessional neurosis of humanity."
- Liberal Humanists and Social Christianity proclaimed a better world –this later evolved into Globalism and Secular Humanism.
- The 1914-18 Great World War brought untold devastation and joined nations together and against one another in a new way. German surrender stunned German protestant churches with their State subsidies and privileged legal status. The Allies imposed heavy burdens on Germany.
- Inter-war: Japan and the USA become formidable forces; the "League of Nations", 1923 tried to ensure unity to avoid future wars, but excluded Germany and Russia – which opened the wound and fuelled resentment and discontent with capitalism.
- Totalitarianism surged forward as a result. It first appeared in Italy with Mussolini and the 1919 Fascist Party. He brought an end to the antagonism between Church and State that had existed from 1870, so that Pope Pius XI naively overlooked fascist

evils, and proclaimed Mussolini to be "a man sent by providence" because he had ensured that the Vatican state would not be effected by his radical regimes.

- In 1917 the Russian Revolution saw the destruction of the Czarist regime by Lenin's Communism. Russian Mennonites had to flee to the USA in the 1920's. Lenin died in 1924, and Stalin took over. This led to intense persecutions through the 1930's for Russian Christians.
- The British Commonwealth granted legal equality to white member nations in 1931 thus diversifying power and authority. 'Black and brown' nations remained under British rule and administration.
- German Nazism (State Capitalism or National Socialism) fed on the inter-war disillusionment and resentment. Hitler (raised a Catholic) became Chancellor of the German Republic on 30th January 1933.
  - Preaching Aryan racial supremacy, Social Darwinism and nationalism he systematically began an ethnic cleansing that focused upon inferior races – especially the Jews saying, "The heaviest blow that ever struck humanity was the coming of Christianity. Bolshevism (Communist socialism where the lowest classes have equal rule) is Christianity's illegitimate child. Both are inventions of the Jew." Anti-Semitism led to 6 million Jewish deaths.
  - His Nazi leaders were heavily into occultism and commenced the extermination of the Jews and others in sympathy to them.
  - Traditional Churchmen felt that Nazism would outgrow its faults; RC Bishops endorsed the new regime, and disbanded RC unions. They agreed not to engage in political activity as long as their religious freedom was guaranteed. Several protestant groups followed. This greatly enhanced Hitler's standing.
  - A small German segment of the church (including Bonhoeffer) called people back to Christ's Lordship. In 1939, Stalin and Hitler signed a non-aggression pact, which opened the way for Hitler to invade Poland and WW2 began on Sept 3rd.
- The Russian Orthodox Church was then allowed to revive in order to lift the country's morals. Through the war, Pope Pius XII remained silent about the Jews so that Germany would maintain aggression against Communism - which he hated, and allow freedom for the Vatican clergy.
- WWII brought the whole world together, and after Germany's defeat, the uneasy but longed for peaceful co-existence between the super-powers of East and West - the USA and Soviet Russia (known as the "Cold War" years), followed until the fall of the Berlin Wall (1945-1986). Some important events include:
  - The coming of the United Nations in 1945, which replaced the League of Nations. It was drafted in Moscow and signed by weary Franklin D. Roosevelt. Stalin died in 1953, and Khrushchev replaced him.
  - The World Council of Churches, was formed in 1948 and grew from it.
  - Israel became a nation once again in 1948 - formed overnight by a U.N. resolution. Serious Middle East conflicts began which continue to the present day.
  - Communist China was formed in 1949 under the leadership of Mao Tse-Tung. Believing that Christianity was allied to America, the Vatican and other anti-communist groups, expulsion of missionaries and severe persecutions of native Christians began. However, this marked the beginning of the Underground Church Movement, which developed into the phenomenal growth of the House Church Movement.
  - These years saw the USA's world involvement growing. Eg, the Korean War (1955) and the Vietnam War (1964). A great hunger for peace, love, equality, freedom, independence and anti-Apartheid fuelled many revolutionary movements, which began to explode worldwide. Examples include Martin Luther King (1929-68) and the American Civil Rights Campaign in 1955. Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965) a Swiss German and a great theologian, philosopher, musician and missionary (to the Cameroons). He worked tirelessly for world peace and warned against the dangers of the atomic bomb. A great humanitarian, he said, "Being good is to preserve life, to promote life, to raise life to the highest level that it can attain. Being evil is to destroy life, to injure life, to suppress life which could attain a higher level." In 1953 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
  - With the shaking of the British Empire, a great development of Indigenous Movements, Churches and Missions started to take place.

## ii) Important Men, Movements and Events

- a. Charles T. Studd (1858-1931) & The Worldwide Evangelization Crusade. Born into a rich aristocratic English family, his father was converted in 1877, and in 1878 he and his two brothers also.
- At Eton College, Cambridge, where he was studying law, CT became England's most famous sportsman, leading the Cambridge cricket team.
  - In 1885, he gave away everything to go to China as one of the "Cambridge Seven", following Hudson Taylor.
  - He became a Chinaman, married Priscilla there, and after many hardships and greater successes, went to India as a missionary in 1900, where he became known as "Christ's Ambassador". He returned to England in 1906, an asthmatic.
  - In 1908 he read "Cannibals want Missionaries" and learned that Africans were still being enslaved and reached by scientists and traders, but no-one was telling them about Jesus. With no money, at 53 years of age, he left alone for Africa on Dec. 15 1910 at the command of God. He wrote, "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him!" His Congo missions centre saw thousands come to Jesus at great cost to himself.
  - When he returned to England in 1914 his wife had established the WEC HQ. In 1916 he returned to Congo never to see England again, and his wife only once for 2 weeks in 13 years.
  - Taken seriously ill, Priscilla was miraculously healed in 1916 and took WEC to the world, raising up 37 missionaries by 1931. CT died in an African hut taking the gospel to yet another unreached tribe.
- b. The Welsh Revival & Evan Roberts (b.1878). In 1904 one of the world's greatest revivals commenced with a young man of 26 years of age. There was no advertising or commercialism of any sort throughout - it was the Lord alone.

- It started with much prayer amongst young people within sin-ridden Wales, almost a place without law and order.
  - Evan's 4 revival points were, i) all sin confessed and repented of, ii) no cloud between believer and God, especially of unforgiveness, iii) prompt, complete obedience to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and iv) public confessions of Christ as Saviour.
  - His youth meetings evolved into being meetings for all.
- c. Azusa Street Revival & William Seymour. The revival started in 1906, wisely guided by African American, William Seymour. It was a true Acts 2 phenomenon, heralding the worldwide outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and the start of the Pentecostal Churches, the AOG being one of the very first. Seymour was an all-inclusive, non-racist, missionary-oriented man. Visitors from USA, Europe and the 3rd World came to catch the Fire!
- d. J.G. Lake (March 18, 1870-1935). He was a successful Canadian businessman, who was converted in 1907 and was particularly anointed for healing and miracles.
- He gave up everything, and after learning to depend totally on Jesus, left for South Africa in February 1908 with his wife, 7 children and a group of missionaries ... and no support.
  - He detested apartheid, and working amongst the S. African tribes, quickly establishing a powerful ministry through great financial hardships.
  - Rumours abounded and hindered his ministry but he pressed on to found the APOSTOLIC CHURCH movement of 1250 preachers, 625 churches, and 100,000 converts. .
  - He returned in 1913 to Spokane, USA, to establish the "Divine Healing Institute" which made Spokane *"the healthiest city in the world"*.
  - In May 1920 an angelic revelation led him to duplicate his ministry right across America over the next 11 years. He was now called "Dr. Lake", and when he died in 1935 there were new churches and missions all over the world, functioning in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- e. Smith Wigglesworth (1859-1947). He was a humble, uneducated Yorkshire plumber who was taught to read and write by his wife. He was Baptised in the Holy Spirit in 1907 and his evangelistic ministry took off. His wife, Mary Jane died in 1913, and Smith consecrated himself to living singly for Jesus. An outstanding man of faith who influenced many countries with his love for Christ and passion for souls. His dynamic 'dead raising, miraculous healing' ministry affected many early Pentecostal denominations.
- f. William Branham (b. 1909). A prophet with a special anointing. He was born in Kentucky, USA. But his outstanding gifts led him to believe himself to be Elijah, thus leading him to establish the "Jesus-Only" / Branhamites sect. (Also called Clooneyites). He died in a traffic accident but his disciples greatly influenced early C.20th Pentecostalism.
- g. Women "Healers": Most noted are Agnes Sanford (1896-197?) and Kathryn Kuhlman (1905-75)
- h. Missions Bible Translators: WWI acquainted people with the wider world, and with the rise of Pentecostalism, galvanised concern for the unreached. Cameron Townsend, an American started "Wycliffe Bible Translators" in 1934. It is now the largest missionary society in the world with over 3000 missionaries. In 1900 there were 517 languages with one book of the Bible; now, over 2000. In 1900 there were 118 complete Bible translations; now, over 300, largely the product of the United Bible Societies and Wycliffe. The Second Vatican Council (1961-62) encouraged wide dissemination and study of the Bible and for RC translators to work with other Christians in Bible translation. Literacy is paramount!
- i. Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-45). A German caught in Hitler's Nazism. Wrote "The Cost of Discipleship" in 1937 which emphasised "being there for others" as being the life of Christ. "Christ", he said was a "Man for others", and in the war he became a double agent. He was caught trying to smuggle Jews into Switzerland and was later convicted of participating in a plot to assassinate Hitler. He was executed in 1945.
- j. C.S. Lewis (1898-1963). A great British Christian thinker and writer. Through his writings we see the commencement of the "sanctified imagination". He was able to bridge the gap between fact and fiction with his Narnia novels for children and was said to be 'an apostle to the sceptics' and to be able to 'make righteousness readable'. A generous man, he gave 66% of his income to charitable causes.
- k. Billy Graham (1918-). He was the most successful mass evangelist of the 20<sup>th</sup> century due largely to his humility, integrity, and careful planning. He graduated from Wheaton College in 1943, and in 1949 led a Los Angeles Crusade where he gained national prominence. In 1950 he established the "Billy Graham Evangelistic Association", and a radio programme, "The Hour of Decision". From 1952 onward he held evangelistic rallies throughout the free world. He emphasised individual decisions for Christ. The friend of heads of State worldwide, he has written a number of books and is an international Christian statesman. His disciples include Leighton Ford and Luis Palau.
- l. Revivals: Several noteworthy revivals broke out during this time. For example: the "Latter Rain Canadian Revival" in 1948 released a new dimension of the prophetic. In 1954 the Argentinean Revival commenced with the prayers of Edward Miller in 1949, and progressed to Buenos Aires through the preaching of Tommy Hicks in 1954. This formed the basis for the still-continuing S. American revival.
- m. Post WW2 American Trends. Fundamentalism reacted against German Liberalism and in some cases fostered racism (the Ku Klux Klan for example) and strong anti-communism (eg. Senator McCarthy's attempt to contain Communism's threat to American national security). People were searching for something to hold onto.
- Reinhold Niebuhr (1893-1971) emphasised the need for political action along with ethics in his book "Moral Man and Immoral Society" (1932).
  - At the same time, Mass Evangelism with Bill Graham and Daisy Osborn began to preach hope and security in Christ to the masses.
  - The Faith Movement with Kenneth Hagin and later, Kenneth Copeland, Jerry Saville and others received a cautious and caustic reception but heralded a new breed of victorious, prosperous Christian.
  - Christianity began to modernize its image with the use of more technical approaches.

## **B. THE AGE OF "AQUARIUS", 1960's to the Present**

### ***i) General Historical Background:***

- This period has been a time of new Outpouring, and the rise of "New Age".
- The sexual and music revolution of the 60's was followed by the drugs/religion revolution of the 70's.
- The failure of these to answer the cry of the human heart led in the 80's to a worship/spirit revolution, bringing great spiritual hunger and for others - apathy.
- Christendom in its old millennial form died leading to the new "Pre-Christian 21<sup>st</sup> Century" era, and the dawn of the Third Millennium.
- The centre of control shifted once again from
  - a) Religion (up to the "Age of Rationalism"), to
  - b) Military might (up to the "Age of Revolution"), to
  - c) Politics (up to the "Age of Aquarius"), and finally to
  - d) Financial Monopolies based on Communication/Information.
- As with population growth, other trends –Eg, knowledge and communications grew exponentially, producing the release of peoples, churches and potential.
- New philosophies and expressions have arisen with the rise of Nationalism, Secular Humanism and independence worldwide.
- "Cross fertilization" has led to new vigour. These days, "The sky's the limit!"

### ***ii) Important Men, Movements and Events***

a) **The Charismatic Movement**. During the early 60's, the overlap of Pentecostal activities swept into the "Mainline Churches". Renewal, reaction and release (into new independent churches and movements) resulted. The Church would never be the same again! The "Jesus Movement" and other university/campus movements took off, precipitated in part by a search for meaning through the Vietnam War, drugs, sex, etc.

b) **Roman Catholicism**. In 1950 Pope Pius XII reinforced the Vatican I (1870) statement of the Pope's personal infallibility, demonstrating that there is no need for advisory councils. Pope John XXIII (1958-63) called a council and asked non-RC's to seek "that unity for which Jesus Christ prayed". Vatican II (1962-65) made no infallible statements, but issued only warm advisory guidelines for the unification of all Churches, including the role of the World Council of Churches. This very unexpected development led to the emergence of charismatic RC's.

c) **Early Revivals**: The "Indonesian Revival" (led by Mel Tari in 1965) - Timor saw the outpouring of the Spirit four days before an attempted communist coup; the "Solomon Islands Revival" of 1970 again saw many come to faith in Christ.

#### **d) 1970's Structural Changes:**

- The "House-Church" Movement grew rapidly in the Developed World changing the concept of 'doing church'.
- Indigenous Missions started to develop significantly.
- Churches began to explore autonomy.
- An inner hunger spawned the "Discipleship Movement" (With such teachers as Derek Prince, Bob Mumford, Don Basham, Earn Baxter etc).
- A growth of interdenominational seminars, conventions etc. started to take place.

e) **Persecutions Intensified** in Russia, China, South East Asia, South America, Middle East, and even in parts of the Developed World as Human and Satanic systems reacted against the new move of God

- Brother Andrew & "Open Doors" emphasised the need for clandestine missions in the 'closed countries'.
- f) **1980's Missions/Worship/Prayer Explosion**: New Worship styles and songs emerged in abundance as the Church diversifies.
- Pentecostal groups started to formalise teachings to produce a clearer theology necessary for reformation.
  - Indigenous/Independent Missions overtook centralised mission agencies;
  - Reinhard Bonnke spotlighted the potential for Missions Mass Evangelism from 1979ff., especially in Africa.

#### **g) Church-Missions Amalgamation:**

- The Cell-Church Movement (first large cell church under Yongii Cho, Korea) impacted the world, from the "developing world". Local-to-local becomes a new vision brought into western focus by Ralph Neighbour.
- Mission Study Centres (eg. Fuller, Pasadena) researched and taught the new approach.

h) **Late '90's Revivals**: The "Toronto Blessing" (1994ff, Rodney Howard Browne, John Arnott), and "Pensecola, Florida" (1997) brought phenomenal outpourings of the Spirit on the Church, which continues to have global repercussions.

#### **i) The Global emergence of the 5-fold Ministry gifts**

- The 1950-60's is widely accepted as the decade of evangelism when the office of the *Evangelist* was restored.
- The 60-70's saw the re-establishment of the *Pastoral office*, which grew largely out of the Charismatic/ House church movement.
- During the 70-80's, *Teachers* rose up in the Church restoring much biblical truth and revelation.
- The 1980-90's saw an emergence of a world wide prophetic movement when the office of *Prophet* was restored.
- Leading scholars like Wagner, Hamon, Coombs, and Cannistraci, to name a few, strongly believe that in the decade of the 1990's – 2000, we are entering into a new move of God to re-establish, on a global scale, the final five-fold office; that of the *Apostle*. This, they consider, will bring in an apostolic movement that will sweep the world and usher in the return of Christ.

**C) SUMMARY**

- As we come to the close of the last age, a new Reformation is occurring, leading to Revival, and finally to the Restoration of 'the horizontal line' of the perfect will of God for the Church. It is these three realities, which are dictating how far we have come and where we have yet to go. He is very near, 'right at the door'.

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