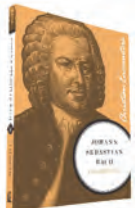




JANE AUSTEN

Some may know Jane Austen simply as the English novelist whose books are required reading in high school and college. Perhaps it wasn't until the BBC's extremely successful TV miniseries of *Pride and Prejudice* or Emma Thompson's film *Sense and Sensibility* that many became entranced. Now younger readers are flocking to Austen with a unique twist in the bestselling *Pride and Prejudice* and *Zombies: The Classic Regency Romance* by Seth Grahame-Smith. In this Christian Encounters biography, fans of Jane Austen will discover the Christian faith that was in the weft and weave of her character and how it influenced her writing and her life.

9781595553027 978141855214



JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

Johann Sebastian Bach enriched his generation, and every generation since, with his prolific ability to survey and bring together the principal musical styles, forms, and national traditions. A Lutheran, he left a corpus of sacred music to cover the entire liturgical year, including Latin Masses written for the Catholic Court of Dresden, and spent much of his working life as a church music director in Germany. Today he is considered one of the most influential composers ever.

978159551085 9781595553911



ANNE BRADSTREET

Anne Bradstreet is recognized as one of the most important figures in the history of American literature, yet the majority of her poetry remained private until after her death. As a Quaker wife and mother, Anne knew that sharing her views and opinions with others was considered a sin, but she clearly valued knowledge and intellect, and was a free thinker. Bradstreet's work serves as a document of the struggles and hardships of colonial life and is a testament to the plight of the women of the age. Her poetry, filled with the love she had for God, her husband, and her eight children, showcased her intense devotion to being a good wife, mother, and Christian.

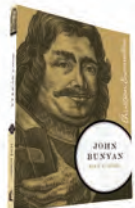
978159551092 9781595554291



WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR.

William F. Buckley Jr., was the popular host of one of television's longest-running programs, "Firing Line," and the author of more than 50 books, but "his greatest achievement was making conservatism—not just electoral Republicanism but conservatism as a system of ideas—respectable in liberal post-World War II America." Buckley started *National Review* magazine in 1955 which has inspired and incited three generations of conservatives—and counting—uniting anti-Communists, traditionalists, constitutionalists, and enthusiasts for free markets under one tent.

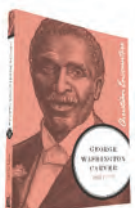
9781595550651 9781595554307



JOHN BUNYAN

John Bunyan's world was a turbulent age of regicide, civil war, and revolution. Against this backdrop emerged a man whose matchless literary gifts were burnished amidst suffering and who profoundly influenced western culture. This *Christian Encounters* biography presents the life story you've never heard—how, amidst the crucible of repeated imprisonments, civil war, and violent persecution, John Bunyan crafted *The Pilgrim's Progress*, a testament unlike any other to the triumph of the human spirit.

9781595553041 978141855221



GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

George Washington Carver was born a slave. After his mother was kidnapped during the Civil War, his former owners raised him and his brother as their own children. He was the first black graduate of Iowa State, earning a bachelor's and a master's degree. The more he learned about the world, the more convinced he was that everything in it was a gift from the Almighty and that the way to gain respect from his fellow man was not to demand it, but to earn it.

9781595550262 9781595554048



WINSTON CHURCHILL

Master statesman and orator Winston Churchill was in no small way responsible for the WWII Allied victory over the Axis powers. At many times he stood alone leading the fight against Hitler, absolute in his belief that Britain must "with all the strength that God can give us ... wage war against a monstrous tyranny." From where did he derive his strength and comfort? In this *Christian Encounters* biography, discover how Churchill's Anglican faith sustained him during some of the darkest hours in human history.

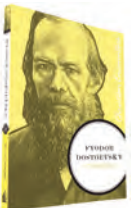
9781595553065 978141855238



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

It's been more than 500 years since Christopher Columbus made his famous voyage, and still he remains a controversial and mysterious figure. Known as the "Admiral of the Ocean Sea," Columbus led three more expeditions after the 1492 voyage and was famous throughout Europe but died unable to believe that he'd failed to reach Asia. This *Christian Encounters* biography presents a compelling portrait of the man who changed history with his voyages.

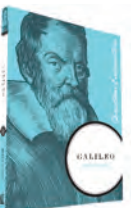
9781595552228 9781595554109



FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

Dostoevsky walked toward the firing squad in Semenovskiy Square in the heart of St. Petersburg, Russia. In the center of the square, seven severe officers stood like statues with rifles at the ready as Dostoevsky and his fellow prisoners looked on. While counting his last steps on earth, Dostoevsky was spared by an order to imprisonment in Siberia—where he would be transformed in the crucible of peasant life. Artfully written and cleverly constructed, this *Christian Encounters* biography gives readers a compelling look at the world-famous writer and the social, political, and scientific forces that set the stage for his literary greatness.

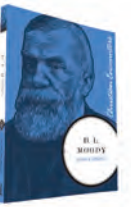
9781595550347 9781595554093



GALILEO

Despite a debilitating life-long illness, Galileo changed physics from a purely philosophical subject into one involving mathematics and careful observation and also challenged beliefs about the very structure of the universe, arguing that the earth moves around the sun. Suggesting such dramatic changes made philosophers uncomfortable. They sought help from theologians, sending Galileo headlong into a conflict with church officials. In this biography readers will be privy to the intrigues, personality clashes, and misunderstandings that led to Galileo's famous trial and condemnation.

9781595550316 9781595553935



D. L. MOODY

A plainspoken follower of Jesus, Dwight L. Moody embodies passionate, unflinching obedience to God. Why America's greatest President and one of America's most celebrated spiritual giants are visiting with the poorest of the poor is just the beginning of D. L. Moody, a biography with a novel-like narrative style that unveils the eternal power one life can have. Part of the *Christian Encounters* series, this book reintroduces the unlikely accomplishments of a man desperate to obey God's call.

9781595550477 9781595553782



ISAAC NEWTON

He built the first reflecting telescope, authored the book that became the basis for classical mechanics, and wrote the three laws of motion—and that's just a fraction of Sir Isaac Newton's achievements. Despite the fact that he's considered by many to be the most influential scientist in history, he actually wrote more about his Christian faith than he did about natural science. This *Christian Encounters* biography illuminates Newton's beliefs and how they shaped his view of the world he so desired to understand.

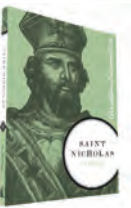
9781595553034 978141855290



SAINT FRANCIS

As a wealthy young man, Saint Francis was a member of the "brat pack" of his day, wearing bright clothing, hanging out with rich friends, engaging in street brawls, and partying. After a dream in which God called him into service, Francis abandoned all his rights and possessions and began preaching simplicity and poverty, relying on God's providence rather than worldly goods. In this *Christian Encounters* biography, read about this patron saint of animals who so delighted in God's works that he once preached a sermon to a flock of birds.

9781595551078 9781401604509



SAINT NICHOLAS

He's not just a jolly man in a red suit. Saint Nicholas was a real person—a fourth-century bishop, a defender of the Christian faith, a model for sacrificial giving, a protector of children, and a true churchman. By recovering the story of Saint Nicholas and exploring how each generation has reinvented him, this book offers Saint Nicholas as a model of faith, hope, and love—virtues around which all Christians can unite.

9781595551153 9781595553768



SAINT PATRICK

At age 14, he was captured from his homeland of Scotland and taken as a slave to Ireland, where he lived for six years tending his master's flocks. In his early twenties, he fled over 200 miles and escaped by ship, returning to his family. By the eighth century, he had come to be revered as the patron saint of Ireland. What he experienced during his years of slavery converted sons of kings, and led wealthy women to become nuns. Learn about the sustaining faith of Saint Patrick in this *Christian Encounters* biography.

9781595553058 9781418584252



J.R.R. TOLKIEN

J.R.R. Tolkien famously penned *The Hobbit* and the three-volume novel *The Lord of the Rings*. Known as "the father of modern fantasy literature," his writings have inspired many other works of fantasy and have had a lasting effect on the entire genre. In this *Christian Encounters* biography, learn how Tolkien's faith was an intrinsic element of his creative imagination, one that played out in the pages of his writings and his life.

9781595551061 9781595554031



SERGEANT YORK

This biography chronicles the true story of a WWI conscientious objector who loathed killing and yet became a Medal of Honor winner, capturing the hearts of a nation hungry for a hero. Corporal Alvin York's army was ordered out of the trenches and into battle against an enemy armed with machine guns. York was eventually pinned down among his dead and injured comrades. What happened next was a feat of bravery and military skill that would amaze his countrymen and etch his place in the history books.

9781595550255 9781595553775



Close Encounters of the Christian Kind

Christian Encounters, a series of biographies from Thomas Nelson Publishers, highlights important lives from all ages and areas of the church. Some are familiar faces. Others are unexpected guests. But all, through their relationships, struggles, prayers, and desires, uniquely illuminate our shared experience.



SAINT NICHOLAS

Rescuing sailors from the certain death of a violent sea, saving three young women from a life of prostitution, and guarding an infant from the burns of a boiling bath, Saint Nicholas had a heart for the weak, the poor, and the endangered. One of the most fascinating figures in Christendom redirected all attention to God's glory.

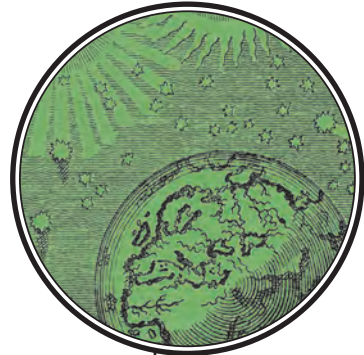
CIRCA 300



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Columbus departed from Palos de la Frontera with three ships: one larger carrack, *Santa Maria*, and two smaller caravels, *Pinta* and *Santa Clara*, nicknamed *Niña*.

1492



ISAAC NEWTON

In his correspondence, Newton claimed that in writing the *Principia*, "I had an eye upon such Principles as might work with considering men for the belief of a Deity." He saw evidence of design in the system of the world: "Such a wonderful uniformity in the planetary system must be allowed the effect of choice."

1687

ANNE BRADSTREET

Bradstreet's education gave her advantages to write with authority about politics, history, medicine, and theology. Her personal library of books was said to have numbered over 800, before many were destroyed when her home burned down. This event itself inspired the poem entitled "Upon the Burning of Our House July 10th, 1666" in which she rejects the anger and grief that this worldly tragedy has caused her and instead looks toward God and the assurance of heaven as consolation.

1666



JANE AUSTEN

Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* was published anonymously in 1811, but Jane had been weaving stories since she was a child. She had an uncanny ability to describe feelings and situations and her characters were memorable and human.

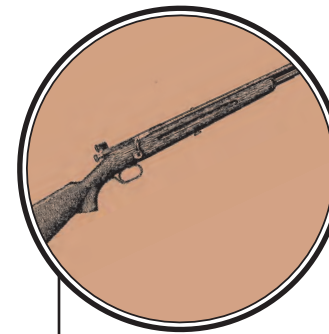
1811



D.L. MOODY

It was in June, 1860, that D.L. Moody decided to abandon secular employment and go into the Lord's work full time. He was now 23 and in only five years had built his income up to \$5,000 annually and had saved \$7,000. Friends believed he could have become a millionaire had he concentrated his efforts in business. Income for the first year in his Christian ventures totaled no more than \$300.

1860



SERGEANT YORK

York received his draft notice on June 5, 1917, just six months prior to his thirtieth birthday. Because of the Church of Christ in Christian Union's proscriptions against war, York sought conscientious objector status. He wrote on his draft card: "Dont want to fight." When his case came up for review, it was denied at both the local and the state level because the Church of Christ in Christian Union was not recognized as a legitimate Christian sect.

1917



WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY, JR.

In *Nearer, My God*, Buckley condemned what he viewed as "the Supreme Court's war against religion in the public school" and argued that Christian faith was being replaced by "another God ... it is multiculturalism."

1940

1997

CIRCA 450

SAINT PATRICK

Born the son of a Scottish landowner, Patrick enjoyed a privileged childhood until he was kidnapped by Irish marauders and sold into slavery at age sixteen, where he embraced his Christian faith. He became the first Christian missionary to take the gospel beyond the borders of the Roman Empire.



1209



SAINT FRANCIS

Francis heard a sermon that changed his life. The sermon was about Matthew 10:9, in which Christ tells his followers they should go forth and proclaim that the Kingdom of Heaven was upon them, that they should take no money with them, nor even a walking stick or shoes for the road. Francis was inspired to devote himself to a life of poverty.



1638

GALILEO

Galileo's *Two New Sciences* was printed in Leiden, Holland. It gave a geometrical description of motion, partly because such an approach led to a close match with known data. Galileo believed that the universe was structured along the patterns of geometry, the product of a Creator who had planned everything according to weight, measure, and number.



1676

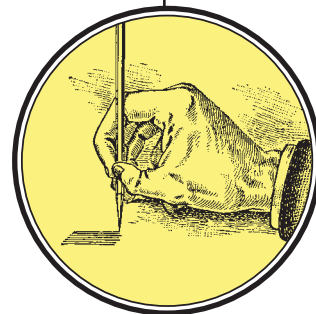
JOHN BUNYAN

John Bunyan wrote the first part of *The Pilgrim's Progress* in 1676, while imprisoned for preaching without a license. The first part appeared in London in 1678 and reprinted three times by the end of the year. When the second part was published in 1685 it was met with critical acclaim that continues today. The imagery conjured by *The Pilgrim's Progress* fired the artistic vision of William Blake. Writers from Thackeray to C.S. Lewis have drawn inspiration from the simple cadences that transformed the language. George Eliot, Samuel Johnson, and presidents Lincoln and Roosevelt have acknowledged the greatness of *The Pilgrim's Progress*. It is, quite simply, the finest allegory ever written in English.

1750

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

Toward the end of 1749, Bach's failing eyesight was operated on by a traveling English surgeon, the catastrophic results of which were complete blindness. His health failing, Bach nevertheless continued to compose, dictating his work to a pupil. With his death in 1750, music scholars conventionally mark the end of the Baroque age in music.



1846

FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

Fyodor Dostoevsky's first work, the epistolary short novel, *Poor Folk*, printed in the almanac *A Petersburg Collection*, was met with great acclaim. As legend has it, the editor of the magazine, poet Nikolai Nekrasov, walked into the office of liberal critic Vissarion Belinsky and announced, "A new Gogol has arisen!" Belinsky, his followers, and many others agreed. After the novel was fully published in book form at the beginning of the next year, Dostoyevsky became a literary celebrity at the age of 24.

1937



J.R.R. TOLKIEN

J.R.R. Tolkien published *The Hobbit* to wide critical acclaim, winning the *New York Herald Tribune* prize for best juvenile story of the season. The book led to Tolkien's three-volume opus, *The Lord of the Rings*, which in turn inspired the Oscar-winning films and countless fantasy and science-fiction imitators.

1948

WINSTON CHURCHILL

"And wherever men are fighting against barbarism, tyranny, and massacre, for freedom, law, and honour, let them remember that the fame of their deeds, even though they themselves be exterminated, may perhaps be celebrated as long as the world rolls round. Let us then declare that King Arthur and his noble knights, guarding the Sacred Flame of Christianity and the theme of a world order, sustained by valour, physical strength, and good horses and armour, slaughtered innumerable hosts of foul barbarians and set decent folk an example for all time." — *A History of the English Speaking Peoples Vol. 1: The Birth of Britain*