

Early American Church History

A. The Age of Revivals in America and Europe

1. The 2nd Great Awakening [1790-1840s] - Fervent preaching/camp meetings [Peaked 1820-1830]
2. Emotionalism and Popular Appeal

*Revival meetings were more than religious events; they were spectacles.
Irish Laborer: "A revival meeting is as good as a theatre."*

3. Transformation of Denominations

*Growth in Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterian churches
By 1850 Methodism was the largest American denomination with Baptists narrowing the gap*

4. Revival in "Burned-Over District" of New York

So many revivals that Charles Finney remarked: "No more souls to awaken."

5. Renewal in England and America: Wesley and Whitefield

Picture of England after Wesley

Hot, tired, thirsty, impatient, the English nobleman asked a peasant: "Why is it that I can't find a place where I can buy a drink of liquor in this wretched village?" The humble peasant respectfully replied: "Well, you see, my lord, a few years ago a man named John Wesley came preaching in these parts."

6. D. L. Moody's English [1873-1875] and American [1875-1899] Crusades

a. 1873-1875

"He engaged in a series of meetings that shook that conservative nation as nothing had done since the time of Whitefield and the Wesleys" [Mark Sidwell, p. 122]

Moody later credited a bedridden woman's months of prayer for the outpouring that followed.

b. 1875-1899

On way back to America on ship – received several cables from cities asking him for meetings.
Brooklyn 1st [disappointing attendance] – Philadelphia [2 mos. 700K attendance – 4000 converts]

"The meetings were a marked improvement on all previous great revivals in important particulars. They were well managed. The order was perfect. ... The preaching was unlike that of previous revivalists in the fact that it was not exciting, it awoke no feelings of terror; it produced no spasms and agonies and convulsions; it sent nobody to the madhouse. It was pervaded with an undertone of sympathy and hope and love. ... Whatever may be thought of Mr. Moody's doctrines, it must be conceded that he made a new departure revivalism." [The New York Daily Graphic – April 25, 1875]

D. L. Moody founded two notable schools in New England: Northfield Seminary for Young Women (later renamed Northfield School for Girls) in 1879 and the Mount Hermon School for Boys in 1881, both located in Northfield, Massachusetts. These two institutions are collectively known as "The Northfield Schools" and eventually merged to form today's Northfield Mount Hermon School.

Moody founded Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois in 1886
Chicago (1893 Columbian Exposition) – Moody Bible Institute students evangelized

Moody Aviation has played a significant and unique role in the history of Moody Bible Institute by serving as its missionary aviation training program. Established in 1946, Moody Aviation was created to train pilots, mechanics, and avionics technicians specifically for missionary and humanitarian work in remote areas around the world. Over the decades, it has developed into one of the world's leading programs for mission aviation, equipping students with both technical flight skills and spiritual preparation for global ministry. Most missionary aviators serving overseas has reportedly been trained through Moody Aviation, marking it as a major force in supporting and advancing evangelical missions through aviation.

7. Welsh Revival of 1904

Evan Roberts: 16 attended first service

Unconventional meetings with spontaneous prayer, hymn singing, and testimonies

Often lasted into early morning hours - 150,000 conversions in six months

Increased demand for Bibles, temperance, crime rates declined, schools and businesses altered schedules

Bridged denominational divides, Improved productivity in businesses

Revival meetings in Wales crossed the Atlantic and swept through American Churches

Philadelphia: 6101 converts - Denver closed businesses and schools for community prayer days

8. Social and Moral Reform

Abolition, temperance and suffrage, Prohibition

Burlington, Iowa saw every store and factory closed for prayer meetings

9. Revival as Renewal – Pattern of Decline-and-renewal

B. The Modern Worldwide Missions Movement

1. William Carey [August 17, 1761 - June 9, 1834]

Goal: South Seas / Polynesia – Read Captain Cook's Voyages

Actual: INDIA (1793)

Complete Bible translated into 6 Languages/29 partial languages/dialects

48 with colleagues rep. 1/6 of world's population – his Bible translation preferred above the Koran translation

2. Adoniram Judson [August 9, 1788 – April 12, 1850]

Goal: India (War of 1812 - British rule hostile to American missionary)

Actual: BURMA – 6 years for 1st convert, End: 150 missionaries, 60 churches, 7,000 converts

1812 married Maria, separated, rejoined, Maria dies; marries Sarah 1834, dies 1845; marries Emily, the 29-year-old Adoniram had asked to write Sarah's biography

3. David Livingstone [March 19, 1813 – May 1, 1873]

Goal: China 1841 Opium Wars

Actual: SOUTH AFRICA

Married Mary, separated 4/23/1852, rejoined 1859, died 3 months later

April 29, 1873 – Found dead on his knees beside his bed – Heart buried in Africa, body in Westminster Abbey

4. Hudson Taylor [May 21, 1832 – June 3, 1905]

Goal: Coastal (Shanghai) China (port city) – [1853 – disliked, “critical/sarcastic” missionaries

Actual: Interior China – hostility – China Inland Mission [CIM founder]

5. William Borden [November 1, 1887 – April 9, 1913]

Under ministry of R. A. Torrey at Moody Church - saved and dedicated his life

At age 7 dedicated his life - father died when he was teen

Yale [1905 - 1909], Princeton [1909 - 1912]

Called to work with Chinese Muslims [two most difficult languages – Arabic and Chinese]

Ordination: Sept. 5, 1912

Cairo, Egypt to learn Arabic

THE WILL OF WILLIAM BORDEN - 1913

\$250,000 to China Inland Mission

\$100,000 each to MBI, National Bible Church, Chicago Avenue Church

\$50,000 each to several other mission boards, etc.

Mrs. Howard Taylor, in describing William Borden's life: "Apart from Christ, there is no explanation for such a life". **This phrase is directly associated with Borden's legacy and is inscribed on his tombstone in Cairo.**

"The length of time God permits us to stay here is not related to a certain amount of work He wants us to do, so much as to a certain closeness of relationship to Himself He wants us to attain."

William Borden wrote "No reserves" after deciding to give up his family fortune to pursue missions, "No retreats" after leaving for the mission field, and "No regrets" in Egypt as he was facing terminal illness before his death. These lines were discovered in his Bible after his passing: the first two were written at decisive moments in his life, and the third was penned during his final days in Egypt while preparing for missionary work among Muslims in China.

NO RESERVE, NO RETREAT, NO REGRETS

C. Worldwide Ministers and Ministries

1. D. L. Moody [1837-1899] – Northfield, Massachusetts

"The turning point in Moody's life was simple, swift and direct. He was wrapping up a package of shoes. His Sunday School teacher at the Mount Vernon Street Congregational Church, Edward Kimball, dropped in on him and in a few earnest words urged him to give his allegiance to Jesus Christ. Moody paused, the string taut in his fingers. "I will," he replied ... and for forty-five years, from that day in 1856 to his death on December 22, 1899, he never swerved from that pledge of fidelity."

[Grover C. Loud]

2. Charles Spurgeon [1834-1892] – Prince of preachers

Voracious Reader [12K Library], Photographic memory, Days of dry pulpit discourses but he connected

The Sword and the Trowel [magazine], **Treasury of David** [7 volumes on the Psalms]

D.L. Moody was asked if he had heard Spurgeon: "Yes, but better still, I heard him pray."

On God's Sovereignty

"Brethren, be willing to see both sides of the shield of truth. Rise above the babyhood which cannot believe two doctrines until it sees the connecting link. Have you not two eyes, man? Must you needs put one of them out to see clearly?"

3. C. I. Scofield [1843-1921]

Cyrus Ingerson Scofield was **an American theologian, pastor, author, and former lawyer best known for editing the Scofield Reference Bible**, which significantly **popularized dispensational premillennial theology among Protestants**. After converting to evangelical Christianity, Scofield became a **pastor in Dallas, Texas**. He was active in missionary efforts, **founding the Central American Mission**, and later helped establish **the Philadelphia School of the Bible**.

4. R. A. Torrey [1856-1928]

Reuben Archer Torrey was an **American evangelist, pastor, educator, and author**, prominent for his association with Dwight L. Moody and his later international evangelistic campaigns. Torrey served as superintendent of the **Chicago Bible Institute (now Moody Bible Institute)** and was known for his deep **commitment to biblical inerrancy and Christian fundamentals**. He became the first pastor of the Church of the Open Door in Los Angeles and was the **founding dean of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles (now Biola University)**. Torrey was also **editor of "The Fundamentals,"** a series of influential essays that defined early fundamentalist doctrine, and wrote numerous books on prayer, the Holy Spirit, and Bible study.

5. G. Campbell Morgan [1863-1945]

George Campbell Morgan was a **British evangelist, preacher, author, and Bible teacher renowned for his expository preaching and numerous biblical commentaries**. He ministered in England and the United States and is best known for his long tenure as pastor of Westminster Chapel in London. He lectured at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, contributed prolifically to Bible exposition literature, and influenced generations of preachers through his clear, systematic teaching of Scripture. His **works include "The Crises of the Christ" and studies on every book of the Bible**.

6. Billy Sunday [1862-1935]

Father died of pneumonia while in the Union Army before Billy's birth
1883-1890 Chicago Whitestockings [Cap Anson], Pitts, Phila - Average player but for his speed
Saved 1886 at Pacific Garden Mission – Unorthodox, 1st to advertise, Tabernacle, Sawdust trail [deaden noise]
40 years, Estimates of 1 million converts [many "reconsecration" – records based on new church-attendees]

"I do not conceal the fact that I am in this world for the purpose of making it easier for people to do right and harder for them to do wrong. ... I am not a mountebank [charlatan, fake], I am not a reprint of some one else. I am and always have been plain Billy Sunday trying to do God's will in preaching Jesus and Him crucified and arisen from the dead for our sins."

7. H. A. Ironside [1876-1951]

H. A. Ironside, born Henry (Harry) Allan Ironside in Toronto, Canada, in 1876, was a deeply **influential Canadian American Bible teacher, preacher, theologian, pastor, and writer**. He preached thousands of sermons across North America and abroad, and **published over 60 books and pamphlets, with a lasting reputation for his expository commentaries on the Bible**.

Ironside's most significant pastoral work was as **the pastor of Moody Church in Chicago from 1930 to 1948**, the only pastorate he ever held. He was **affectionately called "the Archbishop of Fundamentalism,"** and his preaching and teaching were characterized by clarity, warmth, and a strong defense of evangelical doctrine. Beyond his pastoral work, Ironside was also **president of the Africa Inland Mission** and traveled extensively for Bible conferences, always committed to gospel proclamation and Christian ministry until his death in 1951.

8. M. R. DeHaan [1891-1965] – Radio Bible Class – *Our Daily Bread* devotionals, booklets