

The story of the growth of the Christian church from Jewish sect to worldwide faith is an intriguing one, yet to many it can seem overwhelmingly complex and confusing. In *The Christians*, Tim Dowley offers those interested in learning more about this subject a clear and accessible guide to the development of Christianity from the time of Jesus to the present day. Chronologically organized and international in scope, the book covers themes such as: Defining Belief, the Making of the New Testament, Rome and the Papacy, Monks and Monasteries, the Eastern Church, Reformation, Islam and the Crusades, Catholic and Radical Reform, and To the Ends of the Earth. It also spotlights figures who played a significant role in the development of the church. But Dowley offers the reader more than just a history lesson; by adopting a topical approach to the story, he also enables the reader to engage with issues that continue to influence the church and society today. Beautifully illustrated with full-colour art, photographs, maps and boxed material, *The Christians* offers a concise and stimulating introduction to the history of Christianity and its key figures.

Contents

Introduction 7

1. The Jesus Movement 8

JESUS OF NAZARETH 9

Paul of Tarsus 11

APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES 13

Early growth 14

POLYCARP IS MARTYRED 15

Christianity's second century 16

THE CATACOMBS OF ROME 17

Constantine I 18

2. People of the Book 19

CHRISTIAN MUSIC 20

The making of the New Testament 22

Understanding the Bible 27

The Bible and the Reformation 30

Critical thinking 32

KARL BARTH 34

3. Defining Belief 36

Right teaching 37

A state religion 39

AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO 42

4. Rome and the Papacy

The Bishop of Rome 44

Gregory the Great 47

A YEAR IN THE LIFE: THE CHURCH'S

CALENDAR 48

Pope versus emperor 51

THE ANGELIC DOCTOR 53

The Great Papal Schism 55

Renaissance popes 56

5. Monks and Monasteries 58

Antony in the desert 59

SIMEON STYLITES 60

Western monks 62

Ireland 64

Monastic reform 67

New orders 70

New holiness 73

CHRISTIAN MYSTICS 74

Revolution 76

Monasticism today 76

6. The Eastern Church 78

Justinian I 78

Iconoclasm 79

The Great Schism 80

ORTHODOX ICONS 80

THE EASTERN ORTHODOX YEAR 81

What is truth? 82

FASTING AND PRAYER 83

Orthodoxy today 84

Russian Orthodoxy 84

The Third Rome 86

The October Revolution 88

7. Jihads and Crusades 91

The Prophet 91

The Caliphs 92

The Crusades begin 94

THE CALL TO CRUSADE 95

THE TEMPLE MOUNT, JERUSALEM:

JEWISH, CHRISTIAN, MUSLIM 97

The Turkish threat 100

8. Reformations 101

Corruption and decay 102

Humanism 103

Reform 104

Germany and the Lutheran Reformation

105 MARTIN LUTHER 106

Calvin's Geneva 109

JOHN CALVIN 110

After Luther 111

The English Reformation 113

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND 114

9. Catholic and Radical Reform 118
 - The Catholic Reformation 118
 - IGNATIUS LOYOLA 120
 - The Radical Reformation 121
 - THE JESUITS AND MISSION 122
 - SEPARATISTS AND BAPTISTS 124
 - THE QUAKERS 127

10. Heart and soul 129
 - Pietism 129
 - THE AGE OF REASON 130
 - JOHN WESLEY 132
 - Methodism 134 HYMNS 134
 - The First Awakening 136
 - EVANGELICALISM 136
 - Methodism in America 137
 - THE SALVATION ARMY 139
 - Methodism worldwide 140
 - Pentecostalism 141
 - First Pentecostals 143
 - Pentecostalism worldwide 144

11. Post- Reformation Rome 148
 - The Council of Trent 148
 - The French Revolution 148
 - The American Revolution 149
 - THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION 150
 - John XXIII 151
 - MOTHER TERESA 153

12. To the Ends of the Earth 155
 - Paul the missionary 155
 - The Jesuits 155
 - Protestant missions 156
 - A BAPTIST COBBLER 157
 - CHARLES DE FOUCAULD 160
 - Winning the world 161
 - A troubled century 162
 - A worldwide faith 164
 - BILLY GRAHAM 166
 - That they all may be one 169
 - Grassroots unity 170
 - Further Reading 171
 - Index 172
 - Picture acknowledgments 176