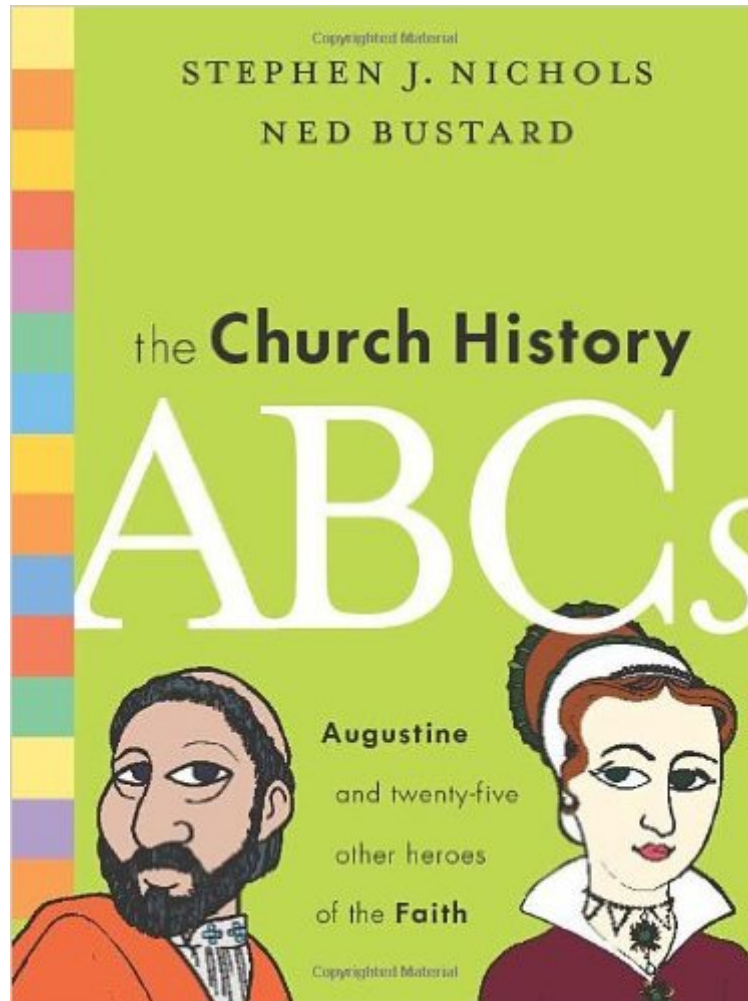


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The Church History ABCs: Augustine And 25 Other Heroes Of The Faith



Synopsis

Dramatically converted on the stormy seas, a slave-trader-turned-abolitionist penned the best-loved hymn of the Christian faith. A church father was arrested and martyred for teaching the truth about Christ's incarnation. Captured by pirates and shipped off to Ireland, a priest baptized thousands of pagans, from paupers to princes. Now who ever said church history was boring? The Church History ABCs is a fun way for kids to learn about great figures in Christian history. Twenty-six heroes of the faith march through the alphabet, boldly telling their stories in language children can understand. This wide range of characters—men and women—from across the centuries, from all over the globe—reflects the breadth of church history and reminds children that these great figures of the past were living, breathing people who lived and died for the glory of God.

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Crossway (June 14, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1433514729

ISBN-13: 978-1433514722

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.4 x 12.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (27 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #371,304 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #124 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Religious #97105 in Books > Reference

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

"E is for eggs, elephants, and Jonathan Edwards." How did I miss that when I learned the alphabet? Alas, public education. But now, thanks to the Church History ABC's, a new book by Stephen J. Nichols and Ned Bustard, the breakdown has been corrected. From Augustine to Zwingli, Nichols and Bustard give children a new way to learn the alphabet, while teaching church history along the way. Each page features a different historical character. The sketches are written in first person, giving the book a more personal tone, and include the most important (or most interesting) details of the subject's life in a fun way: "Hi. Let's get one thing straight, my name is Hippolytus, not hippopotamus." Though the book is intended to be a church history primer, it also teaches a few life

lessons for the more pragmatic. For instance, after Martin Luther mentions his hammering "a piece of paper to the church door at Wittenburg," he gives the following advice: "Now don't try that at your church. People don't like that." Ned Bustard's artwork, a collage of illustrations and photos, will hold the children's interest while making mom and dad laugh. John Wesley, for instance, wears a button that says, "Almost Perfect," and Charles Spurgeon stands on a cigar box to deliver his sermon. Lest we miss the significance of the details, there is additional information about each character for parents in the back of the book. We are told there that the Wesley brothers "both believed in perfectionism, or as they put it, 'love perfected,'" and so the button makes sense. The book is intended for children ages 3 to 6. I happen to have a three year old and a six year old. Other than being interested in the pictures, the younger lost interest, as the information is still too advanced for her. The older, however, seemed very interested and asked a lot of questions, which, of course, is the goal. I suspect that children much older than six would enjoy and benefit from this book; I know that I did. We will use this book often, as it is full of important information that is presented in an enjoyable way, and I am happy to recommend it. Thanks to the authors for applying their knowledge and talent to the important task of teaching children. I received a review copy of this book from Crossway.

Stephen J. Nichols and Ned Bustard have published a new book called *The Church History ABCs: Augustine and twenty-five other heroes of the Faith*. Here is their website for the book: [...] The book begins with a short introduction and then a brief page on each of twenty-five people who lived as early as 110 A.D. and died as late as 1940. (There is a gap between St. Patrick, who died in 461 and Martin Luther who was born in 1483.) Each letter identifies a person important to church history such as Spurgeon, Martin Luther, or Anne Bradstreet. I was glad that several women were included. At the end of the book, there is a long paragraph about each person that gives more description about who each person was and why they are significant--how they glorified God in their lives. There is also a timeline list of the 25 people. I wish there was also a visual timeline with a few historical events identified to help place these people in history (I'm going to email them and ask if they might think about posting one on their website =)). On the website, there are several coloring pages and activity pages to go with the book. I like the illustrations and the writing. One question I asked myself was how could I help my kids relate to this book? How could this book be useful to me and my kids? I homeschool and my girls will be in 2nd grade and kindergarten. This year I have decided to start reading through *A Child's History of the World* by Virgil Hillyer. This book was recommended to me by several people. They read the book with their children and then had them

draw pictures about what they have listened to. One downside to using this book is that it doesn't address history from a Christian perspective or include much of the history of the Christian church. My plan is to read each of the ABCs in chronological order as we get to that period in history in the book. It will help bring in the history of the church for my kids as we learn about the past. One reason I've chosen to teach history this way is that I realized I have been trying to cover too much in our homeschooling and I am trying to simplify. I also have the ValueTales books and I am also going to integrate them into our reading in the same way I'm going to use this church history book. If I weren't homeschooling, how would I use this book? When would I read it? It would be a good reference book if my kids asked me questions about who these people were. It might spur on discussions about history and the things that happened in the early Christian church. Honestly, I don't know of any other books on church history, so this is a unique book for children in grades K-5. I would love more--more content, more description. I'd love more of a timeline about history and the part that these people played in it. In short, I'd love a great history book of church history for children. But, this is a good place to start. I did give this book 4 stars, but I would give it 4 1/2 stars. The extras on the website are nice and they really compliment the book. The only reason I've not given it 5 stars is that I just wish there was a broad visual timeline of events in history corresponding to when these people lived to help parents and children put the lives of these people more in the context of history. You can view a sample and excerpt of the book at this website:[...] Please note that I received a complimentary copy of this book from Crossway Books for review.

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