

**Articles and Sermons :: Brief Bio!****Brief Bio! - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2003/5/1 20:46**

[Image: [http://www.therevivalweneed.com/xoops/forum\\_images/nee05.gif](http://www.therevivalweneed.com/xoops/forum_images/nee05.gif)]

*Chinese Leaders with Brethren Delegates, Shanghai 1932 L to R: John Chang, Dr. Ch.H. Yu, Watchman Nee, W.J. House, Faithful Luke, Phillips, A. Mayo, and (seated) Charles R. Barlow*

**Brief Biography:**

Watchman Nee became a Christian in mainland China in 1920 at the age of seventeen and began writing in the same year. Throughout the nearly thirty years of his ministry, Watchman Nee was clearly manifested as a unique gift from the Lord to His Body for His move in this age. In 1952 he was imprisoned for his faith; he remained in prison until his death in 1972. His words remain an abundant source of spiritual revelation and supply to Christians throughout the world.

**Re: Brief Bio! - posted by TaKa (), on: 2003/7/8 0:19**

Watchman Nee continues to be one of my favorite authors on the subject of true inner spirituality and personal revival. I would recommend any of his books to anyone, especially *The Release of the Spirit and Spiritual Authority*.

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2003/8/6 13:16**

A More full bio here:

He was born, to Christian parents, W. H. Ni (Nee) and Peace Lin on November 4, 1903 in Swatow, Foochow, in that great and ancient civilization, China. The story of his grandfather and parents is a monumental chapter unto itself. His grandfather, U.C. Nga, a beneficiary of Western missionaries allowed into China along with the forced "Boxer" trade became the first ordained Chinese pastor. He had five brothers and four sisters, and his mother, during her third pregnancy (the first two children --girls), was anguished like Hannah, and like the mother of that great Old Testament prophet, Samuel, her prayers, while the boatman watchman cried "...all is well...", were answered. He was initially named Shut-tsu (one who lauds one's ancestor's attributes) or Henry, but after first renaming himself Ching-fu, (one who reproves) but reconsidered its harshness and he changed it to To-Sheng, or Watchman, after his mother relayed their story. As a seventeen year old he would consider himself "saved" after his discipling from Miss Dora Yu, only the second woman in China to get a medical degree.

He was tutored under the Episcopal missionary Margaret Barber, but later went on to establish his own ministry, but took her prayer in her bible she left him when she died in 1930,

I want nothing for myself, I want everything for the Lord.

Even though not formally schooled, he was intelligent, motivated and read avidly, and his books on the Tripartite Man and other subjects are as important as any famous author of this genre.

He developed his faith as an ongoing process, where he discovered the power of naively believing for miracles when needed, and then achieved balance in its practice in everyday life. Even though he wanted no denominational tag, calling the building the church assembly hall, and the English Brethren hymnal he chose to translate for his church he renamed Hymns, but not before the name Little Flock (Hsiao Chun) in its title, Hymns for the Little Flock became their nickname.

During the 30's he and his church was surrounded by upheavals. There were revolutions involving Communists in the mountains, in the Southeast: Western emulating President Sun (where Mandarin became pushed as a National Chinese dialect --helping Bible reading expansion, as well--, a challenging General Yuang, who replaced the departed Emperor, and the Japanese incursions. He had just overcome serious health problems when back in Shanghai he was rebuked on doctrinal issues (Nee stressed open communion) and his cardiac malfunctions returned.

He married a fellow believer, Charity Chang, a longtime neighbor and also taught by Dr. Yu, but they left no children. When the Japanese wrecked havoc on their homeland, they fled first to Hong Kong where he left her behind at his parents home there, and he continued on to London, England, and at Keswick, speaking before fellow believers, that included a Japanese gentleman, Watchman invoked an intercessory prayer:

The Lord reigns; we affirm it boldly. Our Lord Jesus Christ is reigning, and he is Lord of all; nothing can touch his authority. It is spiritual forces that are out to destroy his interests in China and Japan. Therefore we do not pray for China, we do not pray for Japan, but we pray for the interests of thy Son in China and Japan. We do not blame any men, for they only tools of thine enemy. We stand for thy will. Shatter, O Lord, the kingdom of darkness, for the persecutions of thy Church are wounding thee. Amen.

He did not remain overseas too long, and he returned to his homeland where he and his family and church languished in Shanghai during the wartime situation almost exactly those in a town under siege.

Watchman Nee did not promote an overly ascetic lifestyle, but, of course, lived by Biblical principles. He worked with a group that became known as the "Little Flock". He had a close relationship with a disciple, Witness Lee from 1925 until 1950, and he wrote written a biography, Watchman Nee, A Seer of the Divine Revelation in the Present Age.

The freedom to directly establish churches throughout mainland China came to an end when his Christianity clashed with Communist policy and their Party sponsored "Three Self Movement". Originally the Little Flock had joined it, but by 1955 they withdrew, a time when fundamentalist rival Wang Ming-tao was arrested after he published We shall be steadfast because of our faith and then they drew the ire of the authorities that put out this polemic against them:

Religion is religion and faith is faith; they must not be mixed up with a person's private counterrevolutionary ideas and used as a cover behind which to spread the poison of hatred towards country and people. Every Christian should enter positively into the struggle to expose these arrested men's crimes.

He endured deprivation accordingly, and he was eventually imprisoned when he wouldn't comply with unjust requirements of the state regarding his ultimate allegiance. This incarceration included the brutality of harsh political re-education. While others of his flock left for abroad, setting up congregations, (eventually thousands) he adamantly decided to stay in his homeland for what he believed, and he went to be with Jesus, dying in prison in 1972.

**Re: A longer bio - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/10/30 14:46**

This has probably been said before, but I would strongly recommend the biography of Angus Kinnear; Against the Tide Kinnear was son-in-law to Austin Sparkes and personally blessed by his fellowship with Watchman Nee. However, Kinnear biography is both affectionate and honest, and it is very helpful to understand Nee's ministry in the light of the different influences; Penn-Lewis, J N Darby, T Austin Sparkes.

This is not undermine Nee's usefulness, but to underline that like all of us he ...knew in part.

**Re: Re-written Biography - posted by Didier (), on: 2004/11/20 6:14**

Just to let you know that the classic "Against the Tide" has been re-written and expanded. It is now, I am told, at the printers.

Didier

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/11/21 13:10**

Quote:  
-----Just to let you know that the classic "Against the Tide" has been re-written and expanded. It is now, I am told, at the printers.  
-----

Which printing company is this?

Re: - posted by Didier (), on: 2004/11/21 14:38

I don't know the name of the publisher.