

PRESENTING



THE CHRISTIAN HALL OF FAME

An Inspirational Collection

A WORLD'S FIRST IN NORTH TEXAS: A HALL OF FAME LIKE NO OTHER

The 19th century evangelist Samuel Porter Jones wrote this captivating description of Jesus Christ:

He was born contrary to the laws of nature, lived in poverty, reared in obscurity; only once crossed the boundary of the land of his childhood. He had no wealth nor influence and had neither training nor formal education. His relatives were inconspicuous.

In infancy He startled a king; in boyhood He puzzled the doctors; in manhood He ruled the course of nature. He walked upon the billows and hushed the sea to sleep. He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His services. He never wrote a book, yet not all the libraries of the country could hold the books that could be written about Him. He never wrote a song, yet He has furnished the theme of more songs than all the song writers combined. He never founded a college, yet all the schools together cannot boast of as many students as He has. He never practiced psychiatry, and yet He has healed more broken hearts than the doctors have broken bodies. He never marshaled any army, drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun, yet no leader ever made more volunteers, who have under His orders, made more rebels stack arms or surrender without a shot being fired.

He is the Star of astronomy, the Rock of geology, the Lion and the Lamb of zoology, the Harmonizer of all discords and the Healer of all diseases. Great men have come and gone, yet He lives on. Herod could not kill Him, Satan could not seduce Him, Death could not destroy Him, the grave could not hold Him.

He laid aside His purple robe for a peasant's gown. He was rich, yet for our sake He became poor. How poor? Ask Mary! Ask the Wise Men! He slept in another's manger. He cruised the lake in another's boat. He rode on another man's donkey. He was buried in another man's tomb. All failed but He never. The ever perfect One—He is the Chief among ten thousand. He is altogether lovely. He is the Christ, the Son of the living God.



Today—two millennia removed from His brief time on earth—nearly one of every three people on this planet purport to be His followers. Christianity—the way of life centered in the person, the teaching and the work of Jesus—is by far the world's largest religion.

In America alone there are more than a third of a million churches that identify themselves as Christian. There are thousands of Christian schools and hundreds of Christian colleges and universities. One would think that surely scores of museums in this nation would be dedicated to the marvel that is Christianity and the exploits of those who have gone forth in Christ's Name. Yet, astonishingly, there is not one. There are museums exploring the wonders of creation, museums covering all aspects of religion, museums presenting the history of various Christian denominations, and museums celebrating individual leaders. But not a single museum tracing the arc of the Christian story through the lives of Christ's followers over the centuries.

America boasts over 300 Halls of Fame—places of honor for great athletes, famous musicians, prominent actors, historic aviators, and so many others. But what of those followers of

Christ who have literally blazed trails to take the Gospel to people with no knowledge of Christ? What of the Christian educators, evangelists, missionaries, and pastors who have enriched lives through God’s Word? What about the Christian advocates for justice, the rescuers of the poor and oppressed, the men and women who have dared in Jesus’ name to challenge the status quo? In the first-ever Christian Hall of Fame, hundreds of these individuals—both the well known and the obscure—will be honored as heroes of the Faith and will thereby inspire a new generation to follow their timeless example.

This document proposes the establishment of the Christian Hall of Fame in the leading American region of the new millennium: North Texas. The Christian Hall of Fame would be a strategic and enduring addition to this burgeoning region.



A Deep and Broad Collection of Museum-worthy Items.

In the 1970s a young missionary was inspired to begin collecting rare Scriptures and artifacts of Christian history. He continued amassing significant objects for over four decades. After more than 40 years of acquisitions he had built a collection of astonishing breadth and depth, filled with thousands of museum-grade treasures. And that word—*Treasures*—is a fitting term that inspired the title of a newly-created catalogue: *Treasures of Ministry and Mission*.

Andy Stimer, the young missionary who had been captivated by the desire to collect rarities of

many kinds, began to dream of a place where one day the story of Christ and the exploits of Christ’s followers would be communicated through historic artifacts. He decided to present exhibitions of his collection in venues across the U.S. and later around the world. Those exhibitions had an aggregate attendance of more than 300,000 visitors. Seeing the responses to stories of heroes and heroines of the Faith, Andy was inspired with the idea of a truly consequential Christian Hall of Fame. He knew that his collection could provide the scope and substance for such a place.

The collection had grown to include many things: Scriptures; scrolls; antiquities; books; documents; manuscripts; maps; autograph materials; vintage photographs; personal objects; heirlooms; and all kinds of ephemera. Altogether, over 5,000 items that span centuries of Christian ministry and mission. No other collection is comparable.

Among the significant items in *Treasures of Ministry and Mission* are...

A presentation copy of the very first Bible in Spanish, signed by the translator himself, Casiodoro de Reina. This is the very cornerstone of the Scriptures in Spanish.



Autograph letters by David Livingstone, including one written just before his first expedition in 1842.

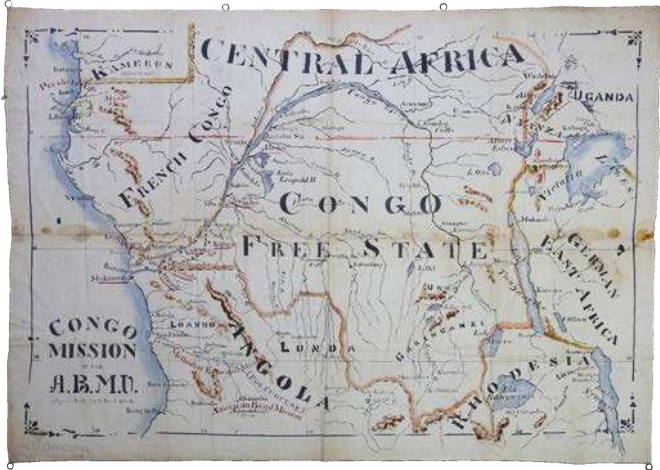
A complete collection of the works of Andrew Murray, most of them first editions.

A collection of very early works by Alexander Campbell, including *Delusions*, the very first refutation of Mormonism, published in 1830.

A 1752 manuscript documenting the acquisition of land for Jonathan Edwards’ min-

istry to the Mohican Indians on the western frontier of Massachusetts at Stockbridge.

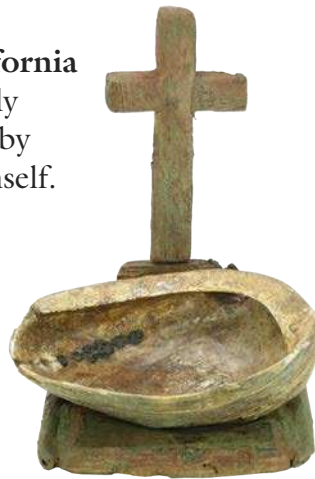
Rare maps from all parts of the world.



First editions of every work by Amy Carmichael.

Artifacts from the California missions, including a holy water font that was used by Padre Junípero Serra himself.

A remarkable trove of artifacts and original writings from missionaries to China, Charles & Clara Scott, and martyrs Betty & John Stam (the Scotts' daughter and son-in-law who were the first missionaries killed by the Chinese communists, in 1934).



An 1830 slave tag, an authentic set of slave shackles, and numerous items from the Abolitionist movement.

The original manuscript of a peace treaty between warring tribes in the South Pacific, negotiated by American missionaries.

An 1816 handwritten missions report by William Carey, describing advances in the work in Bengal.

An 1814 first printing, presentation copy of the very first Chinese grammar, produced by William Carey's colleague, Serampore missionary Joshua Marshman.

A near-perfect copy of the earliest surviving Gospel booklet in Chinese.

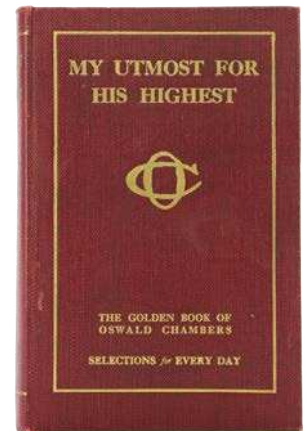
A trove of important George Müller items, including a very revealing and personal autograph letter.

First editions of every book by Samuel Zwemer, the renowned "Apostle to Islam."

A lengthy autograph letter by Charles Spurgeon—arguably the most impassioned Spurgeon letter in existence. The renowned "Prince of Preachers" writes to a teenage boy on behalf of his concerned parents, urging the young man to put his faith in Jesus Christ.

First editions of every work by Oswald Chambers, including first printings of his most famous work, *My Utmost for His Highest*—one signed by his wife and editor, Gertrude Chambers, the other by his closest friend, Percy Lockhart.

Earliest known recruitment poster for medical missionaries. A true rarity, this 1911 missionary poster aims to recruit medical doctors for service in Africa. Issued by the



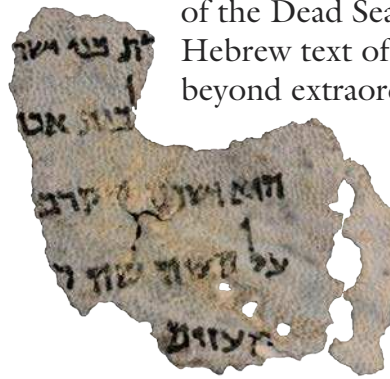


Sudan Interior Mission, the poster announces: *Foreign Fields. Big Opportunities for Service.* A Western doctor in a white suit and pith helmet, medical kit in hand, is depicted motioning toward a vignette in which a physician is treating someone in the midst of a group of native men.



Burmese palm leaf manuscript brought back to America by one of Adoniram Judson’s fellow missionaries in Burma.

A fragment of the Dead Sea Scrolls describing the First Passover. This unique fragment

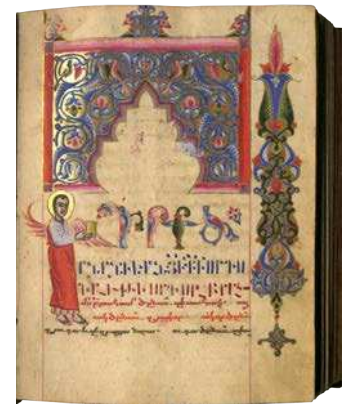


of the Dead Sea Scrolls, with the Hebrew text of Exodus 12:3b-5, is beyond extraordinary. It records

God’s instructions to His Chosen People for the very first Passover. The text has been paleographically authenticated by

one of the world’s most renowned and well-published authorities on the Dead Sea Scrolls. This amazing artifact was discovered in Cave Four at Qumran and dates circa 100 BC to AD 68. Provenance for this rare text is incontrovertible.

The Word for the World—a collection of rare Scriptures in 200 languages. *The Word for the World* offers a view into other worlds and other cultures, seen through the prism of Scripture. Within the arc of this collection both major and minor languages are represented. There are many important “firsts” and rarities such as this copy of the Four Gospels in early Armenian, dating to the 1300s.



The largest and most substantive collection of Billy Graham artifacts in private hands. Hundreds of items. This important collection was featured in a major exhibition at Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC.

The amazing items described above are but a few examples from the thousands in the collection.

God willing, this remarkable trove of rarities will form the core collection for the Christian Hall of Fame. The depth and breadth of the collection provides the elements essential to telling the story and to documenting the

history. Spanning millennia and drawn from around the globe, these are world-class treasures befitting a world-class venue.

Hundreds of heroes and heroines of the Christian faith are represented in 12 different categories: Advocates, Authors; Business Leaders; Caregivers;

Educators; Evangelists; Missionaries; Pastors; Rescuers; Scientists; Trailblazers; and Translators. The collection is so large that there can be a consistent rotation of featured individuals and their remarkable stories – stories of undaunted courage, unwavering commitment, and untiring devotion to the cause of Christ.

SOME OF THE HEROES FEATURED IN THE CHRISTIAN HALL OF FAME

The Christian Hall of Fame will present a stunning array of items from the lives and works of hundreds of men and women who were true heroes and heroines of the faith. These unforgettable individuals who championed the cause of Christ over the past centuries are represented by original writings, vintage photographs, rare artworks, first edition books, personal artifacts, and many other types of items. Among the featured personalities are:

The Auca Five	Fanny Crosby	Martin Luther	Junípero Serra
Gladys Aylward	Frederick Douglass	Joshua Marshman	Harvey & Vera Shaw
Rowland Bingham	Albrecht Dürer	Henry Martyn	Charles Sheldon
James Blundy	Jonathan Edwards	Sophia Mason	Sadhu Sundar Singh
Catherine Booth	John Eliot	Experience Mayhew	Amanda Smith
William Booth	Elisabeth Elliot	Jack McAlister	Hannah Whitall Smith
William Borden	Jim Elliot	Robert Moffat	Charles H. Spurgeon
William Bradford	Sarah Ellis	Dwight L. Moody	John & Betty Stam
David Brainerd	Charles Finney	Robert Morrison	C. T. Studd
Phillips Brooks	John Fox	Sidney Morse	Billy Sunday
Brother Andrew	Billy Graham	Mary Mozley	Hudson Taylor
John Bunyan	Karl Gützlaff	George Müller	Corrie Ten Boom
William F. P. Burton	John Hands	Andrew Murray	Mother Teresa
David Brainerd	Matthew Henry	Watchman Nee	George Thompson
Alexander Campbell	James C. Hepburn	Harriet Newell	“Cam” Townsend
William Carey	Pastor Hsi	John Newton	Lilias Trotter
Amy Carmichael	John “Praying” Hyde	Florence Nightingale	Viola Walker
Geo. Washington Carver	James “Holy” Johnson	John Coleridge Patteson	William Ward
Gertrude Chambers	Adoniram Judson	Pandita Ramabai	Isaac Watts
Oswald Chambers	Ann Judson	Mary Reed	John Wesley
G. K. Chesterton	Coretta Scott King	Casiodoro de Reina	George Whitefield
Francis Clark	Martin Luther King, Jr.	Luther Rice	William Wilberforce
Thomas Coke	C. S. Lewis	Edith Schaeffer	George Williams
Charles Colson	Eric Liddell	Francis Schaeffer	John Williams
Lettie Cowman	David Livingstone	Charles Scott	Samuel Zwemer