

ENCYCLOPEDIA *of*
CHRISTIANITY
IN THE UNITED STATES



EDITED BY GEORGE THOMAS KURIAN AND MARK A. LAMPORT
FOREWORD BY MARTIN E. MARTY

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE UNITED STATES

Edited by
George Thomas Kurian
and Mark A. Lamport

Foreword by
Martin E. Marty

ROWMAN & LITTLEFIELD
Lanham • Boulder • New York • London

Published by Rowman & Littlefield
A wholly owned subsidiary of The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc.
4501 Forbes Boulevard, Suite 200, Lanham, Maryland 20706
www.rowman.com

Unit A, Whitacre Mews, 26-34 Stannary Street, London SE11 4AB, United Kingdom

Copyright © 2016 by George Thomas Kurian and Mark A. Lamport
All photos courtesy of Association of Religion Data Archives.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means, including information storage and retrieval systems, without written permission from the publisher, except by a reviewer who may quote passages in a review.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Information Available

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Kurian, George Thomas, editor. | Lamport, Mark A., editor.
Title: Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States / edited by George Thomas Kurian and Mark A. Lamport ; foreword by Martin E. Marty.
Description: Lanham, Maryland : Rowman & Littlefield, 2016. | Includes bibliographical references and index.
Identifiers: LCCN 2016033670 (print) | LCCN 2016034391 (ebook) | ISBN 9781442244313 (hardcover : alk. paper) | ISBN 9781442244320 (electronic)
Subjects: LCSH: Christianity—United States—Encyclopedias. | United States—Church history—Encyclopedias.
Classification: LCC BR515 .E52 2016 (print) | LCC BR515 (ebook) | DDC 277.3003—dc23
LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2016033670>

♾️™ The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences—Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI/NISO Z39.48-1992.

Printed in the United States of America

seminary began classes after the Civil War, Broadus had only one student in his preaching class, and this student was blind. Broadus, nevertheless, labored diligently in the preparation of lectures for this class, which were published in 1870 with the title *On the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons*. Without question, this volume, which is still used in some settings, was the most famous work produced by Broadus.

In this influential volume, Broadus fleshed out the ideals of preaching he had formed over the past two decades in his study of scripture, church history, and the history of Christian preaching. Broadus was a teacher and preacher of rare ability, giving lectures and preaching sermons across the country. Broadus was invited to deliver the prestigious Lyman Beecher lectures on preaching at Yale University as well as significant addresses on the New Testament at Newton Theological Seminary and at John Hopkins University.

In 1889, Broadus was elected the second president of the seminary following the death of his close friend and longtime colleague, James P. Boyce. Broadus, the Baptist leader, preacher, and scholar, died on March 16, 1895. On that day, the *Louisville Courier-Journal* reported, "There is no man in the United States whose passing would cause more widespread sorrow than that of Doctor Broadus." Broadus had no greater impact than his influence on his prize student and son-in-law, A. T. Robertson, the most outstanding Greek and New Testament scholar in Southern Baptist History.

In addition to the influential commentary on Matthew and the masterful book on preaching, Broadus also published: *The Paramount and Permanent Authority of the Bible* (1887); *Memoir of James P. Boyce* (1893); and *A Harmony of the Gospels* (1893).

References and Resources

- Dockery, David S. 1999. "John A. Broadus." In *Bible Interpreters of the Twentieth Century: A Selection of Evangelical Voices*, ed. Walter A. Elwell. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.
- . ed. 2008. *John A. Broadus: A Living Legacy*. Nashville, TN: B & H.

—DAVID S. DOCKERY

BRONSON, MILES

Miles Bronson was born on July 20, 1812, in Norway, New York. After his graduation from Hamilton Literary and Theological Institute, Bronson and his wife Ruth (Lucas) sailed to India under appointment of the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions to reinforce work in Assam that had been started by Nathan and Harriet Brown. Bronson's arrival in Sadiya in July 1837 was marred by the tragic death of fellow missionary, Jacob Thomas, whose boat was crushed by a tree falling into the flooding Brahmaputra River.

By April 1838 the Bronsons had relocated to Jaipur where he initiated work among the Singphos. In 1839 Bronson moved from the plains and became the first Westerner to live among the Nagas in the mountain village of Namsang. A skilled linguist, Bronson wrote a Naga catechism and

spelling book, the first books produced in any Naga tribal language. Bronson's wife and daughter joined him at Namsang along with his sister, Rhoda Bronson, the first unmarried woman to serve in the mission.

Rhoda's untimely death seven months later and the Mission's view that work should be concentrated among the more heavily populated plains led Bronson to relocate to Nowgong. Bronson's work among the Nagas resumed three decades later with the successful teamwork of Assamese Baptist missionaries, Godhula and Lucy Brown, and American Baptist missionaries, Edward W. and Mary Mead Clark.

In 1841, in Nowgong, Bronson began work among the Assamese by baptizing Nidhiram, the first Assamese Baptist believer. Two years later, Bronson opened the Nowgong Orphan Institution. Bronson advocated that girls as well as boys should have opportunity for education. The Orphan Institution provided the first coeducational schooling in North East India and became the most effective evangelistic agency among the Assamese in that period. In 1845, Bronson helped found the First Baptist Church in Guwahati and began publishing *Orunodoi*, the first Assamese language newspaper. By 1867, Bronson had completed the first English-Assamese dictionary.

Bronson baptized the first Garo believers and evangelists, Omed and Rhamke, in 1863. He organized first Garo church and ordained first Garo pastor in 1867. The Garos responded in large numbers to the gospel. Their people movement to Christianity mobilized the sending of additional American Baptist missionaries into North East India.

In 1857, Bronson and fellow missionary William Ward entered the Mikir Hills in western Assam. Bronson baptized Rong Bong, the first Mikir (Karbi) Christian and urged the American Baptist mission to expand its work there. Bronson's daughter and son-in-law, Mary and C. F. Tolman, became first American Baptist missionaries assigned to the new work among the Karbi people.

In 1879, Bronson moved to Dibrugarh to begin work among the Chota Nagpuri people. A fall from an elephant forced Bronson to return to the United States for medical treatment. This brought his forty-three-year missionary career to a close. Miles Bronson died in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, on November 9, 1883.

Bronson's life and work has had lasting influence both in North East India and in the United States. In 2012, Assam Sahitya Sabha, the leading literary body in Assam honored Bronson whose linguistic work, literary publications, and advocacy were most responsible for preserving Assamese language and culture. Sabha marked the 200th year of Bronson's birth with a year-long series of events, publication of two new Assamese dictionaries, a series of seminars, and dedication of three busts of Bronson.

By the twenty-first century, the five ethnic populations among whom Bronson had initiated work had mature Christian movements. North East India Baptists had sent missionaries into many nations, including the United States, where they serve as pastors, professors, and leaders of Christian social ministries.