

Chapter 1

Personalities

Brooks, Thomas (1608–1680): An English Puritan preacher, Brooks studied at Cambridge University before becoming rector of a church in London. He was ejected from his post, but continued to work in London even during the Great Plague. He wrote over a dozen books, most of which are devotional in character, *The Mute Christian Under the Smarting Rod* being the best known.

Calvin, John (1509–1564): A theologian, administrator, and pastor, Calvin was born in France into a strict Roman Catholic family. It was in Geneva however where Calvin worked most of his life and organized the Reformed church. He wrote the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, the *Geneva Catechism*, as well as numerous commentaries on Scripture.

Wesley, John (1703–1791): An English preacher and theologian, Wesley is largely credited, along with his brother Charles, with founding the English Methodist movement. He traveled generally on horseback, preaching two or three times each day, and is said to have preached more than 40,000 sermons. He also was a noted hymn-writer.