

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
HOWARD WASHINGTON THURMAN
1899-1981

- 1899 Born in Daytona Beach, FL (Has two siblings: Henrietta and Madeline); family church is Mount Bethel Baptist Church
- 1907 Saul Solomon Thurman, Thurman's father, died
- 1912 Thurman baptized in the Halifax River
- 1915 Leaves for Florida Baptist Academy in Jacksonville, FL to complete high school
- 1919 Senior year of High School meets Mordecai Johnson at YWCA/YMCA retreat on Kings Mountain who is credited with advising him to go to college and graduate school
- 1920 Enrolls at Morehouse College (meets young professor Benjamin Mays and E. Franklin Frazier)
- 1922 Takes summer courses in philosophy at Columbia in New York
- 1923 Graduates Morehouse with a degree in Economics
- 1923 Moves to New York to go to Rochester Theological Seminary (meets professors George Cross, professor of Systematic Theology, and Henry Robins)
- 1925 Introduced to the writings of Olive Schreiner at a retreat in New York
- 1926-1929 Graduated from RTS, gets married to Kate Kelley, and moves to Oberlin, Invited to pastor in Oberlin, OH, Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Here he discovers that he appreciates the "creative method of the sermon series." Enrolls in postgraduate studies at Oberlin School of Theology (Old and New Testament studies). He and Kate birth Olive Katherine, first daughter. Kate gets ill she and Olive return to Kate's hometown in LaGrange, GA.

Sister, Madaleine (who'd been living with them) moved into a dormitory at Oberlin. Leaves Oberlin to study at Haverford College with the Quaker mystic, Rufus Jones (philosophy and a special seminar on Meister Eckhart). *See pages 71-73; see pages 76-77.*

- 1929-1931 Gets a teaching job at Morehouse (philosophy and religion; later dean of chapel) and Spelman Colleges (Bible as living literature; religious adviser to faculty and students), they give birth to the first child, first wife dies his last year there.
- Goes to Europe (London, Paris, Geneva) to mourn and recollect himself, comes back
- 1932 Marries Sue Bailey Thurman (a traveling collegiate secretary of the YWCA) and takes a teaching position (Professor Christian Theology) and Dean of Chapel position at Howard Divinity School in DC.
- 1935 The Thurmans were asked to be members of a year-long delegation to India, Ceylon, and Burma, "Pilgrimage of Friendship"
- 1932-1944 Howard Divinity School; second daughter, Anne is born. *See pages 92-95.*
- 1935 Receives honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree from Morehouse
- 1944-1953 He and his family leave Howard University for San Francisco, Church for the Fellowship Church
- 1953- 1965 Boston University, Dean of Chapel and Professor of Spiritual Resources and Disciplines, leave of absence in 1962 to travel around the world twice in his "wider ministry"
- 1965 Established the Howard Thurman Educational Trust
- 1981 Died in his home after a long illness, during the morning of April