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Dedication: Harry and Kay Lambert, my in-laws with love and thanks



Yours very truly
C. H. Spurgeon

Meet Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Susannah could not believe her eyes—the rumours about him being an uncouth country bumpkin seemed all too true. His clothes looked as though a village tailor had cut them out in the dark, and around his neck he wore a large piece of black satin that had seen better days. Worse was to come: as he spoke, he waved in the air a ghastly blue handkerchief with white spots on it. If it were not so serious Susannah would have laughed out loud.

Yet after a few months this ‘wild’ young preacher from East Anglia was the minister of her famous London church, and just three years later Susannah married him!

Together they started and financed the distribution of Christian books, new churches, a pastors’ training college, orphanages, and almshouses.

As minister of the largest church in London, which each week attracted six thousand people to both services, his name became a household word right across the British Empire. Every Thursday, newsagents in shops



and on street corners around the world sold the script of one of his sermons. Altogether between 1855 and his death in 1892, one hundred and eight million copies of these sermons were sold at a penny each. He wrote over one hundred and fifty books; and one hundred and twenty years after his death they are still widely read.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon was a friend and confidant to Prime Ministers as well as the ordinary people. Rumour had it that Queen Victoria came in disguise to hear him. He has been called ‘The Prince of Preachers’ but he was more, much more.



Above: Spurgeon aged 30 in 1864

Facing page: Spurgeon aged 36