Augustine of Hippo

by Simonetta Carr

with Illustrations by Wes Lowe



REFORMATION HERITAGE BOOKS

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Augustine of Hippo © 2009 by Simonetta Carr

Cover artwork by Wes Lowe: Augustine's Conversion. For additional artwork by Wes, see pages 10, 15, 18, 20, 26, 30, 34, 36, 38, 43, 45, 54.

Published by **Reformation Heritage Books** 2965 Leonard St., NE Grand Rapids, MI 49525 616-977-0599 / Fax: 616-285-3246 e-mail: orders@heritagebooks.org website: www.heritagebooks.org

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Carr, Simonetta.

Augustine of Hippo / by Simonetta Carr ; with illustrations by Wes Lowe.

p. cm. -- (Christian biographies for young readers) ISBN 978-1-60178-073-7 (hardcover : alk. paper) 1. Augustine, Saint, Bishop of Hippo--Juvenile literature. 2. Christian saints--Algeria--Hippo (Extinct city)--Biography--Juvenile literature. I. Lowe, Wesley. II. Title.

BR1720.A9C28 2009 270.2092--dc22 [B]

2009041833

For additional Reformed literature, both new and used, request a free book list from Reformation Heritage Books at the above address.

CHRISTIAN BIOGRAPHIES FOR YOUNG READERS

This series introduces children to important people in the Christian tradition. Parents and school teachers alike will welcome the excellent educational value it provides for students, while the quality of the publication and the artwork make each volume a keepsake for generations to come. Furthermore, the books in the series go beyond the simple story of someone's life by teaching young readers the historical and theological relevance of each character.

Initial volumes of the series: John Calvin Augustine of Hippo

Some anticipated volumes: John Owen John Knox Lady Jane Grey John Bunyan Jonathan Edwards Charles Spurgeon B. B. Warfield

Acknowledgments

I give a heartfelt thank-you to all the people who have reviewed this book: my children Christian, Simon, Dustin, David, Jonathan, Kevin, Raphael, and Renaissance; Prof. Phillip Cary, Professor of Philosophy at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pennsylvania; Dr. Scott Clark, Professor of Church History and Historical Theology at Westminster Seminary California; Dr. Richard Bishop, Historical Theology, University of Virginia; Travis Baker, doctoral student of Medieval History at Oxford University; and Rev. Michael Matossian, Pastor of Emmanuel Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Wilnoughton, Delaware. I want to thank those who have sent photos of places or works of art, particularly Dr. Luigi Beretta of Centro Culturale Agostiniano, historian James J. O'Donnell, poet Karl Luborminski, and Teresa Roth of Heritage History.

As well, I offer a special thank-you to the Reformation Heritage Books staff, particularly Jay Collier and Steve Renkema, for their patience and support; to my friend Dianna Ippolito of Besame Photography for her artistic advice and for providing some photos to the illustrator; and to my husband, Tom, my mother, Luciana, my friend Kris Moberly, and all my church family (especially Rev. Michael Brown and Rev. Dr. Michael Horton), for their constant encouragement.



Table of Contents

Introduction	7
Chapter 1: Growing Up	8
Chapter 2: In Search of Wisdom	13
Chapter 3: Italy	21
Chapter 4: A Decision to Follow God	29
Chapter 5: A Minister against His Will	33
Chapter 6: Difficult Times	42
Chapter 7: Augustine's Last Days	52
Time Line	57
Did You Know?	59

6



As you read this book, you can follow Augustine's travels on this map.

Introduction

uring Augustine's life, the Roman Empire ruled most of what are now Europe and the Middle East. It was divided into two parts: the Western Roman Empire (with Rome as its capital) and the Eastern Roman Empire (with Constantinople as its capital). Augustine lived in the Western Roman Empire.

Augustine was born on November 13, 354 A.D. His full name was Aurelius Augustinus. We call him Augustine of Hippo because he spent most of his life in the city of Hippo Regius, in North Africa. He is still considered one of the greatest thinkers who ever lived. Even people who are not Christians admire the way in which he explained things that cannot be seen and touched, like faith, God's grace, and love.



Augustine

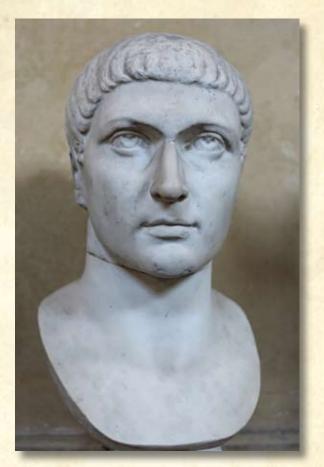
No one knows what Augustine looked like. The earliest portrait that we still have today was done about two hundred years after his death. As you see in this book, artists imagined Augustine in their own special way.

CHAPTER ONE Growing Up

Augustine's birthplace was a small town in Northern Africa named Thagaste. Today, the whole region around Thagaste is called Algeria. It was a very green area, full of farms, and olive and wheat fields. Augustine grew up like many children in the Roman Empire. The books he studied were mostly written in Latin, which was the language spoken in ancient Rome.



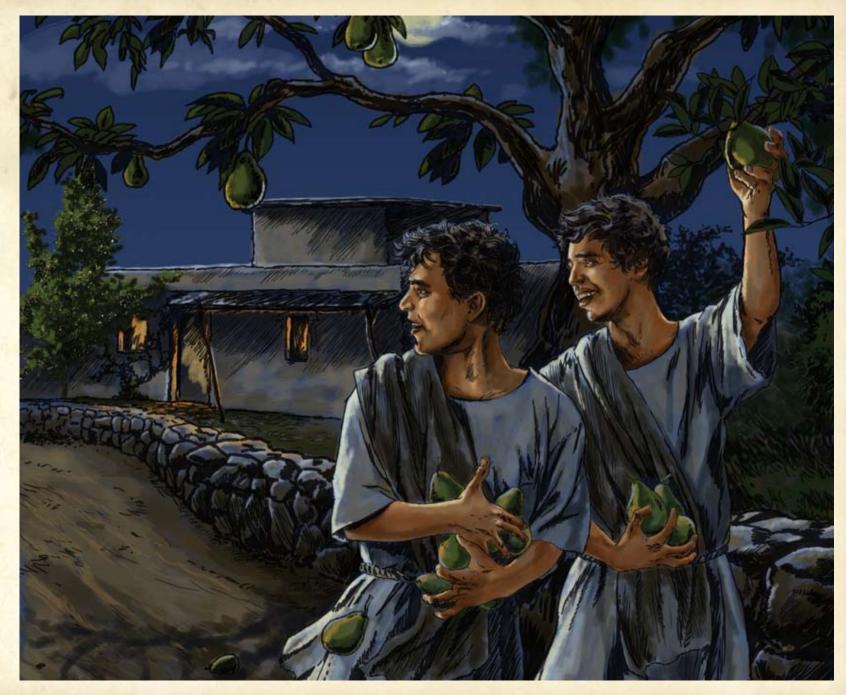
Fields in Algeria, similar to those Augustine would have seen as a child



The emperor Constantine

After Jesus' resurrection, Christians were often persecuted and killed by the Roman government. All that changed about forty years before Augustine's birth, when Emperor Constantine made Christianity a legal religion. Then, Christians actually received so many privileges that other people did not have, that many said they were Christians even if they really did not believe. Augustine's father, Patricius, did not believe in Jesus, but his mother, Monica, did, and taught her children to do the same.

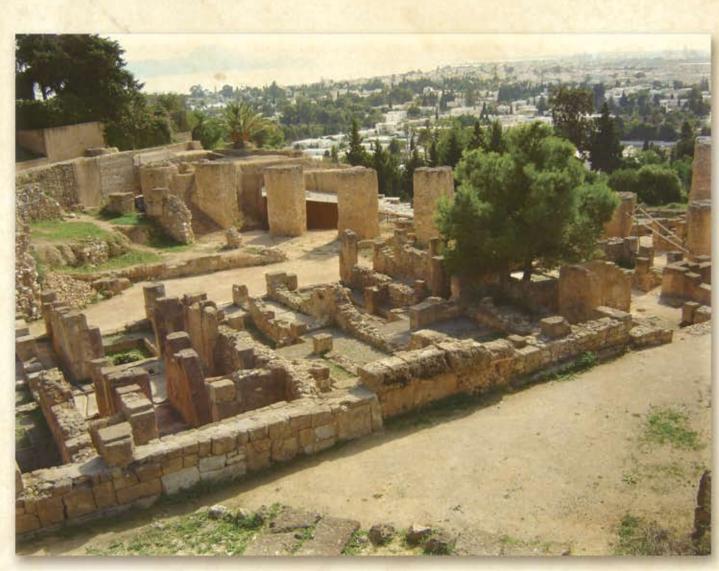
Augustine studied in Thagaste and in a nearby city until the age of sixteen. Because he was very smart, his father decided to send him to Carthage, the largest city in that region, to study law and the art of giving speeches.



Augustine stole pears from a neighbor.

Speaking well in public was a very respected skill in those days. Anyone who wanted to have an important job in society as a politician, teacher, lawyer, or church leader, had to learn how to speak clearly and to convince others that what he said was true. Patricius knew that if his son could speak well he could make a good career in this world. Being a small government officer in Thagaste, Patricius did not have enough money to send his son to Carthage right away, so Augustine had to spend about a year at home.

As a teenager with nothing better to do, Augustine spent a lot of time with a group of naughty friends, looking for fun and playing all kinds of pranks. One night, they went into a neighbor's field and stole a bunch of pears from his tree. They ate a few and, since they really did not care about the pears, gave the rest to the pigs. Later, Augustine looked back at this time of his life. He was surprised as he realized that he had stolen those pears just for the pleasure of stealing. This showed him how much we all, left to ourselves, tend to sin.



Some ruins of ancient Carthage