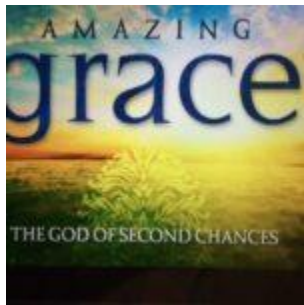
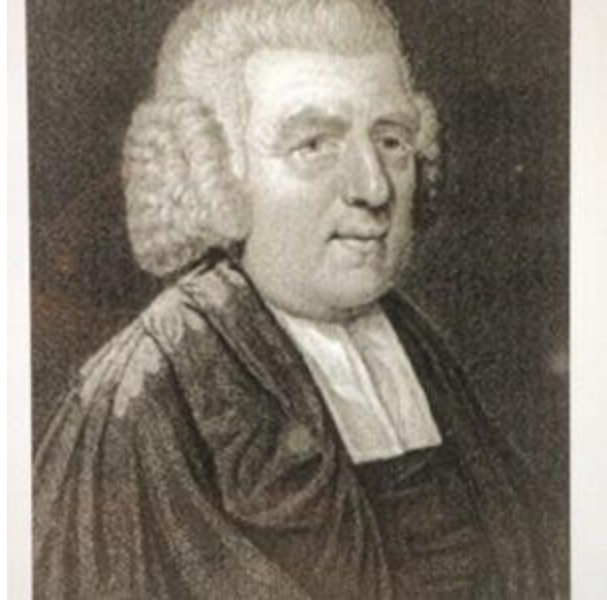


6/5/2020

” Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found...was blind but now I see.”

When The Rev. John Newton (1725-1807) wrote these words to illustrate a sermon on New Year’s Day 1773, his parishioners may have wondered — “OUR pastor??? A WRETCH??!” Well... his beginnings were anything BUT pastoral! ... Son of a stern ship commander who took him to sea when he was only 11, Newton grew up to be an atheist, a libertine and ultimately a slave trader. After he rode out a particularly violent storm at sea in 1748, he had a conversion experience and found his faith. Eventually he was ordained an Anglican priest and he became an important voice in the English abolition movement, working to END the slave trade.



Although there is no direct link between AMAZING GRACE and the abolition of slavery in Britain, nonetheless the hymn was written by a man moved to speak out against something from which he had once profited. He wrote “ I hope it will always be a subject of humiliating reflection to me ... that I was once an active instrument in a business at which my heart now shudders.” Thus, it seems fitting that this hymn has become a favorite with those who are fighting for Civil Rights and all forms of injustice!

Copy & paste this link into your browser <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IN05jVNBs64> to listen to one of the most memorable renditions ever sung ...