Kenneth E. Bailey was born November 24, 1930 and died May 23, 2016. He was an American author, professor of theology, and linguist. He was born in Bloomington, Illinois. Ken spent 40 years (1955–1995) teaching in Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Israel and Cyprus. He had a degree in Arabic and literature, systematic theology and wrote his dissertation in the field of New Testament. He was ordained by the Presbyterian Church (USA). Since 1962 he taught for the Near East School of Theology in Beirut (since 1974 as professor for New Testament studies), where he founded the Institute for Middle Eastern New Testament Studies.

From 1985 to 1995, he taught at the Ecumenical Institute for Theological Research in Jerusalem. He taught at Princeton University and was associate professor of theology in Dubuque, McCormick and Pittsburgh as well as the Fuller Theological Seminary in Los Angeles, California.

In 1990, Bailey moved to Nicosia, Cyprus and became Canon Theologian of the Anglican Episcopal Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf. In June 1997, he became Canon Theologian of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh of the Episcopal Church (United States). Bailey resided in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania.