



THE
Wesley Fellowship
Bulletin



Incorporating *The Wesley Fellowship Quarterly*
Continuous Series: Volume 25, Number 2
October 2010

THE WESLEY FELLOWSHIP WAS FOUNDED IN 1985

by Herbert McGonigle & William Parkes

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Rev. Dr Arthur Skevington Wood (1986-1993) & Rev. John Lawson (2000-2003)

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EDITORIAL NOTE

In some ways it has been a considerable encouragement for the Editor to have been informed by at least one member of the WF Executive that anxious calls have been received recently from various people to enquire as to whether the normal Autumn meeting of the Wesley Fellowship was to take place this year (despite the time, date, and venue being clearly announced in the Spring 2010 edition of the *Wesley Fellowship Bulletin!*). Well, it is good to be able to confirm that, in the will of the Lord, the next regular meeting of the WF (held jointly with the League of Prayer) will indeed take place, just as announced, on Saturday 6 November 2010, at Zion Church of the Nazarene, Brearley Street, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 0JJ. A full and interesting programme has been

arranged (see below for details). It is, perhaps, understandable why a number of persons have been concerned about the future plans of the Wesley Fellowship, not least because they were keenly aware of how both recent bereavement and continuing illness and infirmity have affected directly and indirectly the work of the WF, including that of Executive members. Further to this, others will have been aware that some on-going informal discussion and meetings have taken place involving the Wesley Fellowship Executive and representatives of the League of Prayer and *The Flame* Trust regarding possible closer co-operation in their future activities. The next of these tripartite executive meetings is planned for Saturday 2 October 2010 in Sheffield. Your prayers are earnestly requested so that the wisdom, grace and love that comes 'from above' would be present in any decisions made - and lead the hearts and minds of those who attend, as well as those who may not be able to be there in person but who still have stewardship responsibilities for the work of these organisations (of which the Wesley Fellowship is a mere 'junior' of just 25 years of service).¹ The WF Executive is appreciative of those who have already been contributing to these discussions with work, suggestions and prayers. Whatever the eventual outcome, there will remain a task, presently included to a degree in the work of each of these three organisations, that needs to be prayerfully continued, namely to encourage Christians in the present century to see their part in a still very necessary mission, one that John Wesley described as 'Not to form any new sect; but to reform the nation, particularly the Church; and to spread scriptural holiness over the land.'²

NOTICES OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

1. JOINT MEETING OF THE WESLEY FELLOWSHIP & LEAGUE OF PRAYER SATURDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2010

The next regular meeting of the Wesley Fellowship (to be held in conjunction with The League of Prayer), to which all members and friends are warmly invited, is on Saturday 6 November 2010 at Zion Church of the Nazarene, Brearley Street, off Booth Street, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 0JJ. We thank the Pastor, Rev. Jose Junior Correia, and other members of the church for making their premises available for our use. **The day will begin**

¹ The League of Prayer was founded in 1891 by Reader Harris, QC, a London barrister, who was deeply stirred by God to set up an interdenominational prayer movement. *The Flame* magazine was first published in 1935, the main editor being Rev. Maynard James, assisted by his close friend Rev. Jack Ford; their aim was to 'keep the sanctified alight' and 'set fire to the unconverted'.

² See: The 'Large Minutes' 1789, in: *Minutes of The Methodist Conferences, from the first, held in London, by the Late Rev. John Wesley, A.M., in the year 1744*. Vol. I [1744-98], London: John Mason, 1862, p. 447.

informally with arrivals from 10.30am, ready for a formal and prompt start at 11.00am. This will again be a joint meeting of united fellowship with the League of Prayer. **During the morning session, Rev Dr Peter W. Gentry will present a paper with the intriguing title ‘Methodism and “Messiah”’.** Dr Gentry is a member of the Wesley Fellowship, and a retired minister of the Church of the Nazarene, now living in Weston-super-Mare. He is Chairman and Secretary of *The Flame* Trust, and a writer with numerous articles, and a number of books, to his name, including *Bold as a Lion: The Life of John Cennick (1718-1755)*, *Moravian Evangelist*, which he co-authored with Paul Taylor in 2007.

We are pleased to announce that, in the afternoon session (following a break to eat our own packed lunch), the Revd Douglas Crossman, the well-known International Convention Speaker, has again been invited by The League of Prayer to preach in the afternoon session. The meeting should end by about 3.00pm.

**PLEASE: BOOK THE DATE - HAVE THIS MEETING
ANNOUNCED AT YOUR CHURCH - PLAN TO COME – BRING
FRIENDS – ALL ARE WELCOME!**

2. SPRING 2011 MEETING OF THE WESLEY FELLOWSHIP

The date of the Spring 2011 meeting of The Wesley Fellowship is set for Saturday 9 April 2011. The venue will be Zion Church of the Nazarene, Brearley Street, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 0JJ, and we are pleased to announce that the Rev. D. Paul C. Smith, Superintendent Minister at Plymouth Methodist Central Hall, has been booked to bring a Paper in the morning session (title still to be finalised) and to preach in the afternoon session. It is planned to have the usual format, with the day to begin from 10.30am, ready for a formal and prompt start at 11.00am. The meeting should end by about 3.00pm. Although drinks will be available in the morning and at the break for lunch, please bring your own food.

REPORT ON SPRING 2010 MEETING

This was a joint meeting of the Wesley Fellowship and the League of Prayer, held on Saturday 24 April 2010 at Zion Church of the Nazarene, Brearley Street, Handsworth, Birmingham. The welcome received from the new pastor at Zion Church, Rev. Jose Junior Correia, was much appreciated - and it was good to meet his wife Mercia and their daughters Anna and Louise. **It was very encouraging to see the meeting so well attended, around 40 people being present – some for the first time. The absence of some members – not least the late Mrs Valerie Barclay, our much missed WF Secretary, who had been with us at the equivalent Spring meeting last**

year, was noted. Others who were known to have been prevented from attending the meeting due to current illness or infirmity were remembered in prayer. Amongst those present it was particularly good to see Mrs Pauline Gibby looking well following her serious illness that had involved successful treatment with chemotherapy. For this we give thanks to our Lord. The meeting was also pleased to see WF Chairman, Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle and Mrs Jeanne McGonigle present at the meeting. Dr McGonigle had clearly continued to make progress in his speech following his serious stroke last year, nevertheless the Wesley Fellowship 'morning session' was ably chaired and led by Mr Paul Taylor - and he introduced Revd Colin Reasbeck who then presented his thought provoking paper on 'Methodism and John Calvin'. The League of Prayer session in the afternoon was chaired by Major Norman Armistead. The preacher was the Revd Douglas Crossman - who preached a challenging sermon delivered in the power of the Spirit with his well-known Welsh eloquence. Many commented on how much they had appreciated and enjoyed the programme, although one member who attended has since suggested some changes to our usual format and the Executive will consider such matters at their next meeting.

GENERAL NOTICES, NEWS & NOTES

1. NEW WESLEY FELLOWSHIP PUBLICATIONS

Following the November 2009 residential conference, "The Wesley's: The Word & the Spirit", it was decided that the four Wesley Fellowship papers that were presented then would, in due course, each be published separately. It is good to report that three of the papers have already been published, namely: *The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit in Charles Wesley's Hymns*, by Harold E. Moore (Sheffield: The Wesley Fellowship, 2010. Pbk. 32pp. ISBN 978 086071 6372); *The Otley Revival and the Emphasis on Entire Sanctification* by Trevor Staniforth (Sheffield: The Wesley Fellowship, 2010. Pbk. 21pp. ISBN 978 086071 639 6); and *John Wesley's Commitment to the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit* by Paul S. Taylor (Sheffield: The Wesley Fellowship, 2010. Pbk. 23pp. ISBN 978 086071 638 9). These three fine little books, each containing the enhanced text of the much appreciated papers presented by their authors to members of the conference at The Hayes last year, are now ready for purchase via Revd Tony Tamburello at the Wesley Fellowship Book Sales Department (see latest contact details on the front page of this *Bulletin*). It is hoped that the fourth of these books, 'John Wesley and Preaching' by Bill Graham will also be published before too long.

2. NEWS FROM THE MANCHESTER WESLEY RESEARCH CENTRE

The 7th Manchester Wesley Research Centre Annual Lecture will be given at the Nazarene Theological College, Didsbury campus, in the summer of 2011 (probably at 5.00pm on Monday 13 June, although the precise date still awaits final confirmation). It is very pleasing to note that it will be presented by Dr Richard P. Heitzenrater, Emeritus William Kellon Quick Professor of Church History and Wesley Studies, Duke Divinity School, Durham, North Carolina, USA. As many will know, he is a distinguished Wesley scholar, world renowned not least for his success, early in his career, in fully deciphering John Wesley's enigmatic shorthand personal diaries.³ Dr Heitzenrater is presently General Editor of the Bicentennial Edition of *The Works of John Wesley* (34 Vols, in process, 1975-) which includes his now completed monumental editorial work on the Diaries (with W. Reginald Ward on the Journal) found in the seven books (Vols.18 to 24, published 1988-2003) dealing with the *Journals and Diaries*. Heitzenrater's 16 published books include *The Elusive Mr. Wesley* (1984, Second revised edition 2003); *Mirror and Memory: Reflections on Early Methodism* (1989), *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*, (1995, now translated into six languages), and *The Poor and the People Called Methodists, 1729-1999* (2002). The 2011 MWRC Annual Lecture promises to be an occasion not to be missed!

In 2012, the 8th Annual MWRC Lecture will be given by Dr David Ceri Jones, BA Ph.D. (Wales) FRHistS, Lecturer in History, Aberystwyth University. It has been announced recently, that, following the retirement of Mr E. Alan Rose later this year after his excellent long service as Editor of the *Proceedings of the Wesley Historical Society*, Dr Jones has been appointed to take over in 2011 as Editor of this venerable and highly respected scholarly journal that first appeared in 1897.

The 2013, the 9th Annual MWRC Lecture is due to be given by Prof David Bebbington, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.Hist.S., Professor of History at the University of Stirling, Scotland.

Further details on these lectures and the work of the Centre generally, can be obtained from Dr Geordan Hammond at MWRC, Dene Road, Manchester, M20 2GU; website: < <http://www.mwrc.ac.uk/> >. We congratulate Dr Hammond on being recently appointed as a full-time Faculty

³ Others, notably Nehemiah Curnock, had tried, without great success, to fully unravel the information contained in Wesley's private diaries earlier in the 20th century. Apart from Heitzenrater's editorial notes in *The Works of John Wesley* [Bicentennial Edition], 18: 299ff, for background details see also: Richard Heitzenrater, 'Decoding Wesley's Diaries', *Cryptologia*, Vol. 2, Issue 3, July 1978, pp. 260-264 (originally published in *The Circuit Rider*, January 1978).

member, and Lecturer and Research Fellow in Church History and Wesley Studies, at Nazarene Theological College, Didsbury, Manchester. We also congratulate **Rev Dr Herbert McGonigle, following his retirement, on being honoured with the new title of Director Emeritus of the Manchester Wesley Research Centre, in recognition of his outstanding work as the first Director of the MWRC and his achievement in making it an internationally recognised centre of academic excellence in advanced Wesley Studies and research.** We also congratulate Dr Hammond on his recent new appointment as the second Director of the Manchester Wesley Research Centre.

MISSION TO BETHLEHEM

Wesley Executive member, Mr John Gibby, reports that his latest mission to Bethlehem takes place from 27 September to 12 October 2010. This on-going work of Christian outreach and ministry to many needy and disadvantaged people in this volatile part of the world deserves our prayer support. He and his wife, Pim, report that:

The Lord has greatly encouraged us this summer in being able to represent the Mission to Bethlehem at the Keswick in Wales Convention . . . Thank you for all your love and prayers for us personally and the Mission Outreach into the West Bank....John will be travelling with our dear friend Bruce Reiley (from Trethomas Christian Fellowship) and gratefully using the House of Hope as the 'base camp' for our operations....we seek your fervent prayers as we go forth into an intense period of ministry which clearly involves living, loving, witnessing and walking in the power of the Holy Spirit so that there may be much fruit in Jesus' Name for the Kingdom of God.

BOOK NOTICES & REVIEWS

Wesley and Methodist Studies, Vol. 2, edited by William Gibson & Geordan Hammond (Didsbury Press, Manchester, 2010. Pbk. £8.00. ISBN 978-0-9552507-3-6).

This is a most welcome second volume in the new annual series of peer-reviewed scholarly essays (as well as some useful book reviews) now being published by the Didsbury Press, that set out to examine the life and work of John and Charles Wesley and their contemporaries (proponents or opponents) in the eighteenth-century Evangelical Revival, as well as their antecedents and successors in the Wesleyan tradition up to the present time. Names on the Editorial Board (such as Jeremy Gregory, Richard P. Heitzenrater, Gareth Lloyd, Randy Maddox, Herbert McGonigle, Thomas A. Noble, and Eryn White) indicate that the quality and range of work published will be of the highest academic quality. This is confirmed by Peter Nockles' erudite lead essay, "Emissaries of Babylon" or "Brothers in Christ"? Charles Wesley and

Anti-Catholicism', where, through his skilled use of a wide range of sources, (including unpublished ones, such as letters from Charles Wesley to his wife Sarah, selected from the treasures of the Methodist Archives at the Rylands Library, where he is Curator) he has illuminated a most interesting field of study too often neglected. This meticulously documented and well-argued paper alone is worth the cover price of this edition of *WMS*, but readers will also find four more interesting essays and six instructive book reviews.

***James Montgomery: A Man for all people* by Paul S. Taylor (Day One Publications, Leominster, 2010. Pbk. Illus. £7.00. 135pp. ISBN: 978-1846252099).**

This is a very attractive, carefully researched and readable new volume on the life and work of James Montgomery (1771-1854). It is probably the first full length general biography of Montgomery that has been published since a flurry of books on his life appeared more than 130 years ago, in the years following his death, the last being J. Marratt's *James Montgomery: Christian poet and philanthropist* in 1879.⁴ Nowadays, Montgomery is mostly remembered as a hymn writer of distinction, and although some of his first lines of poetry were published over two hundred years ago, most hymn collections in use in the English speaking world in the first decade of the 21st century still contain a sprinkling from the more than 400 that he composed during his long life - such as 'Angels from the Realms of Glory', 'Hail to the Lord's Anointed', and 'Stand up, and bless the Lord.' Paul Taylor in this book, however, reminds us that there was much more to the remarkable life of Montgomery than that of a hymn writer and poet. The author gently unfolds interesting and often surprising events in Montgomery's long life – beginning with his birth in Scotland, early childhood in Ulster, and schooldays at Fulneck (bereft of his Moravian missionary parents), and later adult years, based mostly in parts of Yorkshire, ending in Sheffield. As a young man, following the sensitive political times in England after the French Revolution, Montgomery was sentenced to imprisonment twice when he was editing a Sheffield Newspaper, one charge (we are informed) being for publishing a piece entitled: 'A Patriotic Song, by a Clergyman of Belfast!' Life became calmer following his spiritual re-awakening in 1806, and by the end of his life Montgomery was widely respected by all classes of people, in Sheffield and also throughout the United Kingdom and America. This book is highly recommended for anyone who enjoys reading biography for they would find it very rewarding and relaxing – and it could make an admirable birthday or Christmas present! The book uses

⁴ The only single volume devoted *entirely* to Montgomery that has appeared since the 19th century is George Wiley's *The Poems of James Montgomery (1771-1854): with a Critical Introduction*, The Hallamshire Press, Sheffield, 2000, but this focuses exclusively on Montgomery's poetry.

no footnotes, but, because the author has sifted through much primary source material and included and skilfully commented on numerous quotes from Montgomery's poetic and other writings, there is still much to interest the scholar or student. Despite some frustrations encountered when the index took this reviewer to obviously incorrect pages (should not the publisher bear some responsibility here to check final proofs before printing?), the author has thoughtfully provided his readers with several helpful appendices, including a handy 'Chronological Profile' of Montgomery's life, and an introductory 'Select Bibliography.' He also acknowledges his indebtedness to what he describes as the 'indispensible' seven-volume *Memoirs of the Life and Writings of James Montgomery* (published 1854-6), a monumental work edited by Dr John Holland and the Rev. James Everett, two Methodists who owed much to Montgomery and knew him personally. Many of the delightfully printed illustrations used in this new biography have been reproduced from this study.

Montgomery associated himself at various Sheffield Methodist, Moravian, and Anglican churches, including St Paul's Church (now demolished), where between 1816-1823 he did much to promote the wider use of modern hymns in Anglican worship (and further afield) by helping the incumbent, Rev. Thomas C. Cotterill, to revise and improve his pioneering *A Selection of Psalms and Hymns* that, despite fierce opposition, eventually won the decisive approval of the Archbishop of York.⁵ With this background, it may be of interest to record that the book launch for this new biography took place on 15 June 2010 in the beautiful setting of Sheffield Cathedral. The gothic building would have been familiar to Montgomery as Sheffield Parish Church; his bronze statue (by J. Bell, 1861) is now placed in the grounds of the cathedral (as illustrated in Paul Taylor's book). The occasion climaxed, after speeches, book signings and light refreshments, with a service of Evensong, led by the Dean, the Very Reverend Peter Bradley, and sung by the Cathedral Choir. The congregation joined in singing two of Montgomery's hymns. The Dean, knowing that a good number of persons in the congregation were associated with the Wesley Fellowship, remarked with 'apologetic' humour that John Wesley had once been denied the pulpit in the church in which we were now gathered, resulting in him preaching outside at dawn in Paradise Square, Sheffield, to over 4,000 people - an event which Wesley described in his Journal as '... the largest congregation I ever saw on a week-day'.⁶

Bill Graham

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⁵ An interesting account of Montgomery's work in helping Cotterill can be seen in William Odom, *St Paul's Church Sheffield: Its Ministers and Associations*. Sheffield: Printed by J.W. Northend, West Street, 1919.

⁶ See John Wesley's *Journal* for Thursday 15 July 1779.