



THE
Wesley Fellowship
Bulletin



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THE WESLEY FELLOWSHIP WAS FOUNDED IN 1985

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

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A DAY NOT TO BE MISSED!

Despite members of the Fellowship continuing to suffer blows from illness or bereavement (of which more later), it is good to be able to report details of what promises to be an uplifting programme for the joint meeting of The Wesley Fellowship & The League of Prayer on Saturday 24 April 2010 at Zion Church of the Nazarene, Handsworth, Birmingham - to which all members and friends are warmly invited. Please ensure this date is in your diary and make plans to be there if at all possible! Anyone who was fortunate enough to be

able to attend the memorable joint residential conference of the Wesley Fellowship & League of Prayer last November ('The Wesley's: The Word & the Spirit'), will know that they will not want to miss this event at Birmingham – not least because Revd Douglas Crossman, the challenging and gifted expository preacher at the Conference has been booked by the League of Prayer to be with us to preach again during the afternoon session at Birmingham. In addition, Revd Colin Reasbeck, a Supernumerary Methodist minister in the Doncaster Circuit (who was with us and ably chaired some of our meetings at the November 2009 conference at The Hayes), will, in the morning session at Zion on 24 April 2010 be presenting the Wesley Fellowship lecture on 'Methodism and Calvinism.'

MRS VALERIE BARCLAY

It is with deep sadness and a great sense of loss that the Wesley Fellowship have to report that our accomplished and able Secretary, Mrs Valerie Barclay, died suddenly in hospital in Sheffield on the evening of Thursday 29 October 2009. This was a great shock to all, not least to members of the Wesley Fellowship, because our very dear sister in the Lord had been active, in close partnership with her husband Alistair, in serving as joint Secretary and Treasurer - not only of The Wesley Fellowship but also of The League of Prayer. They were thus both in the midst of making final preparations for the joint Wesley Fellowship and League of Prayer Conference, which was due to begin a few days later on Wednesday 4 November, when Valerie was unexpectedly taken ill at home on the Thursday afternoon. Although at first there appeared to be no urgency, she entered into the presence of her Lord that evening at the Sheffield Northern General Hospital Coronary Care Unit, following a heart attack. Please remember to pray for Alistair, his children Alison, Andrew and Bruce, and grandchildren Ben and Emily – and also Valerie's mum and other close members of the family, all of whom were together just weeks previously to celebrate their son Andrew's marriage to Kate. Amongst other members of the Wesley Fellowship who were present at Valerie's funeral on Monday 9 November 2009 were Denis and Virginia Haywood, and they have written the following report:

The Heeley Church of the Nazarene was packed to full capacity with people of all ages to give thanks to God for the life and witness of our dear sister Valerie. It was clearly evident that Valerie's passion in serving the Lord had made an indelible mark on the lives of many present in the service, as well as others not able to be present. Tributes were bravely brought by friends, including retired former pastor, Revd Leslie Evans, who, with others gathered was still emotionally affected by Valerie's sudden home call. Valerie had loved and served her Lord faithfully and well in the Nazarene Church, and beyond. She would be sorely missed by

many because she was actively involved in the leadership of the church at Dronfield; she helped the Church of the Nazarene at District level with her secretarial skills and mission outreach; her role as Secretary of both The League of Prayer and The Wesley Fellowship was also noted in the several tributes, as was her keen membership of the highly regarded Sheffield Celebration Choir (that had emerged originally from the Billy Graham Mission in Sheffield in 1984, and more recently had made some notable recordings for the landmark series 'The Hymn Makers'). Valerie's life had challenged those with whom she came into contact with the claims of Christ. Yet within this outgoing service to the church, and compassion for the wider community, she still made significant time for her family. The Minister, Revd Bruce Lloyd, reminded all present to be assured that the Shepherd of Israel, who had led Valerie on her faith journey, was present to comfort and sustain all who looked to Him at this time of bereavement and loss. Our prayers will continue for Alistair and his family.

JOINT W F / L OF P CONFERENCE, 'THE WESLEY'S: THE WORD & THE SPIRIT' AT THE HAYES, SWANWICK, DERBYSHIRE, 4-6 NOVEMBER 2009

The thanks of all who attended the Conference are owed to both Paul & Margaret Taylor who, despite Paul himself being unwell, without hesitation stepped into the organisational hiatus left by the sudden death of our dear sister, Valerie Barclay, and managed the complex issues with aplomb and kindness.

The Revd Dr Peter W. Gentry who was present with his wife, Frances, at the Conference, and chaired some of the meetings, has kindly provided the following report:

It might have been thought, from the succession of blows to the planning process for the conference through illness - culminating in the sad and sudden death of Valerie Barclay less than a week before it opened, that it would have met under something of a cloud. But no, it was not like that. Certainly, we greatly missed some friends who would have been there and taking part, and our thoughts and prayers were especially for Valerie's husband, Alistair, in his time of grieving, but we were immensely heartened to have our Chairman, Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle with us and making remarkably good progress after his recent stroke. God is good and He gave us a truly blessed time. The number attending was good considering all that had happened and the ministry both of preaching and lecturing was of the very best.

Yes, we heard much about the Wesleys and their definitive part in the 18th century revival, which was as ever informative and inspiring, but we were also reminded of the desperate spiritual need

of our country today and challenged by impassioned prayers and fervent words to raise the standard of scriptural holiness in the church and in the world.

Our main speaker, Rev. Douglas Crossman, and our soloist, Mrs Mair Paton, are both from Wales and the ready humour and deep Christian devotion always associated with that land conveyed in their separate ways a wonderful sense of the Holy Spirit's presence. Mrs Eileen Crossman unfolded the Bible account of Belshazzar's Feast with graphic impact on the need of a close walk with God in perilous times. A new feature this time was the use of laptop and video projector screen technology to illustrate Bill Graham's paper on 'John Wesley and Preaching', giving added stimulus to the imagination so that one could almost enter into the sights and scenes of that great ministry.

Additional papers on 'The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit in Charles Wesley's Hymns' by Rev. Harold Moore; on 'The Emphasis on Entire Sanctification in the Otley Revival' by Rev. Trevor Staniforth; and one on 'John Wesley's Commitment to the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit' given by Mr Paul Taylor (despite his not feeling in the best of health), added much valuable insight. There was also a Love-feast in which we sought to emulate the spirit of one-ness and devotion that Revival must always engender.

Truly, a most memorable time; may its influence live on!

Editorial Note: Although no formal face-to-face meeting between Georgian England's greatest composer and John Wesley or Charles Wesley has been documented, Dr Gentry has been mulling over the intriguing possibility of writing a short paper on a number of clear links between **George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)** and **John and Charles Wesley** and early Methodism. If anyone has any thoughts on this subject that they might like to share with him, he can be contacted at Flat 3, 3 Grove Park Road, Weston Super Mare, BS23 2LW; Tel. 01934 636880.

GENERAL NOTICES, NEWS & NOTES

1. JOINT MEETING OF THE WESLEY FELLOWSHIP & LEAGUE OF PRAYER SATURDAY 24 APRIL 2010

The next regular meeting of the Wesley Fellowship will be on Saturday 24 April 2010 at Zion Church of the Nazarene, Brearley Street, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 0JJ. We thank the new Pastor, Rev. Jose Junior Correia (with his wife Mercia, and daughters Anna and Louise) for welcoming us to

their church; also thanks to Church Secretary, Mrs Glenis Davis for finalising the arrangements, as Revd Fred Calvert moves in March to pastor a church in Gillingham, Kent. **The day will begin 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 Colin Reasbeck, a retired missionary and Supernumerary Methodist minister in the Doncaster Circuit, will **present a paper on ‘Methodism and Calvinism.’**

Following a break for (our own packed) lunch, we are pleased to announce that the **Revd Douglas Crossman, International Convention Speaker,** has 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. Autumn Meeting of the Wesley Fellowship

Although no details are available as yet, the date booked for the next regular meeting of The Wesley Fellowship (held jointly with the League of Prayer) is: **Saturday 6 November 2010.** The venue is Zion Church of the Nazarene, Brearley Street, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 0JJ. 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 to end by about 3.00pm.

3. New Wesley Fellowship Publications

Following the November 2009 residential conference, “The Wesley’s: The Word & the Spirit”, it is planned to publish separately during this year the four Wesley Fellowship Papers that were delivered, namely: ‘The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit in Charles Wesley’s Hymns’ by Revd Harold Moore; ‘The Otley Revival and the Emphasis on Entire Sanctification’ by Revd Trevor Staniforth; ‘John Wesley and Preaching’ by Bill Graham; and ‘John Wesley’s Commitment to the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit’ by Paul Taylor.

4. ‘James Montgomery, 1771-1854: A Man for all People’

This is the title of a forthcoming new book, soon to be published by DayOne Publications, the author being WF Executive member, **Paul Taylor.** This will be the first modern book that attempts to deal with the general life of Montgomery, whose firm mature evangelical doctrine and experience can be traced to the influence on his life from Moravians, Wesleyan Methodists, and Anglicans. Although his missionary minded parents hailed from Ulster, he was born in Scotland, and lived most of his life in Yorkshire, particularly Sheffield – editing a newspaper, writing poetry and many inspirational hymns for Christian worship. There will be

a 'New Book Launch' for Paul's book at Sheffield Cathedral on Tuesday 15 June 2010, beginning at 5.00pm with introductions, signings and sales, to be followed at 6.00pm with an Evensong service - when some Montgomery hymns will be sung, followed by Tea & Coffee and time for a chat from about 7.00 to conclude by about 7.30pm. For more details, please feel free to contact the author, Paul's contact details are to be found on the front page of the *Bulletin*.

5. Dr Herbert McGonigle

As members will know, our WF Chairman, Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle, suffered a serious stroke last summer. Since then he has made some excellent progress physically - and so is able to get about walking, and also driving to various places including, with his wife Jeanne, to local church services on Sundays. However, our brother is still receiving regular speech therapy because here the progress is much slower. Dr McGonigle calls fairly regularly into the Nazarene Theological College and Manchester Wesley Research Centre, meeting people - particularly at the coffee break and at chapel services. He is in good spirits and very positive, though not at the present time able to do any formal teaching work because, although his conversation is full of energy and vigour, it is still without his celebrated wonderful fluency. As we praise God for this amount of recovery, we need to keep our brother and sister in our prayers.

6. Mrs Pauline Gibby

WF Executive member, John Gibby, reports that his wife Pim has completed her course of chemotherapy and 'is now started on the pathway of gradually getting through all the side effects and returning to normality. She has had to carefully watch her immune system till March, and the Doctor has said it will take three more months for her to really feel her normal self again.' John adds, 'We are so thankful that the Lord has brought us thus far and are grateful for all your concern and prayers during this difficult period.' We need to keep Pim, and John, in our prayers in these still challenging times.

7. Dr Colin Peckham

We are also saddened to report that Wesley Fellowship member, Dr Colin Peckham, Principal Emeritus of The Faith Mission Bible College, was suddenly called into the presence of his Lord and Saviour at his home near Edinburgh on Monday 9 November 2009 - the very day of Mrs Valerie Barclay's funeral in Sheffield. Dr and Mrs Peckham had originally planned to be present at the Wesley Fellowship joint conference in November but had then been unable to attend. The Peckhams had attended previous WF residential conferences, and also spoken at WF events including at Birmingham on Saturday 19 October 1996, when Dr Peckham delivered an interesting and helpful paper, which was subsequently published by the WF with the title, *John Wesley's Understanding of Human Infirmities*.

Members will perhaps also remember that Colin's wife, Mary, on this same occasion at Birmingham, gave her testimony and related vividly some of her experiences during the revival in the Isle of Lewis, 1949-1953, when she herself was saved. Since his retirement, Colin and his wife had travelled worldwide preaching and teaching. He will be missed by both his immediate family and by the family of God's people around the world. We should remember Mary, and her family at this time of loss.

8. Public Lectures held at Nazarene Theological College (NTC), Dene Road, Didsbury Manchester, M20 2GU

(a) 'John Wesley's Disconnections, 1756-1760' by Ted A. Campbell, Associate Professor of Church History, Southern Methodist University, at 4.00pm Monday May 10th 2010, in The Emmanuel Centre at NTC.

(b) The 6th Annual Manchester Wesley Research Centre Annual Lecture, 'The Journey into God: A Wesleyan Theology of Evangelism' will be given by Dr. Philip R. Meadows, Lecturer in Missiology and Wesleyan Studies at Cliff College, at 5pm on Monday 14th June 2010, in the JB McLagan Chapel. Further details can be obtained from Dr Geordan Hammond, Research Fellow, MWRC, Dene Road, Manchester, M20 2GU, or from the website at www.mwrc.ac.uk

9. The 21st Annual Meeting of the Charles Wesley Society will take place from 18-20 July 2010 at Nazarene Theological College, Dene Road, Manchester, M20 2GU. The theme of the conference will be 'Charles Wesley as Correspondent'. For further details contact Dr Peter S. Forsaith (UK Secretary) at Oxford Centre for Methodism & Church History, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, OX2 9AT, Email: pforsaith@brookes.ac.uk

10. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME IS HERE AGAIN. Please find the enclosed Wesley Fellowship Membership Renewal Form. We are grateful to all who join the Fellowship! The form provides an opportunity for members not only to give their annual subscription but also, if so desired, to donate to the work of The Wesley Fellowship. **Payment is due on the 1st April 2010. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Wesley Fellowship' and sent to the Wesley Fellowship Treasurer/Secretary at the address given on the front of this Bulletin.**

BOOK NOTICES & REVIEWS

The Cambridge Companion to John Wesley edited by Randy L. Maddox and Jason E. Vickers (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. pbk. illus. £15.99. xxii. 342pp. ISBN-13: 978-0521714037).

This is a welcome volume, and in its paperback format appears to be very good value (the hardback is priced at £60.00). It offers a readable, up-to-date, and scholarly introduction to the life and work, as well as the ecclesiastical and

theological legacy of John Wesley, the founding father of Methodism in the eighteenth-century and, indirectly after his death, of the holiness and Pentecostal movements. The bulk of the book deals with Wesley and his times. Apart from the editors themselves, notable contributors of the 17 succinct essays include Jeremy Gregory ‘The long eighteenth Century’; Kenneth J. Collins, ‘Wesley’s life and ministry’; David Hempton, ‘Wesley in context’; Isabel Rivers, ‘John Wesley as editor and publisher’; and Ted A. Campbell, ‘John Wesley as diarist and correspondent’. A shorter section of the book concentrates on later developments, concluding with a wide-ranging essay of around 18 pages by Sarah Lancaster on ‘Current debates over Wesley’s legacy among his progeny.’ This book does not claim to be exhaustive, but, with its index and bibliography, it provides a superb introduction – especially for students new to Wesley’s work and thought – through its illuminating range of essays written from historical, literary, theological and religious perspectives.

***The Oxford Handbook of Methodist Studies* edited by William J. Abraham and James E. Kirby. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009. hb. £85.00. xvii. 761pp. ISBN 13: 978-0199212996).**

This is a major publication that no serious Wesley student or scholar can afford to ignore. It is neither a dictionary nor an encyclopaedia, but a series of 42 scholarly articles (arranged under six main editorial headings: ‘History of Methodism’; ‘Ecclesial Forms and Structures’; ‘Worship: Sacraments, Liturgy, Hymnody, Preaching’; ‘Spiritual Experiences, Evangelism, Mission, Ecumenism’; ‘Theology’; and ‘Ethics and Politics’). These essays have been prepared by 44 scholars, each acknowledged experts in their field (such as J.C.D. Clark; Richard P. Heitzenrater; David Hempton; Manfred Marquardt; Ted A. Campbell; Geoffrey Wainwright; Philip R. Meadows; Kenneth J. Collins; and Stanley Hauerwas) and including some we have heard speak at Wesley Fellowship meetings (such as Martin Wellings; and Barry E. Bryant). The two editors have aimed to provide a wide spectrum of subjects and invited the contributors to address issues at the frontiers of the latest scholarship in the whole field of early 21st century Methodist Studies. The result is an impressive collection of papers that provide a stimulating and thought provoking critical analysis of the life and work of John Wesley (and some other leading Methodist contemporaries) as well as touching on some of the current debates and questions about the nature and future of the Methodist tradition itself. Included is a useful 32-page index that helps navigation to specific subjects that may often be widely scattered throughout the volume. Somewhat disappointingly, there is no general bibliography. Instead, each contributor has the opportunity to provide bibliographical references to works they have cited, as well as a separate list of ‘Suggested Reading.’

Bill Graham

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